

## The Icelandic Red Cross

The Icelandic Red Cross is a volunteer movement with over 20.000 members and around 3000 active volunteers in 42 divisions around the country.

Volunteers and staff assist refugees and immigrants, teach first aid, help people who have financial problems, assemble clothes when emergency situations arise, work with children and youth and are a key factor when disasters happen. They also prevent and relieve suffering whenever possible.

The international work of the Red Cross reaches thousands of victims of disasters, warfare and utter poverty around the world.

Welcome to the Icelandic Red Cross!

## Volunteer information

> for new volunteers



## Dear volunteer

Thank you for joining the Icelandic Red Cross. In this brochure you can find information about the Red Cross and its work. You can also find information about your rights and obligations, as well as your opportunities as a volunteer. We encourage you to seek more information on the Icelandic Red Cross homepage, [www.raudikrossinn.is](http://www.raudikrossinn.is).

Thank you for your contribution.



Chairman of the Icelandic Red Cross

## Mutual expectations

The Red Cross always seeks to improve its support and education of its volunteers. As a volunteer you have various rights but some demands are also made of you. The Red Cross encourages you to study its ethical standards and work accordingly.

As a volunteer you are entitled to an introductory lecture on the Red Cross and what it does, as well as introduction and guidance from your mentor. You should know that, as a volunteer your work should be appreciated, that problems and complaints are solved and respected and that confidential information is kept secret. You are insured for accidents while volunteering for the Red Cross. When volunteering for the Red Cross you are allocated a certain project for a period of time and those who volunteer with you count on your work effort. You can change, add or quit a project by changing or resigning your volunteer contract. It is important that you notify your absence to the person it concerned.

We recommend that you let the project manager know if those you are working with need more assistant so help can be provided.

You are obliged to follow rules on use of the Red Cross logo and we encourage you to hinder misuse of it.

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We encourage you to visit our volunteer homepage and read more about the ethical standards of the Icelandic Red Cross, accident insurances and more useful information for your volunteering. (<http://sjalfbodaliðar.raudikrossinn.is/verklagsreglur/>)

## Online course for volunteers

Every Red Cross volunteer is encouraged to participate in the online-course on our website before they start their volunteering. The course includes the history and development of the Red Cross, the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, the logo and use of it, the Geneva Conventions and the work of the Icelandic Red Cross.

The online course can be found here in English: <http://namskeid.raudikrossinn.is/>

## Our vision

The Red Cross provides assistance domestically as well as abroad when needed. Our volunteers are trained to help those who are suffering and/or are victims of disasters and to help them cope with their situation. The Red Cross promotes human rights and human dignity at all times.



## The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross

The Fundamental Principles guide the work and decisions of the Red Cross, its workers and volunteers around the world, in all situations and at all times. Those principles are: **Humanity - Impartiality - Neutrality - Independence - Voluntary service - Unity - Universality.**

## My summary

Volunteers can get a summary of their participation in projects and courses they have participated in for the Red Cross. On our volunteer website you can log in and see your summary. You type in your social security number (kennitala) and the same e-mail address as filed in our database and you will get your summary sent to you via e-mail.

## Important dates

We encourage each volunteer to take part in large projects of the Red Cross. December 5th is the international day of the volunteer, February 11th (11.2.) is the so called 112 day where emphasis is on first aid and May 8th is the international day of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.