

## **BRANCHING STREAMS**

### Recommended criteria for and benefits of Branching Streams Affiliation Final v.11/17

#### **CRITERIA**

Three categories of Affiliation:

- a. Branching Streams Affiliate
- b. Branching Streams Associate
- c. Branching Streams Inquiring Group

1. The following criteria are recommended to be used to denote a Branching Streams Full Affiliate:

- d. A Teacher in the Suzuki Roshi lineage is the Guiding Teacher / Leader of the group, and is in residence (at least six months per year). The Teacher has received or is actively preparing for dharma transmission or has received lay entrustment.
- e. Two or more periods of zazen a week
- f. Regular meditation retreats
- g. Established for at least six months with a stable, reliable location
- h. Web presence.
- i. Abides by an agreed upon precept-based set of ethical policies, including procedures for conflict resolution. (This may be the adoption of the SFZC Ethics and Conflict Resolution document, or using that document as a model.)
- j. Yearly pledge to Branching Streams will be based on size of membership: \$100 for up to 20 active members; \$250 for 20 and above active members. However, consideration will be given for financial hardship, and an appropriate method of pledge payment will be worked out.

2. The following criteria are recommended to be used to denote a Branching Streams Associate Affiliate:

- k. A Teacher in the Suzuki Roshi lineage is the Guiding Teacher / Leader of the group, but is not in residence. However the primary teaching relationship and the primary visiting Teacher is a Suzuki Roshi lineage holder.
- l. At least one period of zazen a week

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Affiliation 6/13/2014

Part One

- m. Occasional retreats
- n. Web presence.
- o. Abides by an agreed upon precept-based set of ethical policies, including procedures for conflict resolution. (This may be the adoption of the SFZC Ethics and Conflict Resolution document, or using that document as a model.)
- p. Yearly pledge to Branching Streams will based on size of membership: \$100 for up to 20 active members; \$250 for 20 and above active members. However, consideration will be given for financial hardship, and an appropriate method of pledge payment will be worked out.

3. The following criterion is recommended to be used to denote a Branching Streams Inquiring Group: Inquiry into how to connect with SFZC and the Suzuki Roshi lineage; and request for a visit by an SFZC Suzuki Roshi lineage holder.

### **BENEFITS**

Benefits of being a Branching Streams Affiliate or Associate include, but are not limited to:

1 - Greater access:

- a. to Suzuki Roshi lineage teachers who have received dharma transmission or lay entrustment
- b. to other Suzuki Roshi lineage teachers through the SFZC Fellowship program and other programs
- c. to Okesa and Rakusu sewing teachers and sewing help
- d. to SFZC and other Affiliates through the Affiliate Sanghas Liaison

2 - Inclusion in and participation in the Branching Streams Website, including communicating with other Affiliates, sharing resources and discussing issues of mutual concern

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- 3 - Inclusion in and participation in the Branching Streams National Conference Gatherings
- 4 - Practice-related and temple items at reduced cost through SFZC Bookstore
- 5 - Facilitated access to SFZC Practice Periods and Intensives
- 6 - Endorsement by SFZC as an Affiliate Sangha, and being listed as such on the SFZC website. Use of Branching Streams seal.
- 7 - Possible fiscal sponsorship prior to incorporation in order to receive donations on a tax deductible basis
- 8 - Counsel, consultation and help from SFZC on a wide array of issues, such as:
  - how to set up a Board of Directors,
  - how to write up Bylaws,
  - fundraising,
  - program development,
  - institutional management,
  - the process of finding and establishing a Teacher at a center
- 9 - Intangible benefits of belonging to the Affiliate Sanghas group