



NECHAMA - Jewish Response to Disaster

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NECHAMA.org

Emergency Response Team Lead (Roster)

Founded in 1993, NECHAMA: Jewish Response to Disaster is the only national Jewish organization to offer sustained direct recovery services in the United States, responding to damage caused by hurricanes, tornados, floods, and other natural disasters. Over the years NECHAMA has relied on thousands of volunteers to assist communities. Rooted and guided by Jewish values, NECHAMA has three priorities: humanizing Jews and representing Jewish ideals in communities shattered by disaster; providing a platform for volunteers of all faiths to explore their identities and purpose; and spreading comfort and hope to people and communities in desperate need of assistance. Currently, NECHAMA is deployed to Western North Carolina, providing relief in the wake of Hurricane Helene. For more information about NECHAMA, please visit www.nechama.org.

Position Summary: NECHAMA is seeking experienced, mission-driven Team Leads to lead its field operations at disaster sites across the United States. The Team Lead is NECHAMA's on-the-ground leader and representative at each worksite. They are responsible for running safe and productive volunteer worksites. Work may include debris removal, muck-and-gut, mold remediation, tarping, home repair, and rebuild, depending on the disaster and the phase of response.

Job Parameters: This is a full-time, on-site temporary position based at NECHAMA's active disaster deployments within the United States. Deployment locations and durations vary with disaster needs. While deployed, the expectation is that the Team Lead lives at NECHAMA housing.

Accountability: Reports to the Director of Operations.

Responsibilities:

Field and Worksite Leadership

- Lead volunteer teams at worksites by demonstrating and applying safe work techniques at all times.
- Assign tasks, supervise, and provide on-site volunteer training to ensure safety, quality, and daily progress.
- Instruct volunteers in worksite expectations and assign specific worksite tasks according to individual skills and abilities.
- Train less-skilled volunteers in appropriate techniques and proper use of tools.
- Coach volunteers into performing effectively on the jobsite and as a team with other volunteers.
- Adapt work plans as conditions, weather, and community needs change throughout the response.

Operations, Tools, and Housing

- Ensure volunteers have the necessary tools to complete requested tasks.
- Manage and maintain any assigned vehicles, tools, and equipment, keeping tools in good working condition.
- Support the set-up, operation, and close-out of new deployment sites and volunteer bases.
- Assist in the maintenance and upkeep of volunteer housing and kitchen.

Reporting and Documentation

- Provide the Director of Operations with daily fieldwork updates and feedback.
- Complete thorough daily reporting and documentation to account for volunteer attendance, tool needs, and progress on each worksite.
- Contribute to end-of-deployment summaries and lessons learned to strengthen future responses.

Volunteer Experience and Community Life

- Welcome and orient incoming volunteer groups, including youth, college, congregational, and corporate groups, and set the tone for their time with NECHAMA.
- Serve as a host, mentor, and steady presence for volunteers both on and off the jobsite.
- Build a sense of community and belonging at base through shared meals, group activities, and evening gatherings.
- Facilitate reflection and discussion that help volunteers connect their service to their values, identities, and sense of purpose, in line with NECHAMA's mission.
- Check in on volunteers' physical and emotional wellbeing, recognizing that disaster work can be exhausting and emotionally heavy, and respond with care.
- Model respect, inclusion, and NECHAMA's values, and address conflicts or concerns within groups promptly and thoughtfully.
- Work with group leaders and chaperones before and during

Communication:

- Communicate clearly and regularly with volunteers, homeowners, partners, and NECHAMA staff so everyone knows what to expect, what is happening, and what comes next.
- Coordinate with NECHAMA's volunteer and operations staff on incoming groups, schedules, and site logistics.
- Capture and share stories, photos, and highlights from the field with NECHAMA's communications team, following consent and privacy guidelines for homeowners and volunteers.
- Keep homeowners informed of project timelines, changes, and completion, and make sure their voices are heard throughout the process.
- Flag concerns about safety, wellbeing, or partner relationships to the Director of Operations quickly.

Qualifications: While no one person will embody all the qualities below, the ideal candidate will possess most of the following professional and personal abilities, attributes and experiences:

- Passion for and commitment to NECHAMA's mission.
- Prior team leadership experience in disaster response, construction, or a related field.
- 1 year of construction experience preferred, either professionally or through service (e.g. AmeriCorps), or a high level of construction knowledge.
- Experience in U.S. disaster response or recovery, or in volunteer management, is strongly preferred.
- Experience leading groups in an experiential, educational, or residential setting, such as camp, youth programs, service-learning trips, or AmeriCorps, is a strong plus.
- Warm, approachable, and enthusiastic presence, with the energy to engage volunteers both on the jobsite and at base after the workday.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to adapt your style for volunteers, homeowners, partners, and staff.
- Strong organizational and project management skills, with the ability to multitask.

- Outgoing; detail- and team-oriented, with excellent communication, leadership, and problem-solving/analytical skills.
- High emotional intelligence and collaborative, energetic, inclusive, and productive interpersonal skills, with a track record of working well with colleagues who contribute to the overall functioning of the organization.
- Commitment to racial equity and ability to effectively collaborate across lines of race, class, and religion.
- Ability to manage stressful situations with clear and informed decision making.
- Ability to support a base environment where volunteers feel safe and engaged, allowing them to be a productive force in the field.
- Ability to excel in a multi-paced, team-oriented environment, and desire to work with volunteers who provide and need varying levels of support.
- Flexibility to travel and deploy to disaster-affected locations across the United States, sometimes on short notice.
- Willingness and ability to live and work in a communal environment.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and G Suite.
- Spanish or other secondary language proficiency is a plus.
- Valid driver's license and clean driving record required.

Eligible candidates must be currently authorized to work in the United States, will not now, or in the future, require sponsorship of a visa for employment authorization in the United States, and are willing to provide employment verification as required. Unless otherwise prohibited by federal, state, or local law, the successful candidate must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

NECHAMA is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in employment opportunities or practices on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, sex, age, gender identity or expression, or other status protected by applicable law. NECHAMA is committed to providing employees with a work environment free of discrimination and harassment.

Not sure you meet 100% of our qualification? Research shows that men apply for jobs when they meet an average of 60% of the criteria, while women and others who are systematically marginalized tend to only apply if they meet every requirement. If you believe that you could excel in this role, we encourage you to apply. Whether you are new to this field, returning to work after a gap in employment, looking to transition, or take the next step in your career path, we will be glad to have you on our radar.

Salary and benefits: \$800 weekly. Includes free NECHAMA lodging while deployed, workers compenation, a food allowance, and cell phone reimbursement. The Team Lead will work five days a week, with Saturday as an off day and one floating off day during the week.

How to apply:

Email the following to jobs@nechama.org

- cover letter addressing interest and qualifications
- resume
- 3 references
- salary expectations