

BZC Residency Program (Full-time or Part-time)

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.

Residency at the Boulder Zen Center means to follow the daily schedule of Zazen meditation, Zendo ritual, and Zen programs. While full-time residents participate in a morning and afternoon work period, part-time residents continue their professional work or educational program outside of the center.

Those interested in part-time residency should carefully review the daily schedule PDF and see how participation in Zazen and Zen programs aligns with their current work schedule.

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Residents need to have:

- A strong interest in dedicated Zen practice: morning and evening zazen, bowing and chanting practice, oryoki meal practice, participation in dharma talks and discussions
- An understanding of work as practice; willingness and flexibility to perform work tasks as assigned by the work leader;
- An ability to meet community standards of punctuality and cleanliness.

Work responsibilities for full-time residents include but are not limited to:

- Cooking lunch,
- Cleaning common areas (temple cleaning),
- Housekeeping and laundry for guest rooms,
- Office work,
- Other chores such as garden work, shopping, and maintenance.
- [Depending on their schedule, part-time residents participate at minimum in daily cleaning (approx. 20 min) and cooking lunch once a week.]

Community guidelines:

- Follow the morning and evening meditation schedule.
- 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.

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)
- Private room: the room is furnished and has a private bathroom
- Meals: lunch is prepared and eaten communally (most lunches are oryoki style); breakfast and dinner are on-your-own but ingredients are provided.
- [If their work schedule permits it, part-time residents are encouraged to attend the communal lunch.]

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Next steps:

- Please complete Residency Application (full-time or part-time) and email it to us.

Cost:

- Full-time residents pay \$700/mo. to cover utilities, food, and tuition. After six months, full-time residents stay free of charge.
- Part-time 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.

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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.

The model for residential practice at the Boulder Zen Center is based on the monastic idea of following a daily schedule but is not as strict as Zen monastic training. It blends a strong dedication to Sangha practice and community responsibilities with a self-directed, individual life in an urban setting.

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