



**Stop disappointments and disagreements before they start! The No. 1 reason that most teams struggle through “hard times” is miscommunication before the trip. Stop this by setting clear expectations from the beginning.**

- Remind your team that while you may meet a Habitat homeowner while on Collegiate Challenge, this is not guaranteed. Busy work and childcare schedules often make it difficult for homeowners to join you on the build site. Let your host affiliate know that you are interested in meeting a homeowner – maybe they can set up something outside of work hours.
- When you registered to participate in Collegiate Challenge, you agreed to help local communities end inadequate housing. Keeping this in mind, we ask that your team be flexible in the work that is assigned to you. As volunteers, you may be helping with any number of tasks, including digging, roofing, landscaping, framing, window and door installation, building sheds, working in a ReStore, etc. Please talk with your host affiliate about what type of work you will be doing and share this information with your team.
- Affiliates must provide simple, no-cost housing to participants. The majority of Collegiate Challenge teams will be sleeping on the floor. If this is a concern for you team members, they should consider bringing a foam pad or air mattress.
- Collegiate Challenge participants often visit areas that differ from their hometowns either culturally or economically. Before your trip, learn about the area you will be visiting. As a team, share, prepare for, and embrace the differences you discover.
- **Be flexible!** Throughout your Collegiate Challenge experience, flexibility is vital. Please remember that many affiliates are working to host your group with very few resources; many do not even have a full-time staff member. Your host affiliate is working very hard to host your group – and is excited to do so! Your patience will be very much appreciated – and will make for a more enjoyable week for everyone involved.

**THANK YOU** for making a difference with Habitat for Humanity.  
*Have a great trip!*