**New Resident Volunteer APPLICATION ODIYAN 2022**

Thank you for applying to Odiyan. Please email completed application to [volunteer@odiyan.org](mailto:volunteer@odiyan.org) along with your resume and photo. This application can also be pasted into an email for easier filling-out, or you can request the application as an email by contacting [volunteer@odiyan.org](mailto:volunteer@odiyan.org) or calling the volunteer office 510-981-1987

Odiyan is a community dedicated to following traditional Buddhist practices as well as exploring secular approaches to deeper knowledge that embody the fullest expression of human potential. In this application, we ask personal questions to ensure the compatibility, health and safety of all our volunteers. Couples are welcome to apply. We cannot accept children or pets. The minimum commitment is six months, with the possibility of longer-term residency if there is mutual agreement. A living allowance is included of $150 per month, increasing to $216 per month after one year. Odiyan is a non-smoking facility. Please do not apply if you are currently smoking or have recently quit smoking.

**Mission:** Odiyan’s mission is to be a home for the preservation of the sacred art, symbols and teachings of Tibetan Buddhism. Odiyan also supports all Buddhist traditions in Asia and provides aid to lay and monastic Buddhist centers and schools throughout the Himalayan region. The vision of Odiyan is a home for the Dharma in the West, and to develop a community of lay practitioners living and working in accord with Buddhist teachings to sustain the mandala of Odiyan for future generations.

**Odiyan Work positions in 2022**

* **General volunteer** – Work where the need is greatest. Training in various work areas.
* **Clay Stupa project** – clay experience preferred, or you are strong, good with your hands at making things. Training in sculpting and working with clay.
* **Sacred Art installation project** –have interest in learning trades, strong, good at working with your hands. Training in trades.
* **Organic Farm and Garden** – genuine passion for growing food, strong, willing to do the hard work manual labor it takes to grow food. Training and education in organic food production.
* **Rescue horse sanctuary and horse care** – previous horse care experience required

All volunteers also help with landscaping and Temple gardens clean-up and maintenance. The kitchen work includes cooking, baking, preserving, kitchen and meal clean-up and stocking supplies. Other optional scheduled activities include meditation and other Buddhist practices, classes, Buddhist study or discussion groups. We are seeking volunteers who are interested in immersing themselves fully in the lifestyle of Odiyan which includes the work, community life and educational opportunities.

**Process** Applications are initially screened by the New Resident Volunteer Committee to determine if the applicant may be a good match for volunteering. This is followed by a phone/video interview and reference checks. The application process can take up to 1-2 weeks. We may at our discretion perform background checks. All new residents are accepted on a one month trial basis in order to confirm to our mutual agreement that the program is a good fit.

**Covid-19 Policies** We are currently accepting new residents who are fully vaccinated, including recommended boosters.

**Application instructions**

1. Please include a photo of yourself that you feel will give us a sense of who you are. It does not need to be a formal portrait; a casual picture of you with family and friends or by yourself is sufficient
2. Resumes are welcome, but please include on the resume or in the application the reasons for leaving your jobs.
3. References: please give both phone numbers and email addresses for all references. We require a total of four references. Include at least two employment references (preferably supervisors) and one family member (a parent, if possible) or close family friend who has known you for over 10 years.

**Submitting your application**

Fill out the application below and return by email to [volunteer@odiyan.org](mailto:volunteer@odiyan.org) Also include your photo and resume as an attachment.

If you have any questions, please contact the volunteer office at 510-981-1987.

**Please include a photo of yourself (jpg files as an attachment are preferred)**

Today's Date:

Please let us know your area of interest for volunteering:

\_\_\_\_General work volunteer: please consider me for wherever the need is greatest

­­­\_\_\_\_Clay Stupa project

\_\_\_\_Sacred Art installation project

\_\_\_\_Organic Farm and Garden

­\_\_\_\_\_Rescue horse sanctuary and horse care

Full Name:   
Name you prefer to be called:   
Full Mailing Address:   
Home Phone:   
Cell phone:   
Email address:   
Age:   
Date & Place of Birth:   
Sex: M \_\_ F \_\_  
Relationship Status:   
Do you have any children or dependents? Please list ages and relationship to you.

Date you are available to start:   
Length of commitment: (minimum 6 months, prefer 9 months)   
Current Housing Arrangement: (rent, own, etc.)

Person to contact in case of emergency:   
Name:

Phone:

Address:

Relationship to you:

How did you hear about Odiyan?  Referral, online? Which web site or keywords?  
Please include a photo of yourself (jpg attachment is preferred).

**Education and Employment History**

Education history:   
List institutions, dates attended, degrees, field of study.

Do you have college loans?

Employment History:

List employers, dates employed, position(s) held for the last 10-15 years, or attach a resume, be sure to include the reason for leaving each job.

Non-employer work experience:

**References**

Please list name and contact information, including email, for 4 references. Indicate how long you have known each reference. Include at least 2 employment/professional references (with dates of employment) and at least one reference from a family member or family friend (please specify) who has known you for at least 10 years. Volunteer-related and school references may be used.  
A.   
B.   
C.   
D.

**Application questions**

1. Why are you excited about volunteering at Odiyan? What interests you about the mission and vision of Odiyan?
2. Please describe how your individual goals and interests fit in with what you know of our community.
3. How has your past work, schooling or general background prepared you for the physically challenging work at Odiyan? Describe your past experience with physical work.
4. What role does work play in the overall scope of your life?
5. How would you rate your work ethic on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the hardest working?
6. Work in our community is variable. Do you have skills in any particular areas? i.e.: construction, cooking, IT, fundraising, maintenance, graphic design, social media, sewing, office administration, painting or others.
7. Please evaluate your physical fitness for the work and lifestyle of Odiyan. The work includes lifting up to 50 lbs, being on your feet and moving all day, bending over or being on your knees while working, or working with your hands over your head. You may include your height and weight, if you wish.
8. What do you care most deeply about, and how does it manifest in your life, or how would you like what you care deeply about to manifest in your life?
9. We all face difficulties and pain in life. Describe a personal hardship and how you responded to it. How did you work through it? If a similar situation arose in the future, would you make any changes in how you handle it?
10. We all have strengths and weaknesses. What do you consider to be your weaknesses? What are your greatest strengths?
11. Give an example of something you have learned about yourself that you feel is important.
12. What are your hobbies or other interests? How do you spend your leisure time?
13. Please describe any exposure you have had to Buddhism or any other spiritual traditions. (Books, media, personal involvement)
14. Do you have the moral support of your family and/or friends for this commitment? Have you discussed this program with them? Explain briefly:
15. Do you have any environmental sensitivities or allergies we should know about?
16. Have you had any surgeries, major illnesses or injuries in the past? Please describe.
17. Have you ever had difficulty with abuse of or addiction to nicotine, alcohol, drugs or over-the-counter medications? Please describe.

**Participation**

18. Those willing to make a 6 month commitment to volunteer at Odiyan are asked to limit time away from the program and the Odiyan property. If you know in advance that you need to spend time away, such as a previous commitment to a family event, please let us know here.

19. Do you own a car? If so, what year, make and model

20. If you are from another county, how long is your legal status in the U.S?

21. Please initial that you agree with the following:   
\_\_ I understand that volunteering at Odiyan is to fully commit to the work schedule, as well as assisting with cleaning, cooking and maintaining the facilities.

\_\_\_ I will be flexible about placement for work at Odiyan  
\_\_\_ I understand educational opportunities and meditation are optional activities.  
\_\_\_ I will assume full responsibility for my own safety and assume the risk of any activity in which I agree to participate.  
\_\_\_ If I bring my car, I will have car insurance for my vehicle.  
\_\_\_ I understand I will be asked to leave for smoking or the use of illegal drugs.  
\_\_\_ I agree to have a back-up plan and adequate funds to carry it out if my stay does not work out to our mutual satisfaction.

Please Note: All the information on this application is held in privacy and will not be shared with any other entities, groups, organizations, businesses or mailing lists.

Thank you for applying to volunteer at Odiyan!