

STEWARDSHIP TRAINING & CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Community Leadership Pathway

Purpose

The Stewardship Training & Certification Program exists to develop individuals capable of supporting healthy communities, stewarding land responsibly, facilitating communication, and helping communities thrive across generations.

This is not a leadership program.

It is a stewardship program.

Leadership seeks influence.

Stewardship accepts responsibility.

The goal is not authority.

The goal is service.

Core Principle

Communities thrive when stewardship is shared.

The future depends upon people who know how to:

- Care for land
- Build trust
- Resolve conflict
- Hold agreements
- Support governance
- Facilitate communication
- Protect community culture

Stewardship is learned through practice.

Certification recognizes demonstrated capacity.

SDIC Stewardship Values

All certified stewards are expected to embody:

- Peace
- Love
- Unity
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Stewardship
- Reciprocity

Character remains more important than credentials.

Certification does not replace integrity.

Learning Philosophy

No one becomes a steward through information alone.

Knowledge must become practice.

Practice becomes experience.

Experience becomes wisdom.

Certification recognizes lived stewardship rather than theoretical knowledge.

Stewardship Pathway

Level One: Community Steward

Focus:

Learning how to participate in healthy community life.

Core Skills:

- Agreements over assumptions
- Breath Speech fundamentals
- Shared living practices

- Community agreements
- Stewardship ethics
- Personal accountability

Demonstration:

Participates respectfully within community life and contributes consistently.

Level Two: Land Steward

Focus:

Relationship with land and ecological stewardship.

Core Skills:

- Soil health
- Water stewardship
- Forest care
- Fire awareness
- Gardening
- Regenerative principles
- Wildlife awareness

Demonstration:

Completes land stewardship projects and demonstrates care for living systems.

Level Three: Communication Steward

Focus:

Healthy communication and community culture.

Core Skills:

- Breath Speech
- Active listening
- Difficult conversations
- Agreement building
- Group facilitation
- Community culture support

Demonstration:

Successfully facilitates community conversations and supports healthy communication.

Level Four: Conflict Steward

Focus:

Conflict transformation and restorative practices.

Core Skills:

- Mediation fundamentals
- Conflict de-escalation
- Restorative dialogue
- Accountability processes
- Community protection
- Boundary setting

Demonstration:

Supports mediation and conflict resolution processes under supervision.

Level Five: Governance Steward

Focus:

Community decision-making and organizational stewardship.

Core Skills:

- Stewardship circles
- Governance frameworks
- Consensus processes
- Meeting facilitation
- Organizational accountability
- Long-term planning

Demonstration:

Participates in governance and supports community decision-making processes.

Level Six: Village Steward

Focus:

Whole-community stewardship.

Core Skills:

- Integrated systems thinking
- Community development
- Land trust principles
- Stewardship economics
- Mentorship
- Long-term continuity

Demonstration:

Supports multiple areas of community life and demonstrates broad stewardship capacity.

Level Seven: Bridge Builder

Focus:

Supporting the emergence of new communities.

Core Skills:

- Community startup support
- Land trust development
- Stewardship training
- Public outreach
- Partnership building
- Mentorship of future stewards

Demonstration:

Helps communities establish healthy foundations and supports the development of future stewards.

Certification Areas

Communities may offer recognition in specialized areas.

Examples:

- Kitchen Steward
- Garden Steward
- Forest Steward
- Water Steward
- Fire Steward
- Children's Activity Steward
- Event Steward

- Infrastructure Steward
- Temple Steward
- Outreach Steward

Specializations recognize focused service.

Certification Process

Certification includes:

1. Study
2. Practice
3. Service
4. Observation
5. Reflection
6. Recognition

No certification is earned through testing alone.

Stewardship must be demonstrated.

Recognition Principle

Certification is recognized.

Not claimed.

Not purchased.

Not self-awarded.

Recognition occurs when demonstrated capacity becomes visible to the community.

Continuing Development

Stewardship is a lifelong practice.

Certified stewards are encouraged to:

- Continue learning
- Mentor others

- Participate in stewardship projects
- Deepen practical skills
- Support community wellbeing

Growth never ends.

Relationship to the SDIC Path

The Stewardship Program complements the SDIC Path.

The Path develops the individual.

The Stewardship Program develops practical service.

Together they create communities rooted in both inner growth and outer contribution.

Future Generations Principle

The purpose of stewardship training is not merely to support today's communities.

It is to prepare caretakers for future generations.

Knowledge should be shared.

Wisdom should be passed forward.

Communities should become stronger with each generation of stewards.

Closing Principle

A steward does not ask:

"What do I own?"

A steward asks:

"What has been entrusted to my care?"

May we become worthy caretakers of the land, the people, the resources, and the future entrusted to us.

May our stewardship leave a legacy of health, beauty, wisdom, and belonging.

