

Sweat Equity FAQ!

Can my friends and family help me earn sweat equity hours at the ReStore or on other homes?

Unfortunately, no, that would not count toward your total sweat equity. Friends and family hours count **ONLY ON YOUR HOME**. They are absolutely welcome to volunteer at any other time, and we encourage them to! But it will not count toward any sweat equity hours unless the work is on your home.

Do Babysitter hours count at any time during the program? How about when I'm at a class?

Like Friends and Family hours, Babysitter hours will count **ONLY ON YOUR HOME**. For the younger kids, you are required to arrange child care during any class, as only a few will be child friendly. High school ages are encouraged to participate at any part through the process.

Both my partner and I will be working on our home, while someone is babysitting 3 kids. How do I count this for Babysitting hours?

Babysitting hours count **ONE** time per work day, no matter how many people from your household are working on site, and no matter how many children are being watched. The way we calculate hours is splitting the total time in half. If you are working an 8 hour day on site and your child is babysat the entire time, we will count 4 hours for babysitting hours.

I'm making a lunch for a work day, with 2 others from my household. How do I count this?

Lunches count 4 hours, no matter how many people help prepare it. Friends and family can make a lunch for your home and have it count for friends and family hours, too!

I have children old enough to help on site, or I have another adult living in the home; can they help me with my required hours?

Yes! However, please be aware that ***those signing the mortgage need to complete at least 70% of the required hours on homes***, but beyond that, others in the home may contribute as much as they'd like.

I lost my sweat equity sheet, which had a lot of signatures from days worked, can I just tell you which days I worked?

NO! If you lose a sweat equity sheet, it is **NOT** guaranteed we will be able to count any of those hours. **KEEP THESE SHEETS IN A SAFE PLACE AND HAND IN OFTEN!!!**

I have to drop kids off at 8am, can I just arrive to the site after?

NO!! It is vital that everyone is present for the safety meeting at 7:45am each day. If you are unable to coordinate other situations to drop your kids off, you will need to schedule to work a different day. Rare exceptions to this will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis (example: it is unavoidable for ONE workday due to rare circumstances, and you've been on time all other days and inform office staff of the situation beforehand)

I work second shift, but have mornings available to work on a job site. Can I just work a few hours then leave?

These situations must be approved by the office. YES, this is possible, but the office must know about it in advance, and if it will be a consistent thing for your schedule or just for a couple days. Each day on site relies on a certain amount of people to complete the job and stay on schedule, so we need to know in advance if you have to leave early for employment reasons.

The office knows that I'm the only person in my home who can complete sweat equity, so can I just leave my name off of the sweat equity sheets so they are easier to fill out?

NO! All sweat equity sheets **MUST** be filled out **COMPLETELY!!!!** If you fail to fill out one part, our volunteer who enters hours may not know who the hours belong to, what category to log them in, etc. **FILL OUT YOUR SWEAT EQUITY SHEETS COMPLETELY**, or you risk these hours not being counted.

Ok, ok! I'll fill out the forms completely. But how do I track hours for shoveling, or mowing the lawn?

You do not need signatures for mowing the lawn or shoveling. Please still list who completed the activity, and note if they are in the home or friends and family, as sometimes families have others who help with these jobs.

I have questions about sweat equity and want an update on my hours; I have 3 full sheets with me I haven't handed in yet. Can I just stop in to get an update?

No, it is best to contact Steph first, to schedule an appointment—maybe there will be time available the same day, but drop-ins are not guaranteed to be able to be seen, as sometimes other meetings and appointments are set. It's best to contact Steph ahead of time to make sure you can go over everything. You can always drop off sweat equity sheets at the front desk without an appointment, or even after office hours, in the white drop box outside the office. You can also always send a request by email or text if you want an update of your hours.