



# San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### My group has signed up to help. What do we need to do exactly?

Groups and congregations prepare a simple wholesome meal for the number of guests depending on capacity at each host site. Typically, this consists of a simple salad, a main dish (usually with meat) a side dish and a dessert. The food may be prepared onsite at the shelter depending on the specific host site or the meal may be prepared offsite and warmed up at the host site. On the day you serve, be prepared with volunteers to help serve the meal to the guests at the shelter.

### How old should volunteers be?

We recommend that volunteers be over the age of 13 with 1 adult supervising every 2 youth. Kitchens can be dangerous places and the larger buildings can be difficult to navigate for newcomers. Meal providers are responsible for their participants.

### How much should I budget to spend on the meal?

Typically, the meals cost around \$250 - \$300 per night. Buying in bulk from restaurant supply stores can reduce this cost.

### Can I see the kitchen before I provide the meal?

Of course! You may make arrangements with the host site contact to visit the facilities.

### How many people should I get to help?

It's easiest to think of one team doing both cooking and serving at the site. Many groups have said a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 are needed to cook and serve the meal.

### San Francisco Interfaith Council

P.O. Box 29055, San Francisco, CA 94129 - Office: 415-474-1321

Email: [office@sfinterfaithcouncil.org](mailto:office@sfinterfaithcouncil.org) Website: [www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org](http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org)

Interfaith Winter Shelter: <https://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/interfaith-winter-shelter>

### What do I need to provide?

The congregation/group needs to provide the meal (salad, main dish, side dishes, dessert) plus plates, utensils, and napkins. Shelter staff will provide beverages.

### What time does the kitchen open? When do we go home?

Typically the host site kitchens are open any time after 5:00 pm. Check with the site contact if you need access to something in particular. Dinner times differ between host sites however typically volunteers are finished cleaning up between 8:00 - 8:30 pm.

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