

Service Hermitage at SMS

A Service Hermitage residency at SMS offers the opportunity to cultivate a sacred relationship with the land, one's self, and others, through service to and stewardship of the SMS project. Service may include outdoor physical labor, cleaning, carpentry, gardening, fire-keeping, wood splitting, administrative support tasks or teaching and working with children in our Learning Village. Service Hermitage may function as a temporary/seasonal opportunity to learn and grow while immersed in a supportive service learning environment, or as an introductory process for a more permanent participatory role in one of SMS's many arms of activity. There are 2 seasonal service hermitage cycles at SMS- Autumn equinox through Spring equinox, and Spring equinox through Autumn equinox. SMS service hermitage housing is provided by our tiny 'bunkie' cabins. Our bunkies do not have heat or electricity, and so may not be appropriate for some during the colder months. The bunkies are served by a community building which has internet, a kitchen, storage pantry, bathrooms and sitting area. There is also a sawdust compost toilet next to the bunkies, which may be used by residents. Details of SMS Service hermitage are outlined below.

Expectations and our Sacred Agreements

Service Hermitage participants commit to work 15 hours per week in exchange for 'bunkie' housing or camping and the opportunity to participate in SMS classes and events, as the volunteer's work schedule and needs of SMS allow. Service hermitage positions are generally offered March 21st-September 21st, and September 21st-March 21st, with a minimum stay of one month, and a maximum, continual stay of six months. Residents will have access to the community building facilities, but may be required to limit use to downstairs during SMS events. Bunkie availability is also sometimes subject to program and event schedules at SMS, which may mean that a hermitage resident must camp or find other lodging for a few nights.

Other expectations and agreements:

- \$150 good faith deposit, to be returned when departing, assuming spaces are left clean and in good condition, and work exchange requirements are met.
- Not open to couples, pregnant women or families with children.
- No pets
- Must be over 21
- Must have own vehicle/transportation
- Must be responsible for trash/waste removal
- Must have experience working outdoors
- Must have experience and willingness to work with or around children

- Must have a working knowledge of simple tools (hand saw, drill, hammer, axe, wood splitter, sander, hoes, tiller, other garden and hand tools)
- Willingness to get dirty, willingness to get clean again!
- No smoking, alcohol, or drugs of any kind
- Commitment to keeping spaces clean and orderly (no personal items left upstairs in the service cabin)
- Willingness to work under the direction of SMS staff, while also anticipating needs and lending a helping hand where needed
- Not codependent- here by choice, not hardship
- Must agree to a background check
- Must receive approval to bring guests to SMS, and follow protocol for visitors (waiver,etc)
- A commitment to self discovery and growth through service to the SMS vision and mission
- Familiarity with biodynamics and permaculture
- Commitment to refrain from using harsh chemicals/toiletries
- Commitment to cook only vegetarian meals onsite, eat organically and minimize waste and trash

All hermitage residents at SMS agree to honor the following

- SMS Land Stewardship Guidelines (see document)
- Transition to quiet time at 10pm
- Community Building use is limited to cooking, eating, bathing and scheduled office use

I agree to honor these criteria

Signature_____**. Date**_____

Sacred Mountain Sanctuary Stewardship Guidelines

Land Access: appointments or event registration are required to visit SMS.

Vehicles: Cars are to remain in designated parking areas at all times, unless other arrangements have been made. ATVs are not permitted.

Conscious Community Awareness: Please leave behind dogs, firearms, fireworks, **alcohol, cigarettes, drugs** and other intoxicants, amplified/ electric music players.

Water: There is plenty of pristine spring water for on-site consumption. SMS encourages mindful appreciation of water, and asks that visitors practice care in the presence of all water sources at SMS.

Respectful Camping and Hiking: Damage to land occurs when surface vegetation or communities of organisms are trampled beyond repair. Hike on established trails and camp in designated areas. Use lightweight camp stoves if you are not in an area with a designated fire ring. Put all fires out with water.

Waste Materials: ALL Trash is to be packed out. Composting areas are available for food/vegetable scraps. Dispersing waste water far away from natural water sources will prevent contamination. Catholes, 6 to 8 inches deep and 200 feet from water, are the easiest and most practical way to dispose of feces.

Leave What You Find: Leaving rocks, plants, archaeological artifacts and other objects as one finds them will allow others to experience a sense of discovery. Similarly, Leave No Trace principles direct people to minimize site alterations, such as digging tent trenches, hammering nails into trees, permanently clearing an area of rocks or twigs, or stepping off trails. Also, take only that which is freely offered from others.

Horses: Horses are permitted on logging roads only.

Honoring all Things: Cultivating an attitude of gentleness and care towards the land and its inhabitants, as well as buildings, vehicles, tools, and roads will have the least impact and allow others future use and enjoyment of these resources.

Consideration for Other community members and Visitors: Practicing mindful hiking etiquette and maintaining quiet allows all visitors to experience their time at SMS with equal enjoyment.

Compassionate Speech: Compassionate communication refrains from the use of harsh or hurtful language, slander and gossip.

I agree to honor these guidelines

Signature _____ Date _____