

Rules for Residents and Visitors

Dharma Drum Retreat Center (DDRC) is a place of Buddhist practice in the Chinese Chan tradition. It is an organization inspired by Master Sheng Yen, who advocates the idea of a Pure Land on Earth. In order to maintain a good environment for practice, it is essential that all residents and visiting practitioners at DDRC comply with the following tenets.

Language Used

DDRC's goal is to build a place of Buddhist practice that can accommodate both domestic and international practitioners; therefore, English is used as the primary language. However, due to the shortage of bilingual staff and volunteers in this initial stage of establishing a community, DDRC might have to recruit some volunteers with limited English skills to help out with projects or in the kitchen. These volunteers may speak among themselves in their native tongues. In this case, English speaking practitioners should understand the reality of the situation and do not get offended.

Behavioral Guidelines

1. Uphold the five precepts which are:
 - Do not kill
 - Do not take what is not given
 - Do not engage in sexual misconduct
 - Do not speak falsely
 - Do not consume alcoholic drinks or other intoxicants, do not smoke
2. Do not gossip, sow discord, display emotional outbursts or quarrel.
3. Do not consume non-vegetarian food on campus.
4. Residents should not act frivolously or suggestively between one another. Clothing should not expose breasts, shoulders, belly buttons, or buttocks.
5. Please follow the residential schedule for meal time and bed time.
6. Please recite verses of offering before the morning and afternoon meals.
7. Visitors are encouraged to follow the resident schedule for morning and evening services.
8. Please be mindful when entering the Chan Hall and Dining Hall. Do not slam the door. Speak quietly when it is necessary to communicate verbally.
9. Please be mindful that the Reception Hall, living quarter for female volunteers, and the general office are located within the same building. Visitors who are not assigned to stay in this building should not enter the living quarter and general office without permission. Please do not move anything away from this building without permission.
10. Please do not move any furniture without permission.

11. Please return tools where you found them once you are finished with them.
12. Please do not come near the Abbot's or Sangha's quarters without permission.
13. Please do not use the telephone. If you have an urgent matter and must make a phone call, please ask the resident staff for help.
14. Please keep the Chan Hall, the Dining Hall, the dormitories and the bathrooms clean.
15. DDRC residents are all assigned work and practice. Please refrain from chatting with them as that could interfere with their work and practice.
16. Do not engage in any side-business (i.e. no personal or commercial entanglements or ventures)
17. Do not be a party to partisanship (e.g. aligning or taking sides with others)
18. Do not establish intimate relationships with visitors, volunteers, guests, or retreatants, regardless of gender.

Attitudinal Guidelines

19. Stay at DDRC with a mind to practice no greed, no hatred and maintain faith in practice.
20. Be introspective and be forgiving to others. Practice observing your self-centeredness and be respectful to your teachers, and be kind to your subordinates.
21. Do not criticize others, do not scheme, gossip or listen to gossip; do not make relationships based on personal benefit, do not engage in arguments about Dharma.

Things to Remember

22. Please bring your own sleeping bag and toiletries.
23. Your visit to DDRC is voluntary. You have to take full responsibility for any physical damage you cause at DDRC.
24. Quannacut Road is not suitable for walking meditation. Please be friendly to the neighbors to help DDRC maintain good neighborly relations.
25. Ticks in the grass are known to carry lyme disease bacteria, please do not walk on the grass.