

Volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank: What to Expect

Thank you again for signing up to volunteer with Second Harvest! We appreciate the time you will spend here, helping to fight hunger and feed hope. This letter is designed to let you know what you can expect during your time here.

Arrival: Please arrive at 331 Great Circle Road at your shift's starting time. Upon arrival, you will enter the main lobby and let the front desk know that you are here to volunteer. The front desk will direct you to the Culinary Arts Center. You will be greeted in the Culinary Arts Center by our Volunteer Coordinator, who will assist you in filling out any paperwork, get you signed in, and give instructions for your volunteer shift. You can turn in your Group Member Agreement or Individual Volunteer Application there. All volunteers will receive an orientation and a tour of the facility; however the tour may happen at the end of a volunteer shift.

Volunteer Activities: We have several volunteer needs at Second Harvest. During your time, you will participate in one of the following. For every shift, each volunteer will have a job and will play an important role.

Middle Tennessee's Table Food Sorting: Food from Middle Tennessee's table is non-perishable food that our trucks have picked up from grocery stores within our 46 county service area. This is food that grocery stores would throw out unless we "rescued" it, sorted, and delivered it to our partner agencies. Because this is a grocery rescue program, much of this food will need to be thrown away for health and safety reasons. Our objective is to identify products that can still be used, and sort them into categories to send out to partner agencies. Volunteers can expect to find that 50%-70% of the product received is usable, and will also find several non-food items during this sorting shift. Emphasis is placed on quality and safety of the community receiving the food, and volunteers will act as food sorters and also quality control. Jobs include food sorting, packing boxes, replacing pallets, and breaking down boxes for recycling.

Food to Families Sorting: Food to Families is our food drive food. This food will be mostly usable, but volunteers will still place emphasis on quality control for food safety reasons. There will not be many non-food items in a Food to Families Sorting shift. Jobs include food sorting, packing boxes, replacing pallets, and breaking down boxes for recycling.

Backpack Packing: Second Harvest packs bags of food for children who may not otherwise receive food on the weekends. Included in these bags are 8-10 shelf stable items that are pre-determined and purchased by Second Harvest. Bags are packed in an assembly style line, with some volunteers focusing on packing boxes, restocking product, or recycling.

Quality Control: Because we are committed to the health and safety of the people we serve, we do schedule regular quality control checks. This will include checking food for dents or punctures, weighing boxes to ensure they are the correct weight.

We look forward to your volunteer shift at Second Harvest- thank you again for helping to fight hunger and feed hope!