



Vermont Zen Center

2023 INFORMATION FOR TRAINEES

Start of Training Program: The training program begins on SUNDAY AT 9 A.M. and ends on Friday after lunch, by around 2:30 p.m. Please be at the Center no later than 8 p.m. on Saturday (out-of-town participants) or 8 a.m. on Sunday (local participants) so that you have time to get settled in your room prior to start of the Sunday sitting.

Arrival: Please let us know if you need to be picked up from the airport, train station or bus station. If you are from out of town, you should **arrive on Saturday**; there is no charge for staying that night at the Center. Let us know when you will be at the Center so that your room will be ready.

What to Bring:

- Modest clothing in subdued colors for a variety of weather and for both indoor and outdoor work
- Sun hat for outdoor work
- Sunscreen, bug repellent (also available at the Center)
- Waterproof shoes, indoor slippers (shoes are not worn inside the Center)
- Medications, vitamins, etc. that you normally use

What Not to Bring:

- Tank tops, tight pants, short shorts, and similar clothing
- Strong smelling soaps, perfumes, lotions and the like
- Food, unless you need supplements that the Center cannot provide
- Extraneous reading matter, DVD's, MP3 players, etc.
- The Center will provide linens, towels, zazen cushions

Work: Jobs rotate daily. Everyone takes turns working outdoors, in the kitchen and doing housekeeping. If there is some kind of work you are unable to do, please let us know right away.

Phone Calls: Please tell anyone who may be calling you **not** to call the Vermont Zen Center line except in cases of emergency. For general purposes, if you cannot use a cell phone, please use the house residents' line—802-985-5604—for outgoing and incoming calls. If you are expecting to receive phone calls, please ask people not to call after 9:00 p.m.

Private Instruction: Part of the training program is daily private instruction (dokusan) with the teacher. If you are a student of a teacher other than Roshi Graef, please check with him/her to ensure that you may go to private instruction with Roshi Graef.