

Teacher and Volunteer Categories

DHARMA TEACHER

Recognized teachers who have extensive specialized training either in a Buddhist tradition, or in secular mindfulness; have been teaching Dharma and/or courses in meditation for a minimum of twenty years

Duties: Lead daylong retreats in prison; teach mindfulness to prison therapists and other staff as requested; provide advice on course curriculums for prison volunteers; act as advisors for prison volunteers.

PRISON DHARMA INSTRUCTOR

Instructors who have had chaplaincy training and/or had extensive training in their lineage and have sat a minimum of 10 residential retreats and/or have taught Dharma and/or mindfulness in prison for at least five years.

Duties: Available to bring mindfulness training into prison a minimum of 2 x per month; offer Dharma talks; prepare courses of study for inmates including reference materials and lesson plans as needed; prepare volunteer scheduling or designate a scheduling volunteer; lead movement or authorize a designated movement leader.

PRISON DHARMA FACILITATOR

Those who have at least two years of prison practice; sit regularly with a sangha and/or have a Dharma Teacher, a Prison Dharma Instructor and/or Chaplain as a mentor; have been on at least two residential retreats; may also have experience in and lead movement meditation.

Duties: Available a minimum of 2 x per month; lead service; lead movement, and facilitate discussion group(s) based on materials presented by a Dharma Teacher or a Prison Dharma Instructor; help organize annual daylong retreats.

PRISON DHARMA VOLUNTEER

Volunteers who have at least one year of sitting practice; are established or are establishing themselves in a sangha; commit to two years of service in prison; meet with a Dharma mentor; commit to a residential retreat during the year of internship.

Duties: Volunteer in a prison 2 x per month; support teachers/facilitators; become acquainted with prison procedures; help set up chapel or meeting room; study materials being offered to the inmates; become familiar with facilitating group discussion and leading mindful movement; apply for a brown card (chaplaincy card).