

## Sample Ways to Join Earthaven If You Live Far Away

People who live far away from Earthaven may wonder how to become Earthaven members, given the great distance from their home. And our Provisional Membership process, which lasts a minimum of six months, requires a large financial and time commitment. Many people who've lived in another state or across the country have taken several interim steps before seeking Provisional Membership. Here are some ways they've done it. We've included examples of people who live more than four hours away and those who live from one to four hours away.

### *I. If you live really far away (such as more than a 4-hour drive)*

A first step would be to visit several times, become a Supporting Member [link], stay as long as you can on each visit, and get to know as much about Earthaven as you can. When you're back home, you could continue getting as much preliminary information as you can, through the minutes, Calendar, and other documents that are e-mailed to Supporting Members. The next big step would be moving to the area. You could either live onsite at Earthaven, or somewhere in the vicinity.

(1) If you move to Earthaven itself, you could either become a Work Exchanger or an Exploring Member.

*Work Exchanger.[link]* In this role you would trade labor for room and board with an Earthaven member who would be your host. Work exchange is a good option for young people with few assets and high energy, or retired people who don't need full- or part-time jobs for daily income. A work exchange position can be for a few weeks, a few months, or a year or more.

*Exploring Member.* In this role you would rent a place to live at Earthaven from an Earthaven member with a rental unit, and apply for Exploring Membership. Besides your monthly rent to the Earthaven member and Supporting Member dues, there are additional fees to Earthaven, including a \$100/month Exploring Member fee. If you became a Provisional Member, the \$100/month fee would be credited to your \$4,000 Joining Fee.

Whether you became a work exchanger or Exploring Member, we'd ask that you continue to get to know Earthaven members, participate in work days, sit in on or join committees, and attend social events.

After spending time as a work Exchanger or exploring Member, you and our Membership Committee could look at possible next steps, which could include additional time as an Exploring Member, or becoming a Provisional Member. This allows you, and us, to move towards your Earthaven membership more gradually, without too much time commitment or financial pressure at first, if that would suit your needs.

(2) If you move to somewhere in the area but don't live at Earthaven, you could remain a Supporting Member for three months or so, and visit as often as you could, continuing to get to know Earthaven members, participate in work days, sit in on or join committees, and attend social events. After three months or longer, you and Earthaven's Membership committee could consider next steps, which could include beginning Provisional Membership.

This of course is a huge leap of faith, because you might need to sell or rent your current home, and if you aren't retired or a traveling young person, shut down your business or quit your

job (or bring your job with you).

***II. If your home is within four hours from Earthaven.***

If you can get from your home to Earthaven in less than four hours, a first step would be to become a Supporting Member. Ideally you would arrange to visit once a week or so, or once every two weeks, staying for several days on each visit, and getting to know as much about Earthaven as you could through reading minutes, sitting in on meetings, etc., and participating in as many work days and social events as you could.

One couple who lived three hours away, and a woman who lived slightly more than an hour away, each rented spaces here and visited us for half the week, every week for over a year. Another woman who lived in Asheville, 50 minutes away, visited for several days each week, and in the summer became a Work Exchanger and camped in the campground.

The length of time before you would want to begin Provisional Membership would depend on a number of factors, which you and our Membership Committee would look at together.

Thank you for your interest in Earthaven!