

## Disaster Response Trip Summary Tornado Response, Rolling Fork, MS June 9-15, August 11-17, 2024

In Partnership with: [Rolling Fork Rising](#)

Host Location(s): Rolling Fork First Baptist Church      Contact: Emily Carter, Volunteer Coordinator  
73 North 2<sup>nd</sup> St.      Rolling Fork Rising  
Rolling Fork, MS 39159      Mobile: (662) 907-7212  
Pastor Britt Williamson      Email: e.carter1378@gmail.com

Dates: June 9 – 15, 2024 (Dinner on the 9<sup>th</sup>, breakfast on the 15<sup>th</sup>, then depart)  
August 11 – 17, 2024 (Dinner on the 11<sup>th</sup>, breakfast on the 17<sup>th</sup>, then depart)

Fee: \$500. Register [here](#). Registration fee covers \$175 facilities use fee at Rolling Fork Baptist Church, meals, transportation while in Rolling Fork, tools, and administration.

Background: Information about the Rolling Fork tornado may be found [here](#). Information about Rolling Fork, MS, may be found [here](#).

Summary: Rolling Fork Rising is a local nonprofit with a vision to help rebuild homes in Rolling Fork. Approximately 68% of the residents of Rolling Fork (before the tornado of 3/24/23) were renters. The goal is to give renters the opportunity to return to the City of Rolling Fork as homeowners, managing their monthly mortgage payment, taxes, and insurance costs to be approximately the same as they were paying for rent prior to the tornado. This can only be achieved with volunteer labor.

Rolling Fork Rising owns 17 lots and 18 acres in the city limits of Rolling Fork. There are two completed homes, one under construction and two foundations poured ready for volunteers!

ARDF became aware of the vision for Rolling Fork Rising after delivering a truck load of relief supplies three days after the tornado. Rolling Fork Rising is a non-profit organized by local churches, businesses, and other community leaders.





## **Disaster Response Trip to Mississippi** **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: What are the trip's **requirements**?

A: This is an adult mission trip so you must be at least 18 years old to volunteer with ARDF. Volunteers under 18 years old are permitted to work on the construction site but must be always supervised by a parent or legal guardian.

ARDF requires background checks on all volunteers. If you have not processed a background check in the past two years, you may apply for a background check through your home parish or the ARDF website. If you have processed a background check within the past two years, you may forward the "Pass" confirmation email or certificate to [tommy@ardf.org](mailto:tommy@ardf.org). In addition, you are to acknowledge that you have received your home parish's "Safeguarding Our Children" or "Safe Church Policy" training. The *Safe Church Acknowledgement Form, ARDF Activity Liability Waiver, and background check application*, may be found [here](#). There is a \$24 fee for the processing of your background check, payable to our service provider, Protect My Ministry.

If you have served on an ARDF disaster response trip in the past, you do not have to submit a Safe Church Acknowledgement Form, or complete a Background Check, if both were completed within two years of the new trip date.

A new ARDF Activity Liability Waiver, including your health form and emergency contact information, is required on every event, regardless of past participation.

Q: How much is the **registration fee**?

A: \$500. This covers the cost associated with housing volunteers, including meals, transportation, tools, and administration. Coordinators, Trip/Youth Leaders are \$250.

Q: What if I want to **donate** to ARDF's National Disaster Network?

A: Donations are a blessing to our growing Domestic Disaster Response Network. If you would like to donate, please use this link to ARDF's General Relief Fund to submit your tax-deductible gift.

Q: Describe the mission **housing**?

A: Lodging will be at the First Baptist Church of Rolling Fork. Sleeping arrangements are bunk beds, gender specific (see pictures). Volunteers will need to bring twin sheets, blankets, toiletries, and towels. You are also welcome to bring your RV, as there is available parking at the church, but there are no hookups. You must be self-sufficient.

Q: Are there nearby **hotels**?

A: The nearest hotels are in Greenville, MS (50 min N) or Vicksburg, MS (50 min S). At Lake Washington (30 min N), there are cabins for rent at Roy's Cabins, (662) 827-2588, <https://royscabins.net/>. Staying at a nearby cabin or hotel does not waive the registration fee requirement.

Q: Are there parking locations for **RVs**?

A: You are welcome to bring your RV, as there is available parking at the church, but there are no hookups. Your water, electrical, and sewer must be self-contained. There are campgrounds in the area which you can find on the internet. Bringing a RV does not waive the registration fee requirement.

Q: What is the closest **airport**? Is airport pick-up available?

A: Contour Airlines, via DFW or BNA, fly into the Mid Delta Regional Airport (KGLH) in Greenville, MS, approximately 50 minutes away. United, American, Delta, and Southwest fly into the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (JAN) in Jackson, MS, approximately 90 minutes away. If you plan to fly, please share flight information with Tommy Lamb, so he may arrange your transportation to Rolling Fork and back.

Q: Which **meals** are provided?

A: Volunteers are responsible for supplying, preparing, and serving their meals. There is a fully equipped kitchen in the church. Meals begin with Sunday (June 2nd) dinner and end with Saturday (June 8th) breakfast. Lunch will be prepared in the morning at the base camp and eaten on the worksite. If you are interested in serving as a cook or kitchen helper, please volunteer here.

Q: Will there be a **volunteer orientation**?

A: Yes, Brad Craddock, Construction Manager, will orient our teams on Monday morning. In addition, Brad will give us daily updates and join us in prayer.

Q: What type of **construction** will we be doing?

A: Our vision is to provide new homes (1200-1400 sq ft) that former renters will be able to purchase at a discounted price. All skills and experience levels will be needed...framing, sheet rock, painting, installing insulation, flooring, windows, doors, fixtures, and cabinets. Volunteers will work under our Construction Manager, Brad Craddock. The goal is to have up to 5 houses in various stages of construction so that various skill sets and gifts may be utilized.

Q: Are there **vehicles** available to get to the worksite?

A: Yes, there will be vehicles available for transportation.

Q: Is **WiFi** available?

A: Yes, Rolling Fork First Baptist Church has WiFi available for us.

Q: Will I need to bring **bedding, linens, and towels**?

A: Yes, sleeping arrangements are twin-size bunk beds, gender specific (see pictures). Volunteers will need to bring twin sheets, blankets, a pillow, toiletries, and towels.

Q: Is there a **washing machine and dryer** available?

A: Yes, there is a washing machine and dryer available on site. If you plan to use it, please bring a small amount of laundry detergent, or we will purchase some there.

Q: What is the daily **schedule**?

A:	7:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast, Devotion & Announcements
	9:00 - 12:00 PM	Worksite Ministry
	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Worksite Lunch
	1:00 - 4:30 PM	Worksite Ministry
	5:00 - 6:00 PM	Free time (Team Leader debrief)
	6:00 - 7:00 PM	Dinner
	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Devotion, Prayer & Worship
	9:00 PM	Lights Out

Q: Should we bring **tools**?

A: It is always a good idea to bring your own personal protection equipment (PPE) such as safety shoes, work gloves, safety glasses, face masks, and ear protection. The Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast, and St. Timothy's Cathedral, will be loaning us their tool trailer. For those of you who prefer to use your own tools, feel free to bring what you'd like. If you are flying, please check TSA restrictions.

Q: Are there **volunteer opportunities in Rolling Fork** other than construction?

A: There are two thrift stores in Rolling Fork that accept volunteers to sort, fold, and stock donations. They are Cary Christian Center's The Treasure Chest, and Mississippi Christian Services', The Lighthouse Thrift Shop. We are also looking into the possibility of helping with a local Bible school. If you are interested in any of these opportunities to serve the community, please let Tommy Lamb know.

Q: Do you have **tee shirts** for this mission?

A: Rebuild Rolling Fork tees are available to purchase for \$25. ARDF will be providing two for each volunteer. Please include your size when registering on ARDF.org.

Q: Where do I find a **packing list** of what to bring?

A: You will find the ARDF Volunteer Preparation document here which includes helpful information for trip readiness.

Q. Who is my ARDF **contact** for additional information?

A. Tommy Lamb, Director  
ARDF Domestic Disaster Response Network  
Mobile: 281.802.8378  
Email: [tommy@ardf.org](mailto:tommy@ardf.org)