



SEMINARY OF THE WILD

July 28 - August 2 | October 20 - 24 | www.seminaryofthewild.com

Greetings Wild Pilgrim,

Summer 2019

We're very pleased you'll be joining us for the *Wild Christ, Wild Earth, Wild Self* immersion. This introductory experiential program will give you a taste of the Seminary of the Wild. In a supportive community of like-hearted people, you will be invited to explore assumptions about yourself, God, Earth, and, possibly, discover the mystery lurking beneath all of creation. Cultural and ecological unraveling may be inviting you into a more authentic and animated relationship with your own Self. What is your own unique niche in this age of ecological awakening? What is your unique gift to the great reweaving of Creation? We invite you to cultivate a wilder relationship with the Earth, your Self, and the Wild Christ.

Please read carefully through the information below.

If you have programmatic questions, please contact the Seminary of the Wild office for assistance at Guides@SeminaryoftheWild.com

If you have scholarship, travel, or other logistic questions, please contact the Ghost Ranch reservationist - call Gina Maestas at 505-685-1017 or Evelyn at 505-685-1001 for other inquiries. **You can also contact the Ghost Ranch office at: info@GhostRanch.org or at 877-804-4678 from 9am – 5pm MDT.**

We're very much looking forward to being with you,

In wildness,

- Brian, Bryan, Matt, and Victoria

PROGRAM BEGINS:

Sunday, July 30th, 2019 at 6:30 PM

We invite you to arrive at Ghost Ranch and check in prior to dinner.

Please check in from **3:00 – 5:00 PM**.

Dinner will be the first meal served that day so if you arrive early, please arrive with your bellies fed.

Dinner is served at 5:30 pm – 6:30pm.

PROGRAM ENDS:

Friday, August 2nd, 2019 at 11:00 AM

It's very important to be on time and that you stay for the full duration of the program. Thank you!

Lunch is not served on Friday.

Below is a SAMPLE ITINERARY | Weekly Rhythm

MORNING -

- 6:45 am - 7:30 am OPTIONAL guided morning spiritual practice: yoga, deep imagery and meditation.
- **BREAKFAST from 7:30-8:30 am** (includes optional dreamwork with the guides)
- Orientation & guided opening spiritual practice
- A keynote presentation from Brian McLaren, Michael Dowd, or Seminary of the Wild Co-Founders
- Response to presentation
- Rewilding practice on the land
- Guided Imaginal Journey

AFTERNOON -

- **LUNCH from 12:00 - 1:00 pm**
- Teaching
- Guided solo contemplative wander on the land
- Group work & sacred council in cohorts
- Free time to rest, journal, hike, walk the labyrinth, etc

- Afternoon keynote/workshop to dive deeper from Michael Dowd or Seminary of the Wild Co-Founders

EVENING -

- **DINNER from 5:30 - 6:30 pm**
- **** Sunday evening ONLY - Keynote with Brian McLaren****
- Evening ceremony/ritual: Fire Ceremony, Trance dance, Shadow work, etc.

TRAVEL & WEATHER INFORMATION

Please see the link at the Ghost Ranch website.

<https://www.ghost ranch.org/visit/getting-here-transportation/directions-to-ghost-ranch/>

- The weather will likely range between 60 and 90 degrees.
- August is the wettest month in Abiquiu, so plan appropriately.
- Ghost Ranch is at an elevation 6,000 ft + above sea level. You may wish to acclimatize by arriving a day or two early. Do drink more water while you are here.

MEALS

Breakfasts and dinners will be served at Ghost Ranch.

Please contact Ghost Ranch for any dietary restrictions.

WHAT TO BRING:

- **REQUIRED: emergency whistle** (the very loud, usually orange kind found in army-navy surplus or camping stores)
- Portable Camp Chair -- Crazy Creek or anything lightweight that seats you on the ground, like a yoga mat or blanket.
- Daypack or large fanny pack for day hikes (at least 1000 cubic inches)
- Drums, rattles, small percussion instruments (see below)
- Flashlight or headlamp (with extra batteries and recommended extra bulb)
- Insect repellent and sunscreen (fragrance-free or low odor, please, so we can smell the wilderness)
- Pocket knife (if you are flying, be sure your knife is in your CHECKED baggage, not carry-on)
- Personal journal in ziplock bag with pen and/or pencil
- Water bottle (1 quart or 1 liter) (with your own identifying mark on it)

- Large plastic cup/mug or insulated water bottle/thermos
- Timepiece that is NOT your cell phone

If camping, please bring suitable camping gear. Showers will be available to campers.

- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad
- Ground cloth
- Tent or tarp

Rhythm instruments: Together we will create rhythm to help us ease out of our ordinary modes of being and perceiving, and into the timeless, symbolic presence of the underworld. It will help if you bring with you some rhythm instruments. Most relevant are the percussion instruments: drums, shakers (rattles, gourds, maracas, tambourines, tin cans with pebbles or seeds inside, etc.). Bells, conches, whistles, flutes, recorders, etc. are also welcome if played in a rhythmic manner.

TOILETRIES / PERSONAL CARE

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, and other “health and beauty aids”
- Fragrance-free sunscreen (for lips, too)

CLOTHING

- Hiking shoes or boots
- Rain jacket w/hood and rain pants
- Short pants
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses (you might want a strap to hold them on)
- T-shirts (1 to 3)
- Warm jacket
- Warm Long pants

EMERGENCY KIT:

- A few band aids
- Your own anaphylactic shock kit (Epi Pen or AnaKit) if you know you have any life-threatening allergic reactions to insect stings, medications, or certain foods

- Other first-aid materials that you want to bring and know how to use.

OPTIONAL

- Towel (while towels are provided for the showers, you may want an extra one)
- A warm lap blanket for keeping warm while sitting in council
- Umbrella (for rain & sun)

PREPARATION:

Nature Encounters. In the coming months or weeks, you might practice offering your deep and reverent attention to the wildish world – which might be as close as what you encounter in a backyard garden or neighborhood park – and, while doing so, notice what stirs in you emotionally or in bodily sensation. Offer your attention, also, to what rises on the edge of your awareness, or in memory or imagination.

You might ask some questions in and to the wild:

- Where do I feel “domesticated” and “indoctrinated” rather than alive, curious, wild, and in participation with the sacred?
- Where have I experienced of the numinous, the sacred, the Christ most directly?
- Do I experience myself as a member of the earth community?
- What do I feel about climate catastrophe and cultural unraveling? And what can I do about it?
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We encourage you to keep journal notes during this practice of your wild attention.

Dreams: One of the most direct ways of listening to the wild is through dreams. We encourage you to record your dreams in a journal, every morning if you can, between now and when we gather.

If you're having trouble remembering your dreams, be sure to have your pen and journal ready at your bedside. Before you turn off the light, write the next morning's date and the words *Dream Report* at the top of a fresh journal page. One possibility is to go to bed with the intention of meeting (in the dreamtime) the Wild Earth, Wild Christ or Wild Self.

Resources: If you'd like to do some preparatory reading or viewing, consider these:

- Bill Plotkin, *Wild Mind*
- Richard Rohr, *The Universal Christ*
- Thomas Berry, *The Dream of the Earth*

- Michael Dowd, *Earthspirit*
- Brian McLaren, *The Great Spiritual Migration*
- Ilia Delio, *The Emergent Christ*
- Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*

Once again, welcome to the Wild Christ, Wild Earth, Wild Self immersion at Ghost Ranch.

Please contact Ghost Ranch or us if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance as you prepare for this journey.

We look forward to leading you back into the Wild Earth, cultivating your Wild Self, discovering the Wild Christ, and answering your Wild Call to serve all beings.

Victoria, Matt, Bryan, and Brian