

Creating Self

with Gerry Starnes, M.Ed.

Apprenticeship Program

The purpose of the apprenticeship is to provide individuals interested in creating a deeper connection with the precepts of contemporary shamanism and creating intentionally an opportunity to do so within an organized structure. The Apprentice Program is designed to help the individual incorporate the concepts into everyday life, as well as learn to express them to others as leaders within the community.

As an apprentice, you will actively participate in group sessions as an assistant, and with experience, as co-facilitator. Your knowledge and experience will also grow through personal consultation and assigned readings and exercises created to meet your long-term goals and interest.

Commitment

The apprentice must be committed to:

- creating a long-term, ongoing relationship with the concepts and spirit of the shamanic worldview as applied to contemporary culture
- participate directly in assigned activities as a student and leader
- monthly one-on-one consultation with the facilitator/teacher
- participation in groups with other apprentices as appropriate

The Agreement

The apprentice embarks on several lines of intellectual and experiential study, including:

- reading and learning from a variety of sources assigned by the facilitator/teacher, and ability to express understanding of the worldviews presented, as well as to synthesize their connection and interrelationships
- consistent attendance to programs, such as TranceDances and shamanic journey circles as both student and assistant
- participation in suggested workshops as both student and assistant
- personal dialogs with the facilitator/teacher

Candidacy and Selection

A personal preliminary dialog is held to determine the focus and direction of the apprentice in regard to his/her own personal and spiritual development. This “intake dialog” determines the appropriateness of the apprenticeship program for the individual, as well as the structure and timing of the program if appropriate. Not all candidates are accepted.

Course of Study

Upon acceptance, the facilitator/teacher and apprentice create an individualized calendar of experiences and personal dialogs for the year. The apprentice begins a reading program based on the recommendations of the facilitator/teacher, and can also select sources that best match his/her specific interest.

The apprentice will gain exposure to a variety of teachings and worldviews, as well as a historical perspective of traditional shamanism. Through reading and discussion, the apprentice will become familiar with many current traditions and teachers, and is encouraged to identify and pursue a tradition that seems best suited to his/her values and spirit.

The apprentice is also encouraged to explore new areas of research of personal interest. The focus of all research, activities and reading assignments is to foster an encounter with traditions that resonate with the individual, upon which a personally rich, organized approach to living creatively can be built.

Teaching is essentially experiential. The apprentice also actively participates in TranceDance programs and events, shamanic journeys and other recommended experiential seminars and workshops, and meets monthly with the teacher to discuss discoveries and experiences. The apprentice also meets monthly with the facilitator/teacher for personal guidance sessions, focused on the personal integration of shamanic understanding with current relationships and lifestyle.

Cost

The apprentice provides a fair monetary and energetic exchange for teaching and training. The program is designed as a one-year minimum commitment that may be extended upon agreement by the apprentice and facilitator/teacher.

Base fee of \$1680.00 includes:	Frequency	Equivalent	
• TranceDance participation *	1 per month	\$180.00	
• Journey Circle **	2 per month	\$240.00	
• Individual personal sessions ***	1 per month	\$630.00	(1.5 hours each)
• Training sessions ***	1 per month	\$630.00	(1.5 hours each)

This fee does not need to be paid in advance. Monthly payments are acceptable (\$140), with a 12-month commitment. The key issue is the participation of the student in all activities.

Students receive a 10% discount on other workshops and events attended in addition to those included in the apprenticeship cost. Attendance to workshops as an assistant is at no charge, not including any lodging and meals. (Previous attendance as a participant in the workshop is required to serve as an assistant.) Books are not included, and purchase is not required.

* Additionally, apprentices assist as TranceDance “kadors” at least 8 times per year.

** Apprentices assist with drumming as appropriate.

*** Personal and training sessions are a sliding scale of \$35 - \$70 per hour – student’s choice based on financial resources and perceived value. This is an estimate for example only, derived from the low end of the scale.