



LOUISVILLE ZEN CENTER BECOMING A MEMBER

Since our establishment in 1999, the aim of Louisville Zen Center (LZC) has been to help men and women from every walk of life establish, maintain, and deepen Zen practice, develop a zazen 'temper of mind' (or the ability to approach situations with greater equanimity, clarity, and responsiveness), and apply insights gained through Zen practice to the everyday life of family, work, and community. We fulfill this aim by providing suitable surroundings, instruction, and support for the practice of Zen.

Zen practice has always been based on a strong effort by the individual. Membership in the Center can assist in that effort by providing opportunities for you to strengthen and become more deeply engaged in your Zen practice and our supportive community.

Who Can Join?

Membership is open to anyone 18 years of age and over. Even those not wishing to become a student of Roshi Bodhin Kjolhede, Abbot of the Rochester Zen Center, as well as students of other teachers are welcome as members. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, age, religion, or sexual orientation.

How to Become a Member?

The first step in becoming a member is attending an introductory workshop or Introduction to Zen practice conducted by Louisville Zen Center, Rochester Zen Center, Madison Zen Center, or Cleveland Zazen Group.

When you are ready to join the Center as a member, simply complete a Membership Application Form, a Pledge Form, and submit your initial membership contribution. Suggested voluntary contribution levels are shown on the Pledge Form, but you may promise more or less according to what your circumstances reasonably permit. Louisville Zen Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your membership donations and other forms of giving are tax-deductible.

To ensure confidentiality, give the forms and your initial membership contribution to the Group Leader or simply mail them to the Center with "Membership" in the address line.

Once the forms have been reviewed, the Group Leader will schedule a meeting with you to discuss any questions you may have about the Center, membership, and other ways of getting involved. Membership may be approved at this meeting.

What are Obligations of Membership?

Members may participate in the activities of the center to whatever extent they wish. In order to maintain a safe and harmonious environment that is supportive of spiritual work, all are asked to accord with Louisville Zen Center practice forms, customs, and etiquette. Participants and members also abide by Rochester Zen Center's ethical guidelines, code of conduct, and sexual harassment policies. These can be viewed on the Rochester Zen Center web site at <http://www.rzc.org>

Louisville Zen Center is entirely supported by *dana*, or giving. We deeply appreciate the generosity of all our members. Membership pledges can be fulfilled either yearly or quarterly (to reduce bookkeeping), but payments by month will be gratefully accepted. We ask to receive membership donations by the 5th of the month they are due unless other arrangements have been made. We respectfully remind those who have fallen behind.

What are Privileges of Membership?

Louisville Zen Center members may:

- Attend formal and informal meditation sessions, group and individual instructions, Zen talks/commentaries, study-discussion groups, and observances and ceremonies.
- Contribute to the spiritual functioning of the Center by being trained in timing, monitoring, and other zendo duties.
- Receive preference for retreats, classes, and workshops.
- Receive discounts on fee-based retreats, residential training, materials, classes, and workshops.
- Receive a complimentary subscription to *Zen Bow*, a quarterly journal published by the Rochester Zen Center.
- Attend secular functions of the Center such as picnics, potlucks, and other social activities.
- Take part in governing the Center and setting administrative policy by voting in the election of directors and upon matters before meetings of members, by serving on committees, and by running for office on the board of directors.

Why Membership?

By joining the Louisville Zen Center as a member, you are pooling your energies with those of like-minded others. The more you participate in sittings and other Zen Center activities, the more support you draw from others and, just as importantly, the more support you provide to others.

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