

# **A-Z WEST**

## **FAQ Sheet**

## **Work Trade Residency**

### **What is the A-Z West Work Trade Residency?**

Work Trade at A-Z West is an opportunity to share the unique experience that is A-Z West, and to become involved in the intimacies of sustaining such a site. Work trade residents work 8-10 hours per week in exchange for lodging. (\*Please note that kitchen and bathroom are outdoors – this is an indoor/outdoor living situation)

### **What kind of work would I be doing?**

A-Z West upkeep often means grounds maintenance and can include manual labor—painting structures, trenching, landscaping, sanding, and wood re-finishing—but helping with the day to-day of A-Z West can also mean assisting in the office, sorting laundry, cleaning and reorganizing.

In addition, we can use specialized help in the production of West Works, which are produced in the A-Z West ceramics studio and sold to help cover overhead of A-Z West. If you are an experienced ceramicist, wood worker, weaver, or graphic designer please let us know in your application.

### **What are the criteria of a good work-trade resident?**

- High level of competency in specific areas. We need help in the ceramic studio, weaving studio, groundskeeping and maintenance, and sometimes with tasks that require skills such as photography, graphic design, carpentry, or light fabrication.
- Comfortable with manual labor including mopping, sweeping, digging etc.
- Experience camping and/or comfortable "roughing it".
- Areas of interest or artistic research that are relevant to rural living or the high desert.
- Clean, organized, attention to detail, and considerate of others.
- Interested in immersing oneself at A-Z West, the surrounding landscape and community.

### **What would my work schedule be like when I'm there?**

The work trade hours will mostly fall on Tuesdays and Thursdays - these are our regular studio workdays when most of the HDTS staff is present.

### **Will I be working with other people?**

Usually yes. We generally take 2-3 residents at a time so you will likely be working with another resident and the HDTS staff of 5 people will almost always be present.

### **Where will I stay?**

Each resident is housed in a micro-apartment, which comes with a bed, desk, and mini fridge. Outside the micro-apartments is a shared outdoor kitchen with a sink, camping stove, dishes/pots/pans, seating area, outdoor shower, and composting toilet. Residents are expected to feed themselves, empty the composts, and keep shared areas clean. It is a mix of indoor and outdoor living – sometimes in extreme weather conditions.

**Will I get access to facilities or a studio while I'm there?**

Yes, residents will have access to our ceramics, wood shop and weaving studios with advance notice. Please note that all materials must be provided by the resident (clay, yarn, wood, etc.) Residents also have access to their own 8x14 ft studio space near the micro-apartments.

**When can I come and for how long?**

We welcome residents during our Fall season from September 15<sup>th</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup> and our Spring season from January 15<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>. Work trade residencies typically last for 2–4 weeks.

**What's the weather like?**

Be prepared for extreme weather conditions—it can get very hot (110) and very cold (freezing), windy, flooding, occasional snow—but for the most part it is quite beautiful. It is a desert, so very dry and about 2,900 ft in elevation.

**Can I come without a car and use public transportation?**

No, having a car is the only practical means of transportation in the desert and you are required to secure your own personal mode of transportation in order to visit A-Z West. You need a car to obtain daily supplies, to see any nearby sites (many things are located miles off dirt roads), and so many other reasons.

**How do I apply?**

Applications for our Spring season (January 15–June 1) are due September 1 with a notification date of November 15. Applications for our Fall season (September 15–December 15) are due May 1 with a notification date of June 15.

To apply, please fill out the following Google Form: [HDTs Work-Trade Application](#)

If you have any questions please contact us at [info@hdts.site](mailto:info@hdts.site).

We receive many work trade residency inquiries and are not able to accommodate all requests, but we do our best to fit in as many as we can. It is possible that you will need to apply for successive seasons if we are not able to schedule you the first time you apply. Thank you for your patience and understanding.