



BZC Residency Program

Boulder Zen Center offers residential Zen practice under the guidance of resident teacher, Zenki Christian Dillo Roshi, who practices in the lineage of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi (author of Zen Mind, Beginners Mind).

Together we create an opportunity to practice mindfulness in daily activities and cultivate a life of freedom, wisdom, and compassion in community. Residency is about living with a shared intention.

Residents continue their professional work or educational program outside of the Center while committing to following the daily schedule of Zazen meditation, Zendo ritual, and Zen programs to a significant degree.

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Residents need to have strong interest in dedicated Zen practice. They are expected to participate in morning and evening zazen, bowing and chanting practice, oryoki meal practice, dharma talks and practice discussions, as well as zazen intensives. In addition, residents should meet regularly with the resident teacher and be open to learning a variety of practice roles to support daily practice and intensives.

The minimum attendance levels are: 80% of the zazen periods and 50% of the weekly dharma talks and intensives (currently that comes to 1 sesshin, 1 weekend sitting, 4 half-day sittings annually). Attending weekend seminars and the annual practice course is encouraged but optional.

If you are interested in residency, please carefully review the daily zazen schedule and program calendar to see how participation in zazen and intensives aligns with your current work schedule and work-life balance expectations.

Residents need to be willing to view work as practice and be open to flexibly take on work tasks within their skill set that are required to support the shared residential practice. In addition to regular housework anyone would do in their personal home, work responsibilities for residents include but are not limited to: communal shopping, cooking, cleaning of common areas, yard work, gardening, and maintenance (3-4 hours/week).

Generally, residents at the Boulder Zen Center need to have the ability to meet community standards of punctuality and cleanliness. Those standards are discussed and agreed upon in monthly house meetings that are attended by all residents and the Guiding Teacher.

Commitment:

- We prefer applicants who intend to stay for one year or longer but will consider applications with a minimum stay of 6 months.

Community guidelines:

- Follow the schedule, to which you have committed.
- The use of alcohol or drugs is not permitted.
- All meals are vegetarian.
- Dress code: long pants except for outside work, shoulders covered. For zazen: loose-fitting clothing in dark, subdued colors.
- Romantic relationships between residents require community consent.
- Participate proactively in monthly house meetings that address community-related topics and concerns.

Your residency includes:

- Participation in all programs, i.e., weekly dharma talks, discussion groups, weekend sittings, seminars, practice courses.
- Ability to meet privately with Zenki Roshi (in dokusan and informally).
- A private room, which is unfurnished and has a private bathroom.
- Groceries are shopped for communally.
- Most meals are on-your-own except for certain community meals, some of which may be oryoki-style lunches.

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Next steps:

- Please complete Residency Application and email it to us.

Cost:

- Residents pay \$1,400/mo. for the room, utilities, food and tuition. The food accounts for \$360/mo.
- Monthly fees are due on the first of the month.
- When your application is approved, we require a deposit of \$300 to be paid as a sign of your commitment to the program. The deposit will be refunded after the first month of your stay.

- In addition, you will need an oryoki set (a set of bowls, utensils, and cloths). Please purchase a set [like this one](#) online if you don't have one (we recommend the blonde wood utensils). If need be, you may also purchase one from us at cost.

More about BZC:

Boulder Zen Center formed officially in 1978. Senior practitioner and current Zendo Leader Ryokan Gary Hardin has been the main practice leader at the BZC since 1996. He also operated a guest business that supported BZC for the past 16 years. In the summer of 2020, the guest business (the Briar Rose Bed and Breakfast) closed and underwent a renovation and rebranding and is now called the Boulder Guest House. It consists of four guest rooms, and is run and operated by the Zen residents and additional hired cleaning staff.

Zenki Christian Dillo Roshi has been a visiting teacher at the Boulder Zen Center for 11 years and moved from the Crestone Mountain Zen Center, his training monastery, to Boulder in August 2020 to practice and teach full-time. His focus in teaching is an embodied investigation of human experience with the intention of realizing liberation from suffering, wisdom, and compassion.

Residential practice at the Boulder Zen Center is not monastic, but it requires a commitment to blend one's self-directed, individual life with a strong dedication to Sangha practice and community responsibilities.

The schedule supports regular exposure to teachings and daily meditation and mindfulness practice. Practitioners have the opportunity to engage in a process of waking up and refining their everyday activity in the realms of body, speech, and mind. After a period of finding out whether this structure of residential Zen practice can fruitfully support and inform their spiritual path, long-term residents at the Boulder Zen Center make a commitment to supporting each other in putting their shared intentions into action.

boulderzen.org
boulderguesthouse.com