

San Francisco Zen Center

Financial Assistance and Scholarship Information and Procedures

The intention of offering financial assistance and scholarships for many of San Francisco Zen Center's programs is to actualize our mission: *To express, make accessible, and embody the wisdom and compassion of the Buddha*. Fees for practice offerings, workshops, classes and special events are kept as low as possible. These fees are, however, a major source of operating income for San Francisco Zen Center. Zen Center offers both limited income prices and scholarship assistance to those who are genuinely unable to afford the listed or limited income price of a particular program offering.

Types of financial assistance and scholarships available

Limited Income Pricing

Limited income prices are available for many of the program offerings at City Center and Green Gulch Farm. No application is required. Simply indicate that you are able to pay the limited income price listed when registering either online or through the reservations office.

Scholarships

A scholarship is defined as any payment less than the "limited income" price for Zen Center classes, sittings, workshops, online courses, etc. SFZC scholarships do not cover the full cost of a program. Applicants are asked to make a contribution toward the program cost. The suggested contribution is 50% of the "limited income" price.

Please apply for a scholarship only if you have a financial need that would otherwise prevent you from attending a program. Please read the information below and, if submitting a scholarship application, select the fund that best suits your situation. Contact the reservations office or center director if you have further questions regarding scholarships and the application process.

San Francisco Zen Center is committed to diversity. There are three separate scholarship funds:

- General Scholarship
- People of Color Scholarship (The People of Color Scholarship fund is specifically for people of color.)
- Online Programs Scholarship

Scholarship Availability

Limited scholarships are available for the following:

- **All one-day sittings** at City Center and Green Gulch Farm
- **All practice period classes** at City Center and Green Gulch Farm
- **Most sesshins** at City Center and Green Gulch Farm
- **Select workshops and retreats** at City Center, Green Gulch Farm, and Tassajara
- **Select online courses and practice periods**

Availability of scholarships for a particular workshop or retreat will be noted on the webpage that describes the workshop or retreat, and this information is also available through the office where reservations are handled.

Exceptions to scholarship availability for one-day sittings, practice period classes, sesshins and workshops at City Center and Green Gulch Farm will be noted on the webpage for that particular offering. Zen Center retains the right to change the scholarship availability to a program at any time, although already awarded scholarships will of course be honored.

Scholarships are not offered for:

- Overnight guest accommodations at any of the three centers
- Residential practice periods at any of the three centers*
- Guest Season retreats at Tassajara unless otherwise noted**

*Please see the information below in the “Other Forms of Financial Assistance” section under the Work Practice Apprenticeship program for how to earn a scholarship for a residential practice period through work exchange.

**As the Tassajara Summer Guest Season is a primary and important financial support to Zen Center, we must limit scholarship availability to a few select retreats. We may also limit the number of scholarships available for any particular retreat for which scholarships may be available. Retreats open to scholarship will be indicated on the particular retreat page on the Tassajara/SFZC website. Please remember that the price for accommodations is not included and must be paid in full should scholarships be made available for a Tassajara retreat. Scholarships are not available for Tassajara practice periods as we have a work practice program that enables individuals to earn practice period scholarships through work exchange.

How to Apply

1. **Please complete the Scholarship Request Form for the appropriate event location** [[Online Events](#) / [City Center Events](#) / [Green Gulch Farm Events](#)] or contact the reservations office at rezoffice@sfzc.org for more information.
2. **Please specify on the application the fund for which you are applying.** Requests for scholarships from the General fund, the Online Programs fund, and from the People of Color fund will be processed in identical fashion.
3. **Requests must be received at least a week before the program starts, though we wish to be flexible about this.** It is SF Zen Center’s commitment to respond to scholarship requests in a timely manner. Most requests will be responded to within 3–5 days; the director will notify the applicant if more time is needed.***
4. **Upon approval of your scholarship request, you will be asked to pay the full adjusted amount owed for the program you want to attend in order to confirm your registration and place. This amount will be your deposit.** All cancellation policies will take effect at the time of registration confirmation and payment.

*****Variance:** If you are applying for a scholarship for a Tassajara retreat that has been opened to scholarship availability, please contact the Tassajara Reservations Coordinator, rezoffice@sfzc.org. Please note that Tassajara scholarship requests may take slightly longer to process than the 3–5 day window noted above.

Cancellations

SF Zen Center's cancellation policies and fees as stated for each program apply both to limited income registrants and scholarship applicants. If you need to cancel participation in a program, please do so early so that the space may be made available in a timely manner for others to attend.

Other forms of financial assistance

Work Practice Apprenticeships

Practice period scholarships for any of the three centers can also be earned by working as a Work Practice Apprentice at either City Center or Green Gulch Farm, or as a Work Practice Apprentice at Tassajara during the summer guest season. For more information, please see the Work Practice Apprenticeship pages on the City Center, Green Gulch Farm, and Tassajara locations on the website, or contact the center director.

Special Event Volunteers

Occasionally SF Zen Center needs volunteers to help staff programs. Special event volunteers receive free admission to a variety of activities. We continually gather names of those interested in volunteering to help with workshops, readings, retreats, and more. If you're interested in adding your name to the Special Event Volunteer list, please contact the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator at 415.354.0379 or outreach@sfzc.org.

Resident and Staff Discounts

San Francisco Zen Center residents and staff are also eligible for student discounts to many of the programs offered that aren't already included in the resident tuition fee. Please contact the reservations office for more details.

Additional Information

Most practice, program and public areas of City Center, Green Gulch Farm and Tassajara are wheelchair accessible. If you have any other access needs, please call the Reservations office or the main contact number for the center for which you are inquiring.

To get to any of SF Zen Center's three locations via public transportation, visit the Getting Here pages on our website for more information.

To offer or find a ride to any of our locations, visit our rideshare board.