

Sweat Equity FAQ

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

Unfortunately, that would not count toward your total sweat equity. Friends and family hours count **ONLY ON YOUR HOME**, but they are welcome to volunteer at any other time, and we encourage them to!

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 childcare during any class, as only a few classes are child friendly. High school aged kids are encouraged to participate at any time throughout the process.

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

Babysitting hours count **ONE** time per workday, 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.

Example: If you are working an 8-hour day on site, and your child(ren) is/are babysat the entire time, we will count 4 hours for babysitting hours.

I'm making lunch for a workday with 2 others from my household (meal provider/donation). How do I count this?

Making lunch or meal providing counts as 4 hours, no matter how many people help prepare it. Friends and family can make lunch for your home and have it count for friends and family hours, too!

I have children old enough to help on site and/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*** (meaning the mortgage holders must complete a minimum of 157 (2 heads of household) or 79 (1 head of household) of these hours) but beyond that, others in the home may contribute as much as they'd like.

I lost my sweat equity sheet that 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 the kids off at 8 am, can I just arrive at the site after?

NO! It is vital that everyone is present for the safety meeting at 8:00am 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: If 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 and then leave?

These situations must be approved by the office. Yes, this is possible, but the office must know about it in advance if it will be a consistent thing for your schedule, or if just for a couple of days. Each day on site relies on a certain number of people to complete the job and stay on schedule, so we need to know in advance if you must leave early due to 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 Receptionist/Program Assistant who enters hours may not know who the hours belong to, what category to log them in, etc. PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR SWEAT EQUITY SHEETS COMPLETELY, or you risk these hours not being counted.

How do I track hours for shoveling, or mowing the lawn?

You do not need signatures for mowing the lawn or shoveling. Please 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 want an update on my hours and 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 our Family Services Coordinator first via phone/email/text, schedule an appointment with them, and then you both can go over everything if you want an update of your hours. Families will get updates on their sweat equity totals monthly via an email from Family Services.

PLEASE NOTE: You can always drop off sweat equity sheets for entering at the front desk without an appointment, or even after office hours (in the white drop box outside the office). If you need more blank sweat equity sheets these are available at the front desk, outside the office on the side of our Little Free Library, or can be emailed to you by request, just ask!