



## **BLACK FOREST TOGETHER (BFT) VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES**

Many thanks for volunteering to help the Black Forest Community with its post-fire recovery. Your participation is very much appreciated! To make your work day safe and comfortable, here are some guidelines for you to follow and answers to commonly asked questions.

### Safety

Safety is of utmost importance. Use of power equipment, including chain saws and the chipper is limited to BFT staff or pre-designated volunteers.

Young children are highly discouraged due to safety concerns of potentially falling trees and holes on the property; if in doubt, please contact your BFT liaison to discuss.

No pets please, out of consideration for others.

Lightning poses a danger - work efforts will be called off if lightning is in the area.

Jewelry such as necklaces, bracelets and rings should be removed.

### Attire and Items to Bring

Clothing - Wear comfortable clothing that you don't mind getting dirty. Jeans or long pants and long-sleeved shirts are recommended. As Colorado weather changes often, bring a long-sleeved shirt or light jacket, even in hot weather as the weather can change drastically quickly. Bring a hat, baseball cap or other hat with brim. A bandana is suggested – it can be used to dip in water and wear on the neck to cool the body if temperatures are hot.

Footwear - Boots or sturdy shoes for walking on uneven terrain are recommended. No sandals or open shoes please. Work boots are preferable, particularly in a wet work environment; ie snow and rain. It is strongly recommended that you bring an extra pair or two of socks in the event your feet get wet. Tennis/athletic shoes are not recommended for wet weather conditions.

Gloves – Sturdy leather or plastic coated work best. The gloves provided by Black Forest Together are large. If you have small hands, it would be beneficial for you to bring your own gloves.

Water bottle – Bring a refillable water bottle if you have one. Staying hydrated is extremely important in higher altitudes. We will provide bottled water at the work site, but keeping a water bottle with you at all times, not just at our work project, is a good idea.

Sack Lunch – Unless other arrangements have been made, bring a sack lunch, as we normally take our lunch break on the work site.

Sunscreen – Use liberally to protect your skin.

Tools - Please coordinate with your BFT liaison whether tools are needed. Power tools are allowed by adults only with approval from BFT Project Leads; hand tools such as small limb saws are generally allowed, based on ability to safely use; rakes and shovels are normally provided – it will be noted if additional are needed.

#### Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, calls will be made to the Volunteer Coordinator by 7:30 AM the day of the work project if the day is to be canceled.

#### What to Expect

Typical work site duties may include the following, and are matched to your physical abilities:

- Hours for a typical day are 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM with an on-site lunch
- Picking up and loading burnt wood and/or tree branches into piles, trailers or handing to someone running the chipper
- Creating a defensible space around a home by cutting small branches with a hand saw
- Raking and loading/piling/bagging pine needles or other debris
- Planting grass seed and/or tree seedlings; watering newly planted vegetation
- Stacking firewood and/or kindling
- Placing trees or other material on hillsides for erosion control
- Minor repairs, such as mending field fences
- Restrooms will be provided, either via the homeowners house if available, or an on-site porta-potty

#### Physical Requirements

Physical requirements vary by task. The ability to walk uneven terrain is generally required. Tasks such as moving logs for erosion control require more strength, while raking and other tasks require much less strength. For those who wish to volunteer but have physical limitations, we always need someone to hand out water and check in with other volunteers.

#### Liability and Media Release

Everyone in the work group will be required to sign a liability release as well as a media release. Parents or a legal guardian must sign for children under the age of 18. Pictures are generally taken at the work sites and shared with both homeowners and volunteer groups and are often placed on the BFT Face book page. If you prefer not to have your picture(s) shared, please notify your BFT liaison.

Thank you again for volunteering for this worthy cause and have fun!