

Lama Foundation Summer Stewardship 2006 Fact Sheet

Mission Statement:

*The Purpose of the Lama Foundation is to be
a sustainable spiritual community and educational center dedicated to
the awakening of consciousness,
spiritual practice with respect for all traditions,
service
and stewardship of the land.*

DESCRIPTION: The Summer Stewardship Program is an on-going summer retreat—an opportunity to take pause from ordinary life, to create and care for community and look at it through a number of lenses. Summer Stewards join with the year-round resident circle to actualize Lama Foundation's summer community.

DURATION: The minimum enrollment is two weeks, but stewards may stay for any period of time beyond the initial two weeks until Closing Day, **September 24**. The Stewardship Retreat begins on **May 21**, which is also the beginning of Community Camp.

WINDOWS OF ARRIVAL: Because we are not able to accept new arrivals during retreats, we have identified these dates when stewards are asked to arrive:

May 21, May 29-June 10, June 19&20, June 28, July 5, July 17-20, July 24-27, Aug 7-12,
Aug 21-23, Aug 28-31, Sep 5-13, Sep 18-24.

TUITION: Tuition is from \$12-\$22 per day, \$300-\$600 per month, sliding scale, with the intention that stewardship be as accessible as possible. Partial scholarships may be available. Arrangement for youth under 18 will be made on an individual basis. This tuition may be applied to Lama Foundation's lifetime tuition of \$2000 for those seeking longer-term residence.

Stewardship is not considered "work exchange." Each of us comes to Lama to serve and, through that giving of ourselves, to support the Foundation and the ideals that we collectively hold. Most of us feel that what we have received from our stewardship experiences is actually priceless.

WHO ARE STEWARDS? Stewards represent a wide range of age, background, interest, life stage and life experience from many parts of the country and world—individuals, families, students, teachers, gardeners, builders and rebuilders, musicians, writers, artists, service and health care practitioners, "wanderers, worshippers."* The "thread" that connects us, like prayer beads, is the "call," in whatever ways we have received it, to create a different way of being on the earth; to immerse our hearts and minds in a vision and task for a greater good; to explore the interface between our inner and our outer selves, our connection with others and with the natural world; to learn new skills and share in our work and our play.

***Although we hold the intention of accessibility, Lama is both rugged and remote and is unfortunately not accessible to individuals with some types of physical or other limitation. Please contact us if you have a concern.**

THE CURRICULUM: Lama is a “school” in community. Reflective of this very special region of northern New Mexico / southern Colorado in which the Foundation is located, the vibration of the mountain itself, and the vision of Lama’s founders, Lama represents a “meeting of the ways”—a convergence of many spiritual traditions, with the understanding that “Truth is One, Paths are Many.” To nurture and support our primary practice of service, we offer **community practices**, including morning meditation, weekly women’s and men’s lodges, Wednesday night Heart Club, Thursday night Zikr, and Friday night Shabbat and **smaller group practices** such as yoga, drumming, poetry-reading, contact improv, tribal healing, kirtan, Japanese Tea or other activities that those who are on the land might wish to share. In addition, there are often special offerings for community members during retreats. In this way, the summer community becomes an open forum of shared teachings, a reflection of that community’s unique composition.

We are here because we value the teachings that come with trying to live in community consciously. The “curriculum” offers opportunities to develop skills in community building, both directly and indirectly, to deepen in self awareness and in understanding of some of the teachings of different spiritual traditions and apply that awareness and understanding in our meetings and service.

EXPECTATIONS: Our foundation is heart-felt service—to those who come to the mountain as visitors, hermits, retreatants; to the surrounding and world communities through education, healing and prayer. Every member of the community contributes 30 hours of service (seva) per week and participates in regular community meetings. See the *Daily/Weekly Schedule* for more details. Equally important is personal time: the opportunity to re-create ourselves through friendship, solitude, outdoor activities....

Each of us contributes to the cooking, cleaning and other daily functions of the Foundation. Additional service is focalized through “circles of caring”—opportunities to share or develop skills in flag production, land care, natural building, kitchen management, caring for hermitages, registration of retreatants, child care, and so forth. Stewards may oversee projects or assume guardianships based on interests and skills.

In addition to two regular days off per week, stewards receive one day of vacation per month of service. Those who are part of the four-month community of summer, from June through September, receive six days of vacation to be taken before Closing Day/September 25th.

LAMA OFFERS: in addition to its curriculum, several beautiful campgrounds, a breath-taking view, vegetarian meals, shower facilities (with bio-degradable soap and shampoo), basic first-aid supplies, weekly laundry service, a music room with community instruments, an extensive library, prayer room, free clothing exchange, and limited phone and internet access. Phone cards are required. Our water comes from a mountain spring; our electricity, from the sun. The Foundation’s rustic setting is deeply quiet and naturally beautiful, built and maintained by loving service.

For younger children, there are a limited number of children’s books, toys, and art materials, an outdoor sandbox, swing, high chairs and a crib. Older children are encouraged to participate in community activities as they feel comfortable. Parents are responsible for their children’s supervision at all times. For further information, please consult with one of the Summer Steward Guardians.

ENROLLMENT: Stage One—Mail, email or fax an “Application” the *Attention of the Summer Stewardship Guardian* at one of the addresses below. Upon acceptance, you will be contacted to arrange the details of your stay. You will receive some information about preparation and what to bring and will be asked to send a \$50 deposit. Upon arrival at Lama, there will be a two-week orientation and try-out period.

The Second Stage is a meeting with the resident circle—an opportunity to check in a little more formally, to discuss the curriculum, commitments, challenges... and, for those who are planning to spend more time on the mountain, to be formally invested as a steward.

A NOTE TO THOSE WHO ARE CONSIDERING FULL-TIME RESIDENCY: Full-time residency at Lama Foundation is a one-year commitment from October through the end of the next year’s summer program. Individuals who are considering year-round residence are encouraged to come on Opening Day, or as close to that as possible, and to stay for the duration of summer. If that is not possible, we ask that you arrive no later than August 1. Winter housing order is determined by the date of arrival. In addition to two regular days off per week, you receive six days of vacation (if you arrive on Opening Day, or a pro-rated amount determined by your arrival date) to be taken before Closing Day/September. For additional information, please contact one of the Summer Steward Guardians.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST! Many have experienced Lama as a place of profound transformation; a unique opportunity to explore other ways of being; to experience everything and everyone as “Teacher.” Many have left the mountain with unforgettable experiences, new friends, and greater self-awareness. Their energetic imprints, their love remains here at Lama—at the Spring House and the Maqbara, in the Prayer Room and Dome, in Flag Mountain Studio, at building sites and in the gardens.

Please feel free to contact us for additional information.

With love from the Mountain,

Summer Steward Guardians

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