

# **Branching Streams Sangha Support Fellowship Program (SSFP)**

## **Position Overview**

San Francisco Zen Center's Sangha Support Fellowship Program offer resources to support the growth, development and sustainability of Affiliate sanghas. The SSFP provides, as well, the opportunity for the growth, development and leadership training for SFZC committed practitioners.

Sangha Support Fellows provide dharma-related services (classes, practice discussions, temple training, ceremonies, etc.) assisting and under the direct supervision of the Affiliate sangha guiding teacher.

The practice and administrative responsibilities that the prospective Fellow fulfills at SFZC need to be taken into consideration when being offered a Fellowship position.

## **Duties & Responsibilities**

These will be specified by the requesting sangha, and agreed to by that sangha, the SFZC Branching Streams Liaison, and the Sangha Support Fellow. The duties and responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Participating in the full temple schedule
- Teaching classes and giving dharma talks
- Training the doanryo
- Offering practice discussion
- Cleaning / chidening the temple
- Supervising or leading ceremonies (as Doshi)
- Teaching rakusu and okesa sewing (if SSF is qualified)
- Assisting with special event planning
- Preparing some meals, especially when Guest Teachers are visiting
- Doing some office work, as needed to support temple functions

## **Term of Position:**

The term of the Sangha Support Fellow position will be determined according to the circumstances of the specific situation, including the needs of the affiliate

sangha and the availability of the Sangha Support Fellow. The Sangha Support Fellow position may extend up to one year in length.

## **Qualifications**

### *Prerequisites*

Having served as Shuso at an SFZC Practice Period (lay or ordained)

### *Skills and experience*

- Successful experience in teaching dharma classes/trainings and deep familiarity with Suzuki Roshi's teaching
- Experience in giving practice discussions, including those involving difficult conversations/behavior, and knowledge of supporting resources (such as counseling, addiction treatment, etc.)
- Demonstrates personal and professional integrity at all times, consistent with SFZC's vision, mission and values, and the precepts of our practice
- Possesses strong written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrates cross-cultural awareness and sensitivity
- Competent in executing tasks and applying good judgment
- Ability to meet multiple priorities simultaneously and take initiative
- Demonstrates resourcefulness and flexibility
- Ability to interact at all levels of an organization and to work collaboratively with lay leaders (such as the sangha's Board of Directors), including a willingness to receive feedback to help further develop the position
- Familiarity with SFZC practice forms, and the ability to teach those forms to others from a dharma perspective
- Legally eligible to work in the United States; no sponsorship provided

## **Support and Compensation**

The Sangha Support Fellow's support and compensation is shared by SFZC and the requesting sangha. The Sangha Support Fellow's travel expenses, stipend and health insurance would be covered by SFZC, and the Fellow's SFZC seniority would continue to accrue. The requesting sangha (if possible) would cover room and board for the Fellow.