



The FIRE Fellowship
FOUNDATIONS IN RESILIENCE EDUCATION

An Emerging Curriculum

We are in a time of uncertainty and ambiguity at scale; the opportunity before us is immense and unprecedented. Resilience, real leadership, and the strengthening of relationships are ever more essential. We are grateful to begin The FIRE Fellowship in these times and thank you for your support to redesign on short notice. The ability to adapt is part of our resilience; it is part of our curriculum, not a distraction. We also realize that what each of you as fellows committed to before is not completely the same as what is proposed here. We are hopeful that all can make as many of the new dates as possible, and understand there is some needed flexibility here.

What follows is an emergent curriculum and schedule to meet the new reality. This new reality—that we are shaping and being shaped by—is one that keeps changing; we imagine design will continue to evolve. And, the foundation of the curriculum, built on the Principles of Resilience and Four Faces of Fire frameworks, remains our steadfast guide.

In taking stock of what is no longer possible, and what is newly possible, we ask: How do we create the conditions to support what wants to happen now? How do we build trust and connection? How do we deepen with place, people, ritual and fire?

Here again we turn to the original intentions of The FIRE Fellowship:

- *We aim to deepen our relationship with fire, and through it, our relationship with the Earth.*
- *We seek to develop and deepen relationships amongst a diverse cohort and strengthen the broader network supporting collective change work.*
- *We envision an exchange and evolution of practices and skills, and their implementation in meaningful service projects in diverse communities and organizations.*
- *We strive to foster resilience in individuals and human communities, as well as in the greater ecosystems of which we are a part, that we may ever move toward collective wellbeing.*

The Four Layers of Curriculum

The emergent design is built on a multi-layered approach, designed to balance the time needed to build meaningful relationships and the call to not overwhelm folks tending to their changing personal and communal needs. We will balance using the online technology available to us, and also engaging other ways of connection. These layers include:

1. **Breaking Bread and Being Present** (*in person*)
2. **Enduring Wisdom for Changing Times** (*on Zoom*)
3. **Incorporation of Ritual and Radical Belonging: Connection with Land and Practices in Our Places** (*at home*)
4. **Hearth Trios** (*in small groups*)

Breaking Bread and Being Present

The genius and power of place is core to this fellowship, and we do our best to honor **nature as teacher** with all that we do. This is not nature as a pretty place without people, nature as something that we are separate from, or nature as something static. This is the fabric of which we are made, the elements that give and shape life, and the places where we are. The power of place is real, and we are committed to both gather together in person in ways that are good for the whole and begin to deepen relationships with place, now. Please continue to keep the in-person session dates available. With the current circumstances, we are planning to meet in person for **Session 3 (July 2-5)**, and are hopeful that we will be able to meet for some portion of **Session 2 (May 23-29)** as well. And, we will adjust according to the changing needs. We are also considering the possibility of lengthening some future sessions, or adding additional time beyond the previously scheduled sessions, to bring us to a similar total number of in-person days.

Enduring Wisdom for Changing Times

The Enduring Wisdom sessions will take place over Zoom, with the cohort and guest teachers. For the first month, we will meet **once a week** to build our foundation with one another. Beginning in May, we will meet **once every two weeks**. We will alternate between sessions with our cohort; and sessions featuring guest teachers. We had several guest teachers lined up to be with us in person, and will now work with them to reconfigure their offerings. We look forward to these sessions together. Learning to find one another, the sacred, and our common task through this and other mediums *is* part of the curriculum..

Cohort Sessions: Cohort sessions will be our regular pulse of connection as a group and allow us to build our cohort and our common frameworks, have shared experiences, and engage in learning and mutual support. Sessions will be 2 hours in length.

Guest Teacher Sessions: Guest Teacher sessions will be two parts. Part 1 will include a one-ish-hour session with an elder, teacher, guardian, or other guest from our global network. We ask that they offer teachings, perspectives, etc, and also answer some

questions that the cohort may offer them. The second hour will be a chance for the cohort to debrief and harvest.

Note: Some of the guest teacher sessions will be recorded and shared with a wider audience as a FIRE Fellowship podcast series. All other sessions will be recorded and shared with the cohort only for any who wish to review or are unable to attend.

Incorporation of Ritual and Radical Belonging: Connection with Land and Practices in Our Places

Into any moment, we each carry with us not only who we are, but also who and where we come from. One opportunity in front of us now is to deepen our understanding of each of us through our current places, forming a shared understanding of our distinct and interconnected geographies and ecosystems. We thus **prioritize integration**, working with practices at home from the start. Guides will share “at-home” practices in support of connection to fire, land, ritual, and more. These will include both exercises to do on your own time, and invitations for shared practice across space (e.g. let’s all aim to do this thing at the same time). In both cases, we will look for moments to debrief and harvest from the experience when we speak together. As we find a rhythm of sharing these practices, we will also invite and create spaces for fellows who have offerings in this vein to contribute their practices to the cohort. The first of these will be an extended session for our opening ceremony, with each person in their own place, on Saturday, April 11. (Note: The opening ceremony is **NOT** a zoom session, but information and guidance for the opening ceremony will be offered as part of the zoom session on April 8).

Hearth Trios

Community building is core to what we do; it is part of our resilience and our picture for a more beautiful, just world. Our work to **center relationships** includes all-cohort time, one-on-one time, and time for fellows to connect with one another in peer spaces. The Hearth Trio groups are offered as a weekly pulse (more or less frequently as each group decides) with small groups of three fellows. Guides will offer some initial thoughts to get things started, and from there, leave it to the trios to **court emergence** and find how best to be with one another and in what ways. This can happen over phone, zoom, email, letters, socially distant gathering, etc.

Alongside this, each Fellow will be paired with one of the four core guides to begin deepening personal relationships and to have a point person, or touchstone, with whom to connect throughout the fellowship and in relationship to your service project.

REVISED FIRE CALENDAR

Part of our request at the time of accepting a seat of the fellowship was a commitment to be at all in-person sessions. We thank you for your commitment to do so. Now, given the dynamic circumstances and changing schedules, we realize folks may have some commitments outside of the times we set aside and might therefore be unable to attend all calls. We understand, and also ask that everyone do their best to be part and prioritize the time. We have scheduled calls to line up with the sessions and pre-existing zoom calls, outlined in the welcome packet, to help with this.

Friday, April 10: [ALL Paperwork Due](#)

Wednesday, April 8, 4-6pm: Cohort Zoom 1; Opening Ceremony Overview

Saturday, April 11: Opening Ceremony (in our own places, details to follow)

Wednesday, April 15, 4-6pm: Cohort Zoom 2

Wednesday, April 22, 4-6pm: Cohort Zoom 3

Wednesday, May 6, 4-6pm: Enduring Wisdom Zoom Session 1

Wednesday, May 20, 4-6pm: Enduring Wisdom Zoom Session 2

May 23-29: In-Person Session (*Pending ability to gather in Person*)

Wednesday, June 10, 4-6pm: Enduring Wisdom Zoom Session 3

Wednesday, June 24, 4-6pm: Enduring Wisdom Zoom Session 4

July 2-5: In-Person Session (*Pending ability to gather in Person*)

Wednesday, July 22, 4-6pm: Enduring Wisdom Zoom Session 5

August 5, 4-6pm: Enduring Wisdom Zoom Session 6

September 4-8: In-Person Session (*Pending ability to gather in Person*)

November 11, 4-6 pm: Cohort Zoom 4

January 13, 2021, 4-6 pm: Cohort Zoom 5

**2021 dates, including possible additional sessions and Session 5 Reunion
TBD**

Note: All meeting times are in Pacific Time



Principles of Resilience

CENTER RELATIONSHIPS

Place relationship at the center: relationships with self, people, place, planet, and the elements. Honor intergenerational exchange and collaboration. Center those whose perspectives are often pushed to the margins.

COURT EMERGENCE

Court the arrival of something unexpected, and greater than the sum of the parts. Avoid trying to solve problems with the same thinking that created them.

ENGAGE NATURE AS TEACHER

Learn from the principles of nature, including in design, rhythm, interconnection, and cycles.

GLOCAL CARE & ACTION

Witness the linkages between the big story and the small story, the global and the local—the glocal. Acknowledge personal choices as political actions.

LIVE SANCTUARY

Honor a pace and approach that supports recharge, regeneration, and rest. Cultivate inner and outer places of refuge.

PRIORITIZE INTEGRATION

Emphasize incorporation of transformative experiences and learning. Prioritize integrating practices back into local communities, networks, and projects.

Original FIRE Fellowship Calendar (for reference Only)

March 23rd: ALL Paperwork Due

April 10-19: Session 1

May 6, 4-5:30pm: Zoom Call 1

May 23-29: Session 2

June 10, 4-5:30pm: Zoom Call 2

July 2-5: Session 3

August 5, 4-5:30pm: Zoom Call 3

September 4-8: Session 4

November 11, 4-5:30pm: Zoom Call 4

January 13, 2021, 4-5:30pm: Zoom Call 5

Spring, 2021, dates TBD: Session 5 (Reunion)