

## What does it mean to be a member of Shambhala?

Becoming a member of Shambhala is a statement about your personal inspiration, curiosity, and commitment to the path of awakening. Membership is a commitment to strengthening our support of the Shambhala vision through practice, financial giving, and service.

A member of Shambhala makes a connection to mindfulness-awareness practice, and works to integrate that practice into daily life. This connection may also be made through contemplative practices based on mindfulness-awareness. As part of the global mandala of Shambhala, members are dedicated to creating enlightened society. This is accomplished through individual and group practice, by supporting the mandala financially and by sharing in the tasks and responsibilities of manifesting Shambhala vision.

### As members of Shambhala we commit to:

- *Practice and Study*

We are willing to undertake regular mindfulness-awareness practice. This is the best way for all of us to support our Shambhala communities, our world, and ourselves.

- *Financial Support*

We are willing to give regular financial support to our Shambhala community, based on our income and other financial obligations. Providing financial support to the Center is viewed as a part of our practice.

The Shambhala Meditation Center of New York relies on the generosity of its members to support basic operating expenses. The financial contributions of members currently ranges from \$5 to \$175 per month. We offer the following levels of recommended monthly contributions, but members are welcome to give at whatever amount they are able.

### Recommended Contributions:

General:	\$60/month
	\$75/month
Low income/student:	\$30/month

For those whose who are able, we warmly invite members to join the **Golden Key Society**. These members contribute \$1500 (\$125/month) or more per year.

Recommended contribution amounts are meant as guidelines. The amount of giving is less important than the exchange of energy between a member and their community.

## SMCNY Membership Policy

We ask that members give as generously as they can and appreciate whatever contributions individual circumstances permit.

- ***Service***

We are willing to donate our time to various tasks the Shambhala community needs accomplished, based on our abilities and time availability. Providing service to the Center likewise becomes a part of our practice.

### **Benefits of Membership:**

While membership is primarily an expression of generosity, members receive the following benefits:

#### **New members receive:**

- Membership welcome packet
- Opportunity to take the membership oath
- Opportunity to meet with a Meditation Instructor\*

#### **Ongoing member benefits:**

- 20% discount on programs
- 15% discount at the SMCNY bookstore
- 15% discount on programs at our rural retreat center, Sky Lake Lodge
- Listing in the community directory
- Copy of the community directory
- Subscription to the community newsletter, *CitySangha*
- Access to the SMCNY lending library
- Access to the SMCNY audio library of talks by lineage holders such as Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche, Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche, as well as acharyas, and local teachers
- Invitations to special members events

\*Everyone who comes to the Shambhala Center has access to a meditation instructor; members are encouraged to take advantage of this service as a support for their individual practice and commitment to the community.

### **The Shambhala Mandala**

The Shambhala mandala is much larger than just the local Shambhala community. When people become members of their local Shambhala Centers, they automatically make a connection to the entire Shambhala mandala. Various functions of the mandala are centrally administrated, and there is an ongoing and dynamic relationship between the mandala-at-large and local Centers. This includes financial support that the local community provides for the Sakyong and the core services of the mandala, and therefore by supporting the Center we're also supporting the mandala-at-large. A portion of all member dues at SMCNY is donated to Shambhala.