

VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATES 2024 - 2025

EcoSpiritual Direction & Wild Guide



*Coyote cohort "Year Two" for alumni of
Seminary of the Wild/Earth only*



Seminary of the Wild / Earth

Year Two: Vocational Certificates

Dear Alumni of Seminary of the Wild,

Since the beginning, the vision for Seminary of the Wild / Earth has included a nurturing support system for stepping over into the unknown -- beyond the wild edge -- into the full embodiment of an offering you are uniquely gifted to bring into the world. For capacity reasons, this aspect of the vision has not materialized....until now!

I remember when I first began to imagine Seminary of the Wild back in 2015: beyond a church of the wild, I saw a seminary that prepares a new kind of spiritual leader for a ministry that is centered in kindred, sacred relationship with all the creatures and elements of our home places. I drew everyone I could into my wrestling with the possibilities: my therapist, spiritual director, clergy coach, sister, anyone who would listen to me and eventually a few partners. I needed a community around me as I imagined something that I was weaving together from my own longings and experiences, something new that had no templates.

Back then, I figured this was a hobby, a passion that existed along the margins of my life as I continued to “make a living” working for a church I no longer believed in and an organization that served someone else’s dream. But one day, Mystery would no longer tolerate my small vision. I got one of those calls we all dread: I was fired, first from the church and then from the organization. I was devastated and terrified. What could I do now? I was nearing 60 years old and my soul could neither go back to corporate work nor church work.

The sidelined vision was forced to become my central focus. Mystery does that sometimes. What feels like a disastrous dead end becomes an opening into soul-full new life. So, some of you brave souls joined the first experiments of Seminary of the Wild at Ghost Ranch in 2019, which launched what has evolved into the Center for Wild Spirituality. And now, only five years later, after graduating over 200 people from Seminary of the Wild, experimenting with wild ordination and EcoSpiritual Direction, learning and gathering wisdom from the many wise souls in this emerging wild spirituality movement, it is time to offer these Vocational Certifications for alumni. I’m so excited!

This second wild seminary year is meant to support as you listen for the next steps of your journey. The program is built to help you weave together the particular vision pulsating more and more loudly inside your heart, removing layers of complicity that have kept you safe...and small, and embodying a wild leadership in a ways that are aligned with your underlying kindred-eco-spiritual values.

I remain grateful for our bonds of connection, Victoria



Seminary of the Wild / Earth

Year Two: Vocational Certificates

A Certificate to Affirm Your Spiritual Calling in a Time Between Stories

Vocation is more than a career choice. It is a recognition of a calling, a strong feeling you can't ignore that you are being called into service in a new way, a more soul-filled way. You may not even feel sure what that looks like. Yet.

This is not a calling to be a guru or a priest. What is being called into service is a form of eco-spiritual companionship that accompanies people into deeper relationship with the holy and the wild. Restoring sacred relationship with Earth is essential for the many layers of transformation we are facing as a culture and as a planet. It is a spiritual leadership that infiltrates every aspect of our collective lives.

The EcoSpiritual Direction and Wild Guide certifications were created to support you as you step into these essential, emerging roles. The program focuses on the foundational companioning skills that build on the soulful work you did during your year with Seminary of the Wild. No matter what kind of delivery system you create to offer your gifts to the world, these skills are foundational:

- holy listening, discernment, and mirroring
- inviting people into deeper relationship with the holy wild, and
- holding space in council, ritual, and other group work

You'll receive support in identifying and stepping into the particular delivery system you need to create to offer your gifts to the world. You can expect an in-depth training in the art of spiritual companionship and guiding and a curriculum of creative exploration as you learn to:

- Recognize & honor the gifts of a nature mystic as you seek to live more intentionally aligned to your particular mytho-poetic story.
- Guide others into deeper relationship with the natural world as a spiritual journey
- Create and invite others to create their own rituals and ceremonies in relationship with the land
- Lead contemplative practices of entering into sacred conversation with the natural world
- Stay in the heartbreaking conversation with a groaning Earth, contemplate the impact of nature-severance on our spiritual lives and process climate grief and eco-anxiety.
- Support others as they process their resistance to, fear of, and longing for sacred relationship with the land, including the particular needs of people of color, urbanites who have no access to open land, and diverse spiritual traditions.



EcoSpiritual Direction & Wild Guide

Year Two: Vocational Certificates

Two Tracks toward Certification & Wild Ordination

EcoSpiritual Direction Certification

Spiritual Direction is an ancient form of mentoring, focused on deepening one's spiritual journey through companionship. It is a relationship of support to listen together for holy presence in everyday life. EcoSpiritual Directors listen for Spirit in the lives of others by drawing them toward the guidance of the holy wild. This certificate integrates the practices of Seminary of the Wild Earth with your inherent gifts of compassionate listening and space-holding as a vocational path.

Training for Eco-Spiritual Direction includes all the basics of a traditional spiritual direction program, but is rooted and shaped by deep ecology and the wisdom of our physical and mystical relationship with Creation. This program is a first of its kind, combining the powerful eco-spirituality experiential program of Seminary of the Wild Earth with a **partnership with STILLPOINT**, the leading spiritual direction training center out of California. For forty years, Stillpoint have trained people to companion others in their lives of faith, spiritual practice and action.

You will receive the tools and practice you need to confidently step into the role of spiritual companion, supporting others as they deepen their relationships with the holy and the wild.

Wild Guide Certification

The Wild Guide certificate track invites and empowers you to discover, experiment, and co-create your vocation as a new kind of spiritual leader, outside the framework of any religious tradition. Applying your wild lens from Seminary of the Wild, this is an opportunity to gain the support you need to build a delivery system that expands your current vocation or to start something completely new that is aligned with your eco-spiritual values and longing to reconnect humans back into respectful, loving relationship with the rest of the web of life.

No matter what your vocation or area of expertise, a Wild Guide Certification can give you the confidence and skills you need to lead others into deeper relationship with the wild earth. This track will equip you to connect the emerging perspective of kindred interconnection to your work and community.

The world doesn't need another guru, but we do need elders - of all generations. This certificate is an initiation into your wild call.



Year 2: Vocational Certificates

What's the Difference between the tracks?

The skills needed in both tracks are fundamentally the same. The difference is how you use these skills and what your community expects. (e.g. Climate grief, eco-anxiety, overwhelm by the fears of global unraveling are common to the clients of both disciplines, but how it is approached might be quite different.) Training for both certifications follows an integrated curriculum, and participants from both tracks come together once a month for joint sessions. Each certificate cohort meets separately during the other weeks to delve into the specific applications of these skills in their respective areas.

EcoSpiritual Direction Certification

EcoSpiritual Direction is a particular emerging form of spiritual companionship in deep relationship with the holy and the wild. Clients generally will come from those who are familiar with the discipline of spiritual direction, and are seeking support to explore their spiritual journeys through their every day lives. This intention is the primary difference in the kind of work you will do as an EcoSpiritual Director.

You can build a practice of sitting (or walking!) with people 1:1 or in groups and those familiar with spiritual direction will recognize immediately that you are offering something different than what they can find at a local Ignatian retreat center: an orientation to sacred connection with the land. Relationship with the holy

This certificate will serve you as you offer your gifts of holy listening, insightful mirroring and engage in sacred conversations with people who are seeking a deeper relationship with the Holy and a world in need of compassionate respect.

Guides: Elizabeth Rechter, Episcopal priest, bio-spiritual focusing practitioner and former Executive Director of Stillpoint spiritual direction training center & and Deb Metzger, farmer, ELCA minister, EcoSpiritual Director & Chaplain trained in spiritual direction in the Celtic tradition of the Anamcara Project.

Wild Guide Certification

Wild Guide is a training to hold sacred space for a group, community or individual in reverent relationship with the land. It is explicitly not “religious” but seeks to reconnect the tragic severance of spirituality from nature. Your clients or customers or companions for wild guiding likely will not approach you to talk about their spiritual journeys directly, but because of your deep immersion in the essential spirituality of all of life, eventually the sacred conversations lead there.

A wild guide certificate is a way to claim your role of guide, drawing people into deeper, even sacred relationship with their place, without using those words. A Wild Guide is a bit of a trickster. People you work with may not recognize that what is missing from their appreciation-of or recreation-in nature is the possibility of relationship. They likely don't realize that deep relationship with trees and clouds and bumblebees *is* a form of spirituality that nurtures any tradition and is not separate from any aspect of life, even in our consumerist culture.

Wild Guide certificates can be used to further integrate your eco-spiritual values into your current vocation or gaining the tools and confidence to start a new venture offering workshops, trainings, coaching, chaplaincy work that helps to restore sacred relationship with the land.

Guides: Victoria Looz and Bryan Smith, co-founders of Seminary of the Wild



CURRICULUM FOCUS

Flow of the Gatherings for Both Tracks



WEEK 1: Seeding
new skills are introduced
(EcoSpiritual Directors & Wild Guides meet together)

WEEKS 2 & 4: Council/Practicum
new skills are practiced in council
(Each council oriented to ESD or WG Track)

WEEK 3: Guided / Peer Supervision
(EcoSpiritual Directors & Wild Guides meet separately)

SEEDING TOPICS

For both Tracks of Vocational Certificates, the monthly curriculum is focused on skills and tools you will need to embody the roles of EcoSpiritual Director and Wild Guide:

- **WILD CALL:** Articulating the essence of your wild calling: your mythopoetic story, identifying your eco-spiritual values and exploring the particular unique ways of embodying your call.
- **A NEW KIND OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP:** Leadership in deep relationship with the cycles of nature, navigating a liminal time of unknowing, unraveling, and emergence of a post-patriarchal, kincentric, holy wild mystic way of leading others into deeper meaning and resilience.
- **HOLY LISTENING:** Listening for the presence and wisdom of the holy wild with people in 1:1 companionship practices *(including reverent, respectful mirroring, reflection, offering invitations)*. Dreamwork, imaginal journeys, wandering invitations, and other eco-spiritual ways of more deeply connecting with Spirit, Place, Soul and Community (which are all intimately interconnected anyway!)
- **HOLDING SPACE:** for groups in council, weaving reflections , offering invitations, rewilding ceremonies and rituals that draws people into deeper relationship with the holy wild.
- **YOUR DELIVERY SYSTEM:** Your unique weaving together of your skills, gifts, wounds, opportunities, desires with the essence of who you are. Create a vision and step over the threshold to embody your particular plan of fidelity in service to the holy and the wild.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS & COMMITMENTS

Year Two: Vocational Certificates



SEEDINGS & CURRICULUM

Training in the art of spiritual direction and wild-guiding is led by people who have been exploring these emerging fields of practice for years. The key word is “emerging,” which means that these are not dogmatic how-to sessions.

Rather, the focus is on practicing presence, keeping an open heart, observing what’s emerging in and through you and the cohort, and listening attentively to the whispers of wisdom in the trees and the crickets. Learn to work with others 1:1, in groups, and guidance in starting your own practice.



PRACTICUM & COUNCIL

This work is learned by doing, and so this program is grounded in practice. You will gain experience working with people from your own community as well as working in triads during weekly gatherings with co-participants.

You will be asked to recruit at least two companions to practice your skills with during the year. These sessions become the subject of the peer supervision gatherings and verbatims we call “eco-reflections” meant to encourage experimentation and learn from one another the still-emerging practices of eco-spiritual leadership.



MENTORING & SUPERVISION

You will receive 1:1 mentoring and supervision sessions with your Guide. Through their generative, respectful tracking of your process throughout the year, these sessions both support you and model the art of soulful spiritual guidance.

Guided peer supervision sessions offer an opportunity to process your practice. Learning from one another and from the lessons of the land, you'll collect a growing compendium of ideas, rituals, questions and invitations for use in your practice

Time Commitment:

Gatherings weekly +
Approx 2 hours weekly in
wandering, readings and other
invitations

Time Commitment:

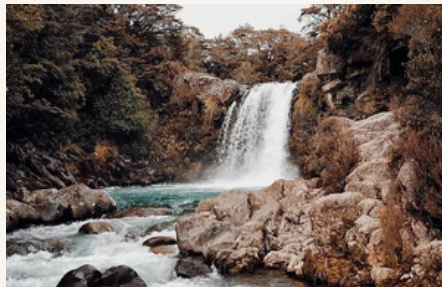
2 sessions of practice with
outside “clients”/directees
monthly +
2 sessions of practicum
within small groups

Time Commitment:

1 monthly peer supervision
session during regular Wed
gathering + 4 total 1:1 sessions
with mentor during the year

PROGRAM ELEMENTS & COMMITMENTS

Year Two: Vocational Certificates



WEAVING PROJECT

You will be working throughout the year on a creative project that helps you articulate the contours of your wild call. Practical and poetic, the project is meant to help you launch your vocational offering.

More than a thesis or a business plan, the weaving project weaves together threads of your mytho-poetic story, a vision for you to embody a new kind of *kincentric leadership* aligned with your values, and outlines your practical next steps. How do you envision success in a new paradigm? Articulated through art, story, song, film or essay, your project will serve as a blueprint for your delivery system.

WILD ORDINATION

Ordination is a ceremony of commitment that ritually marks a vow of fidelity to your particular sacred calling. In wild ordination, the call comes from and through and in relationship with the natural world.

No matter which track or discipline of spiritual leadership you are stepping into -- artist or economist, entrepreneur or ecologist, writer or politician -- ordination is a ritual that honors your calling as sacred. The five days of preparation for and ceremony of wild ordination is a way to solidify a vow to Earth, to Spirit/Mystery/God, to your own soul, and to your human community.

CERTIFICATION

Upon completion of the program, you will feel equipped with the experience and resources you need to serve your community -- both human and more-than-human with deep integrity. This unique training, unlike any other, is completed with a certificate to offer eco-spiritual direction in your unique way and your particular place.

Upon certification and your implementation of your vision into the world, you will be listed in our EcoSpirituality Practitioner (wild guides and ecoSpiritual directors) directory. Annual renewals and ongoing training will be available.

Time Commitment:

You will work on this throughout the year, 2-4 hours/month

Time Commitment:

5 days at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico

Financial Commitment:

\$2200 + transportation





Wild Ordination

Ghost Ranch, June 2025

To be Ordained by the Holy Wild

step over the threshold into service to an unraveling and beautiful world

We humans who can hear the call are urgently needed. The rainforest is calling us, the deer are calling us, the open vast sky suffering invisibly with too much carbon is calling us, the rabid fox is calling us. What is your role in this love story of reconnection, restoration, and compassion?

What part of the sacred wild is calling you to be ordained into service on her behalf? -

--- Church of the Wild ---

Ordination is a ritual of commitment. The word 'Ordination' comes from "ordinacioun," meaning "divine decree" and "putting in order." To be ordained is to be called into service and to accept holy orders, a ceremony that marks a vow of fidelity to your particular "divine decree" or a sacred calling. In wild ordination, the Divine decree comes from and through the natural world. You are not ordained by any human institution, but by the Sacred Wild herself.

What to expect:

The process of preparation for and ceremony of wild ordination is a way to solidify a vow you've been asked to make, while being witnessed by your community. No matter the direction of your wild calling or your vocational track, the commitment is one you're making not to an institution, but to Earth, to Spirit/Mystery/God, to your own soul, and to your human community. Like any other life-long vow, it is a pledge and a prayer for the grace required to carry out your love and your gifts in this world.

The final ceremony is in-person at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu New Mexico (about an hour out of Santa Fe). Long days of wandering, ceremonies of ordination in the wild and then in communion with one another, council sessions that aren't constrained by Zoom, trance dances, grief and celebration rituals, silence and song around the fire in the evenings. Hugs in real time, meals together: face-to-face, soul to soul. The five days are completed with presentation of your Weaving Project, a "stepping over" ritual, and the wild ordination ceremony both solo in communion with the red rock wild and the circle of kindred souls.

What legal permissions does this ordination grant? Ordination is through Church of the Wild and empowers you, if you choose, to offer weddings, funerals and other wild sacraments in most US states.

Five nights, June 15 - 20, 2025.

Meals and Lodging included in the Wild Ordination fee of \$2200.



PROGRAM LOGISTICS

The inaugural Coyote cohort “Year Two” program:
**EcoSpiritual Direction
& Wild Guide Certification**

both will gather online:
Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30 PM (PST)
September 11, 2024 - June 11, 2025

both tracks end with a week on-land
@ Ghost Ranch, Wild Ordination Ceremony:
June 15 - 20, 2025

Inaugural Year Special Price
*(for Coyote cohort and all earlier graduates of
Seminary of the Wild/Earth)*
\$3500 on-line @ Zoom
\$2200 on-land @ Ghost Ranch

A \$500 Deposit will hold your place in the cohort
balance due or payment plan in place in August

Register w Deposit



Join our monthly **Alumni Information Sessions**
May 23, 2024,
June 26, July 24 and August 21

FAQ



I'm torn between the two tracks, how can I discern which track is best for me?

We offer a monthly group discernment session with fellow alumni to ask questions, learn more about the program, hear stories, and feel into the sense of reconnecting with fellow wild seminarians. You can [register for one of the upcoming sessions here](#). A brief 1:1 discernment session can be made available with a team member. Request a session through this link.

Ultimately, though, like all discernments, you will know when you know. We suggest taking this question to the land. See what the trees and breeze and holy cicadas have to say. Consider where you may want to focus your energy in this container.

Keep in mind, the training content is very similar between the two tracks, but they just differ in how you will uniquely put them into practice.



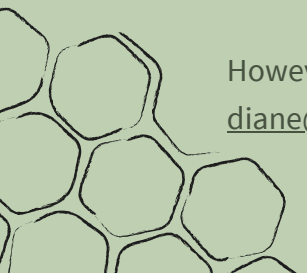
Do I have to go to Ghost Ranch to participate in the program?

The certificate flow comes to completion in June 2025 with a required in-person, five-day intensive at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. It is required because we take this vocational vow and wild ordination seriously. And to do that, we need time in-person, on-the-land to connect with one another heart to heart but also hand-to-hand and hug-to hug.

There, in the embrace of red canyons, cottonwood trees and the vibrant presence of Mystery, we get a chance to affirm our calling with one another as collaborators in midwiving the emerging new story of sacred inter-being into the world. We will dance, wander, listen, cry, sing, and hold space for one another as we allow the sacred wild to ordain us into full service to our wild callings. There we will practice wild sacraments together, stepping into our roles as new kinds of spiritual leaders, deeply embedded in soulful relationship with the land and spirit.

Each person will share their “wild weaving” project and receive feedback, questions and affirmations before the certification and ordination ceremony happens on the final day.

However, all that said, if you are unable to join, please contact diane@wildspirituality.earth to share your situation and we can discuss options.



FAQ

What do people do with these vocational certifications?

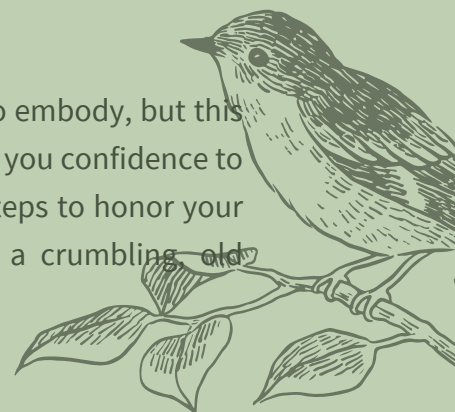
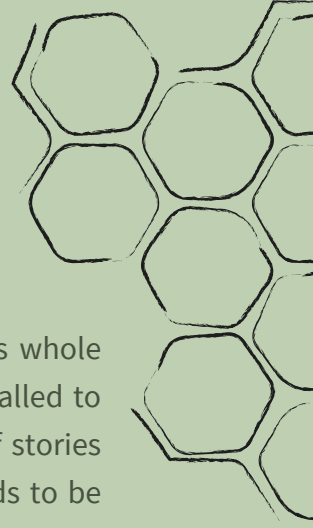
There are as many answers to this question as there are people! We've created this whole second year as an opportunity to deepen into your specific wild edge you're being called to step across. The real answer to this question can only come from the particularity of stories because the journey to restore sacred relationship with Earth is something that needs to be integrated into all aspects of life, transforming every area of culture. We are working now on recording some of these stories from people who are putting their eco-spiritual kinship worldview into practice in unique and beautiful ways.

Beneath the very real and very serious challenges our culture faces right now – with layers of unraveling from ecological to institutional – is a spiritual, emotional and relational disconnection from Earth. Re-sacralizing those who have been valued only for their service to the dominant culture or devalued altogether is at the core of the spiritual rewilding. Nothing less is needed for a worldview of kinship and interconnection to replace a worldview of dominance and consumption.

Every aspect of our society is in need of people like you who support this shift by drawing people into intimacy with the holy wild in new and culturally relevant ways. Whether you integrate the values and practices of eco-spirituality into your existing vocation or start a new venture, the values you embody are rather desperately needed.

At the core of every wild spirituality offering is a longing to see the values of a destructive culture of disconnection transform into a culture that respects nature and all beings – humans and more than human – as sacred. No matter the particular vocation, the worldview shift that regards the whole system of life as interconnected and all others with respect can be embodied in billions of creative ways. Your way might include offering workshops, coaching, spiritual direction, wilderness guiding, advocacy, entrepreneurship, farming, artistic expression or finding small projects where you encourage deepening connection with the land as sacred in small but significant ways.

You don't need to know exactly what delivery system you're being called to embody, but this certificate program will help you identify the edges of that alluring call, offer you confidence to claim it, and hold a container of support as you take the rather terrifying steps to honor your call to create a vocation grounded in a new paradigm in the midst of a crumbling old paradigm.



FAQ

What is the flow of the weekly sessions?

There is a rhythm of content that flows throughout the year in this pattern:

WEEK ONE: SEEDING: Each new topic is explored in a seeding the first Wednesday of each month. We will meet for all-cohort live zoom gatherings on Wednesday, 2:30 - 4:30 pm Pacific time zone. Begins Sept 11, 2024 and moves through the year, ending June 15-20 at Ghost Ranch.

WEEK TWO: COUNCIL & PRACTICUM: These sessions are council gatherings to witness and be witnessed as you process the wanderings and tracking your spiritual journey. The difference is that this is also the forum for your practicum. Each participant will act as guide in full council group or smaller triads to gain experience with the art of wild guiding and eco-spiritual direction.

WEEK THREE: PEER SUPERVISION: Wild Guides and EcoSpiritual Direction cohorts will meet separately for guided peer supervision to contemplatively reflect on particular sessions you've experienced outside of the program community. How did you prepare? How did you invite the holy wild into the session? Where did you get stuck or receive inspiration? As we process these experiences, we are learning from each other and building a portfolio of practices to use in our future vocational work.

WEEK FOUR: COUNCIL & PRACTICUM: Every other week, there are wanderings to process and opportunities for triad and whole council-group leadership.

On Saturday, September 14 is a daylong Intensive 8:30 am to 4 pm with a 3 hour wandering in the middle.

Are there payment plans or scholarships?

Payment plans in ten month increments are offered. If you need a different plan, please let Diane@wildspirituality.earth know and we will do everything we can to work with you. We do not yet have access to scholarship funds...but we're working on it!

Please note that the tuition for this program will increase to \$4200 in 2025.