

Membership Policy and Guidelines

The North Carolina Zen Center

The NC Zen Center is a community of engaged members and friends. The goal is to empower the community to become involved in the direction of the Center, and to be involved in the major decisions made by the Center concerning its development and growth.

The Membership Committee, along with the Abbot handle all issue concerning membership including maintaining a membership list, adding and removing members as needed, and maintaining the standards of membership. All decisions concerning compliance with various membership requirements or waiver of those requirements rest with the Membership Committee and the Abbot.

For more information concerning membership, please review the Center's bylaws.

Friends of the Center

Friends of the NCZC are those who wish to support the mission of the Center yet for one reason or another cannot or chose not to participate regularly in its ongoing activities. Friends of the Center may attend the Center's regular programs from time to time and receive the Center's newsletter and attend the yearly General Membership meetings but are not entitled to vote. Friends of the Center do not receive discounts on events and retreats.

How does one become a Friend of the NCZC?

One becomes a Friend simply by asking to become one. This can be done in person by speaking with the leadership or with someone already part of the membership, by email or letter, or by adding one's name and email address to the list outside the door of the Zendo. If possible, Friends also make a financial contribution to support the mission of the Center or make a donation when they attend an event.

Membership

Members of the Center support the mission of the NCZC through regular financial support and ongoing participation. Members may attend any event at the Center, attend dokusan (one on one meeting with the teacher) and may become a student of the Teshin-sensei if they wish. They also receive discounts on Center events and retreats and will receive the regular newsletter and updates. Members are entitled to vote on decisions put before the membership.

How does one become a Member?

Those who wish to become a member may fill out a membership application on the website or a paper application that is available at the Center.

What are the requirements of Member-level membership?

Members make a commitment to the Center, as indicated by attendance when possible, and a suggested minimum donation of \$25 per month. Nobody will be turned away for a lack of money. Members may also contribute through in-kind donations such as volunteering. These requirements may be partially or fully waived by the Membership Committee on petition by the Member.