



Land of Joy is located in the beautiful Northumberland National Park, close to the Scottish border in the North of England. The property is 42 acres in total, large enough to successfully provide for the development of Land of Joy's vision from its beginning through to the full development of its potential.

Everyone working here is a volunteer. We have a very harmonious team within which each person has his or her own motivation for assisting the centre, but essentially, those working here have a sincere wish to serve others in a profound and extensive way.



On-site long-term volunteers currently include the Centre Director, Spiritual Programme Assistant, Manager, Housekeeper, Cook and Ground Manager, along with other more short-term, general volunteers. We also have a Garden Advisor and Woodland Manager who live off-site.

We hope to grow a lot of the food required by the centre in our walled garden, so having people who can help maintain this outdoor space is essential. We also sometimes need help in the kitchen (particularly during bigger retreats) and general garden work and DIY things around the house!

All volunteers follow a volunteer agreement working 30 hours a week with two days off (for full-time volunteers). Accommodation, food and personal toiletries are provided in return.

The centre is open all year round with our retreat programme currently running from February to December, though we have occasional smaller retreats during the winter. We can currently accommodate roughly 20 guests on each retreat.

Our retreats cover a variety of topics from Introductions to the Lam Rim, more in-depth retreats such as exploring the nature of the mind and tantric approximation retreats.



It is a beautiful place to be which provides the opportunity for offering sincere service in an environment which allows you to connect with the dharma with a chance to learn how to approach life with an open heart and reflective mind.

We currently have a full team of long-term volunteers and so are only looking for short-term volunteers to come and help with things like cooking during busy retreats, out in the garden or DIY around the house at this time. If you feel you we might be able to call on you for help in these ways, we would love to hear from you!

Accommodation is relatively simple, with a shared bathroom for volunteers upstairs and a couple of communal toilets shared with the retreatants downstairs. There is one bedroom at the front of the house which is sometimes used for volunteers. This has one toilet nearby but whoever occupies it uses the shower upstairs.

Being in the countryside with very limited public transport links from the centre itself means it can be difficult to get around if you don't have a car. If you're planning to be a live-in volunteer it's therefore important to consider if you feel you will be comfortable with this.

We always strive to have a very harmonious team who are able to live and work together so if you are looking to be a live-in volunteer and hope to stay for some time, please also consider if you feel you will be comfortable living and working with the same people for an extended period.

Of course, if you are looking to come for a short period of time or as a live-out volunteer this wont be something you'll need to consider so much.

Having such a small team means roles can sometimes be mixed and although you might be assigned

The words of a previous volunteer....

"Volunteering at the Land of Joy was a memorable experience mainly because it gave me the chance to work closely with Maria and Jenny. Over the six weeks I spent at the center, the three of us developed a rhythm in sync with the unexpected (and sometimes bizarre) experiences that comes with living in the wild terrains of Northumberland. Each situation was met with humor and an increasing sense of curiosity about what would be coming next...."

Together, we experienced a storm so fierce that it left us with no electricity and a flooded temple. We really had the chance to bond when the center's phone and internet access was cut off for a week, and we only had each other to turn to for entertainment, and that we did...By the time we had to live without heating for 6 or so days, we were so accustomed to confronting challenges, that we began to enjoy huddling around the fire in the sitting room each night until we were so tired that could fall asleep in our rooms without noticing the cold.

A few days before I left the center, Venerable Mark kindly gave me a string blessed by Lama Zopa. The string is tied around my wrist, reminding me of a time in life that makes me both happy and sad: happy as I was able to share a moment in life with special individuals, and sad as I know that period of time can never be re-created.

