



Camp Victor Ministries
1515 Government St.
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
228-875-0313

Many thanks for your interest in serving the people of the Gulf Coast. Your efforts are largely responsible for the progress that has been made, and the hopeful future. You are touching lives. Whether you drywall a living room, listen to a homeowner's story, or cook meals at camp, each member of your team will have an effect on the long term recovery of this area.

All of the efforts at Camp Victor are made possible through the hard work of volunteers. Volunteers have come from all over the nation and more than 30 foreign countries, to selflessly assist in the recovery of Gulf Coast communities. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and the reason we are able to provide you with this experience.

Please read the below information to gain an understanding of Camp Victor's registration policy and procedures, the camp's schedule, our accommodations, directions, etc. After reading the packet, please contact the volunteer manager at 228-282-3754 with further questions.

Accommodations

Camp Victor has the following facilities for our volunteers:

- 6 air conditioned/heated dorm rooms, 3 male and 3 female, with the capacity to house 232 volunteers per week.
- 6 air conditioned/heated individual dorm rooms for long term volunteer use. They have a bed, nightstand and individual light switch.
- 4 RV parking spaces off site, two with full hook ups and two with only electric hook ups. They require reservations through the volunteer manager. The RV location also requires volunteers to arrange their own transportation to and from camp and worksites.

Keep all personal belongings and shared spaces as neat as possible at all times. Personal items should not be left in common areas such as hallways and bathrooms.

Camp Victor's kitchen provides 3 meals a day to hungry volunteers and Camp Victor staff. Hot meals will be provided for breakfast and dinner, Monday through Friday. Supplies for a bag lunch are available in the dining hall from 6:30 -7:30 am. No meals are served on the weekends.

Work crews go out Monday-Friday to rebuild homes. No construction projects will be provided on the weekends. Additionally, construction and warehouse staff will not be available on the weekends even if a team continues to work on a site through the weekend.

Camp Victor also has the following amenities:

- 10 showers, 5 male and 5 female
- A handicap restroom
- 3 washers/dryers for laundry; detergent is not provided by CVM
- A refrigerator for volunteer use
- A snack machine with chips and candy
- A soft drink machine
- TV with local cable channels
- 6 computers with internet access and printing capabilities
- Games, books, and puzzles located in the lounge
- Wireless internet throughout the building
- A locker tower for valuables in each dorm room
- A chapel where volunteers can worship or meet
- A first aid cabinet with numerous supplies

What to Bring

- Fitted twin sheets, a pillow and other bedding
- Clothing for the construction site, steel toe boots, hat or bandana
- Personal work gloves, safety glasses or tool belt (optional)
- Clothing for time spent at camp and visiting the local area
- Personal hygiene items (shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste)
- Towel for the showers and flip flops or shower shoes
- Laundry detergent and dryer sheets
- Sunscreen, insect repellent and prescription medications
- Special dietary items, if applicable (There is a refrigerator and shelf for volunteer use.)
- First aid supplies
- Picture ID's
- Flashlight
- One cooler for every 4 people on a team (optional)
- Bible, Devotion materials, Hymnals, etc. (optional)

Daily Schedule

Lights On – 6:00am

Make Lunches & Tool Room Opens – 6:30am

Morning Announcements, Daily Word Devotion and Prayer – 6:50am weekdays

Breakfast – 7:00am

Crews on the Worksite – 8am – 4pm

Dinner – 6:00pm

Volunteer Lead Prayer and Worship – 7-10pm weeknights (We encourage each volunteer group to prepare a devotion and/or worship service for one of the mornings or weeknights.)

Quiet Time and Lights Out – 10:00pm weekdays

WLOX Documentary – 7:00pm Tuesday

Staff Lead Prayer and Worship Service – 7:00pm Thursday (With enough volunteer interest)

The schedule is always subject to change based on the camp's needs. Schedule changes will be announced at 7:00am.

Transportation

Groups coming to the Gulf Coast will need to provide their own transportation to and from Camp Victor, and to and from work sites. The local airport to fly into is the Gulfport/Biloxi International Airport, although most groups fly into Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans. The camp is roughly 1 ½ hours from New Orleans.

Age Restrictions

Per OSHA regulations, Camp Victor requires all volunteers be at least 16 years old. Groups of 16 and 17 year olds need to have at least one adult per 4 minors.

Skilled Laborers

As the Coast gets further along in the recovery effort, skilled laborers become an important part of our project. We ask that that you try to bring at least 1 skilled construction person for every 5 group members to help guide and teach others on site. This will make your experience more meaningful and productive on the work sites.

Hurricane Season

In NO CASE will volunteers be allowed to remain at Camp Victor in the projected Hurricane Strike Zones within 48 hours or less of anticipated landfall.

A Servant's Heart

Sometimes we have volunteers set up in advance to work every phase of our operation. Many times, however, we ask groups to provide volunteers for some of the necessary behind-the-scenes work. We certainly take into consideration your group's work preferences, but it's not always possible to put people exactly where they want to be. This is why we ask each volunteer to come with a servant's heart.

If you come with a personal agenda of things you want to accomplish here, there's a fair chance you'll leave disappointed. However, if you come only to serve God and to serve others, you'll always leave fulfilled. We ask each volunteer to keep this in mind and remain patient and understanding during their visit.

Those in Need

Many areas of the Gulf Coast can be deceiving to the eyes. It's easy to see a big house and assume that the family who lives there is rich and doesn't need help. It can be very frustrating if you're asked to help someone who doesn't appear to need help. Our case workers make great efforts to assess each individual situation so that our operation is assisting only those in need, regardless of their situation before Katrina.

Every effort is made to assess locations to which volunteers are deployed for volunteer labor based on safety, site conditions, accuracy of driving directions, and need. However, relief work, by nature, is hazardous and decisions are made with the best information we have at the time.

Registration Fee

The CVM reservation fee is \$125 per volunteer/per week. Please *do not* let this expense prohibit anyone from coming down to serve as we are willing to offer volunteer scholarships*. However, this fee is our main funding source and the reason Camp Victor is able to serve our volunteers and the local community. We rely heavily on our volunteers for their contributions.

*Volunteer scholarships = waiving a portion, or the whole, volunteer registration fee of \$125

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has been a big supporter of our rebuilding efforts. If you are a Thrivent member, Thrivent's GivingPlus® Program will match half of your donation to Camp Victor (up to \$600.00). Thrivent will give us an additional \$25.00 if you then volunteer at least 25 hours at the Camp. This opportunity is only available for individual Thrivent members, not groups. Go to www.thrivent.com/fraternal/churchcommunity/givingplus.html or talk to the Camp Victor staff for more information.

Registration Process

Any questions can be directed toward the Volunteer Manager at 228-282-3754 (Cell), 228-875-0313 ext.103 (Office) or at reservations@campvictor.org.

- Call or email the Volunteer Manager to check space availability. If space is available, we will need your: name, cell phone, backup phone, email address, arrival/departure dates, work dates, and approximate number of people in your group.
- As the details of your trip come together, please keep us updated. We often operate with 200 volunteers at a time, so it's very important that our information on the dates of your trip and the number of people in your group is accurate. If you expect to have less people than you have reserved space for, please let us know as soon as possible so that we may offer those spaces to other groups. Please do not add more people than you have reserved space for without first contacting us to verify that there is more space available.
- Please make sure all of the group members have completed the individual registration packets available at www.campvictor.org. Collect the packets and mail them to Camp Victor (1515 Government Street, Ocean Springs, MS 39564) so that the Volunteer Manager has them no later than 4 weeks prior to your arrival. It will expedite the in-processing of your group and your construction assignments. We also ask that you send your group's donation at this time so that we may best prepare for your arrival.

Check-In & Arrivals

During the registration process, you will be asked to provide an estimated time of arrival to help the camp plan for your arrival. We ask that groups arrive on Sunday from 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm. If that is not possible, please speak to the Volunteer Manager about other possible arrangements.

About an hour before your arrival, we ask that you please call 228-282-3754 so there will be someone ready to greet the group, give you a camp tour, and help you get settled in.