



Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest in Dharma Ocean's *Blazing Mountain Practice Residency*. We are happy to provide you with some additional information and invite you to consider applying for our next term.

Overview

The Practice Residency provides an opportunity to explore and embody the teachings of the Dharma Ocean lineage while living at the Blazing Mountain Retreat Center in Crestone, CO. The program offers a container for residents to deepen their meditation practice in a long-term retreat setting, while also following a path of engagement through a service component.

Through our formal practice and study in this retreat, we develop a grounded openness to the totality of who we are. Through various forms of service to the community, we develop skillfulness with our state of mind in order to offer ourselves fully to others and to the world around us, training as embodied representatives of awakened human life. The aim of this retreat is to allow practitioners to deepen their practice and integrate it fully into their lives.

Residents should be engaged with the Dharma Ocean path and have a daily meditation practice, a general familiarity with the "ground yana" somatic practices and teachings of *Your Breathing Body* or *Meditating with The Body*, and have some prior program and/or retreat experience (for example, having attended a meditation intensive at Blazing Mountain, enrollment in or completion of *Meditating with the Body* or Sutrayana courses, etc). Practitioners at the Ground Yana, Hinayana, Mahayana or Vajrayana levels are welcome to apply. The program will include a study component including required reading.

The Practice Residency is not a work program, or an alternate living co-op, but a small community of practitioners developing their understanding of the teachings both on and off the cushion. As such, it is viewed by Reggie and Caroline as an in-depth training for those interested in deepening their experience as lineage holders in the Dharma Ocean tradition.

Daily Schedule

The daily schedule will be divided between practice, study and service, 5-6 days per week. When programs or events are in session, the daily schedule may change as residents serve in roles that support the programs. Full participation in all elements of the residency program is required.

Practice Mentorship

Throughout the program, residents will have close support from the program teacher as an on-site meditation instructor. There will be daily practice sessions and regular teachings on the view and practices of the Dharma Ocean lineage. The program teacher will help develop a path of study and practice for each resident during their term and facilitate the residential community.



Service Component

Practice residency participants and Dharma Ocean staff will work together to create a living presence at the center, tending the fire of the practicing lineage in long-term retreat as well as welcoming and supporting those who visit Blazing Mountain. Residents will support Dharma Ocean's intention to be a hospitable and inclusive host to program participants and rental programs.

During each cycle of the Practice Residency, various programs, rentals and events will occur at the Blazing Mountain Retreat Center. Residents will be involved in supporting the programs, rentals or events in roles such as setup/takedown, housekeeping or kitchen staff. Residents will not typically participate in Dharma Ocean programs or other retreat center offerings without also holding a program service role. When programs are not in session, service may include development and maintenance of the land and the buildings, supporting the media efforts of Dharma Ocean and providing general administrative support.

We aspire to facilitate participants' inspiration for service and to help them develop a broad variety of skills; however, service is dependent on the needs of the situation and this is part of our practice. We aspire to be present and flexible to the unfolding situation, particularly in this unique role in the retreat center mandala.

Room and Board

There is no tuition or fee for food and lodging for the Practice Residency. Residents are offered a reimbursement of \$12/day to contribute to the cost of groceries when programs are not in session. When the shrine hall kitchen is in operation for programs, residents will be provided with meals at no cost.

Each resident will be responsible for supplying and preparing their own food during their stay. The residence hall kitchen is available to be shared by residents, and contains a refrigerator, freezer, stove, oven, blender and toaster. Dishes are provided for both cooking and eating. When more than one resident is residing at the center, residents are welcome and encouraged to work together to create community meals.

Residents will be provided with a single or two-person living space during their residency at Blazing Mountain, depending on room availability. Residents may be asked to change accommodations based on the needs of retreats and rentals, including being temporarily housed off-site for major rentals. If residents bring a phone and/or any data-plan based devices, they are responsible for the cost of maintaining these devices.

Health Requirements

Residents will need to meet the following basic physical requirements to ensure that they are able to perform the various types of work that may be assigned:

- Able to lift 35 pounds



- Able to live and work in the physical conditions of Crestone, Colorado (e.g. dry climate, high altitude, remote location)
- In generally good physical and mental health, able to participate in a daily regime of service work, practice and study

Beginning in the spring of 2018, all residents must have their own health insurance or other coverage for the entire duration of the practice residency. We suggest bringing a full supply of prescription medications for the duration of the residency. Pharmacies in Alamosa and Salida can also be used to fill prescriptions if needed.

Program Duration

There are two terms yearly, spring and fall. In 2017, the fall residency begins on August 25 and continues to December 9. The spring residency dates are February 17 - May 31. Residents may participate in not more than three practice residencies, and must reapply for each residency. Residents should plan to leave the center during gaps between residencies.

Application

If you would like to apply for the next term of the Blazing Mountain Practice Residency, please complete the application and return it to us electronically. Applications should be sent via email to residential@dharmaocean.org. Please contact us at that address if you have any problems completing the application electronically.

Thank you for your interest in the Blazing Mountain Practice Residency. This is an exciting time at Blazing Mountain Retreat Center and we write with enthusiasm for the months ahead!

Kind Regards,

Jeremy Lowry
Practice Residency Program Teacher
Blazing Mountain Retreat Center