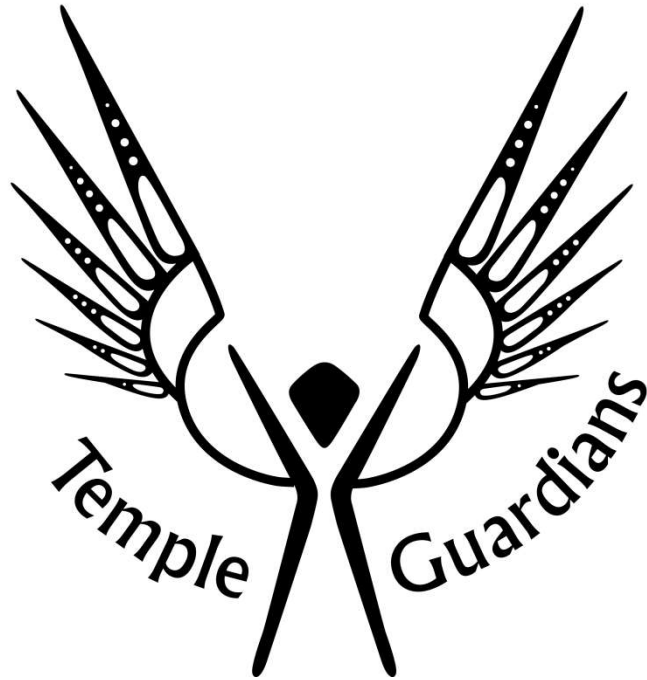


# Burning Man 2017



# Temple Guardians Training Supplement

V7.0 revision 3

# Who We Are

The Temple Guardians are committed to holding the sacred space of the Temple. We provide the Temple with grounding and love. We follow a philosophy that calls for small pushes from a great distance to hold the space of the Temple. Nothing is added but what participants create for themselves.

# Temple Guardians Mission Statement

**Temple Guardians hold the space of the Temple**, maintaining an environment that **allows** equal access for **everyone to have the experience** and expression **that they need and keep the sacred space** as well as the participants who visit it **safe.**

# **Ten Principles Practice for Temple Guardians**

# Radical Inclusion

*As Temple Guardians, we welcome all to the Temple. No prerequisites exist for individuals to participate in the experience of the Temple.*

# Gifting

*Our gift to the Temple is grounding, serenity, and love. Our gift to Temple participants is a safe and sacred space, a catalyst wherein they can experience profound movement through personal challenges towards a deeper inner peace. An essential part of our gift is to keep the sacred space free from any individual guardian's personal material or opinion, regardless of its intrinsic value.*

# Decommodification

*We seek to create an environment unmediated by transactions, therefore we do not expect anything from others in exchange for our service. Service is its own reward.*

# Radical Self-Reliance

*Temple Guardians proactively rely on our own inner resources to ensure that we are on-time, fully prepared and present for our shifts. We arrive physically, emotionally, and mentally prepared to fulfil all our duties & responsibilities and ready to manage our own needs. We do not assume others will assist us; we do not rely on others to take care of us during our shifts.*



# Radical Self-Expression

*Our most radical expression is powerful but subtle: we make small pushes from a great distance. Our expression is consciously and distinctively unique from that of our fellow participants. We do not seek attention and we do not seek to provoke a reaction. We carry in our hearts the sacred space of the Temple.*

# Communal Effort

*While we may practice our art in silent solitude while on shift, we do so together as a community of Temple Guardians. We communicate with other Guardians and are available to them. We work together to address problems. We courageously stand for peace and harmony, directly resolving any conflicts without gossip, judgement, or complaint and without inciting division. We understand that unresolved conflict distracts from and pollutes the sacred space. We cooperate and collaborate with one another so that, together and as one, we can hold the sacred space of the Temple.*

# Civic Responsibility

*Temple Guardians are committed to holding the sacred space of the Temple and being aware of any risks to safety. We effectively communicate with and cooperate with our close counterparts, the Rangers, in a partnership that creates invisible solutions that do not draw attention or distract Temple participants from their experience.*

# Leave No Trace

*Temple Guardians respect the sacred space and leave no sign of our own personal presence. We are in the background and invisible when not needed. We do not add our own material, impose our own ego, or assert our own self on the sacred space or on those participants who are in it. We stay focused on keeping the sacred space clear and unpolluted, open and available to all.*

# Participation

*We participate by invisibly creating the space in which miracles can happen and being witness to those miracles.*

*We do not seek to participate as a character in other people's experiences. We are committed to allowing all to deeply and personally participate in the Temple experience and allowing them to take actions that open hearts and unleash transformative change. We realize and appreciate that it is people's participation that makes this beautiful edifice become a Temple.*

# Immediacy

*Temple Guardians are present and calm. We recognize and respect the space participants need to process and feel that which they have come to the Temple to experience. By bringing the powerful presence of an open invitation to each and every participant who shares this profound space, we silently witness the miracles that unfold and transform people's lives within the Temple.*

# Burning Man Volunteer Policies

1. Please arrive to your shift sober and remain sober through your entire shift.
2. Please wear clothing that covers your private areas while you are on shift.
3. Remember that whenever you wear your Temple Guardians logoed clothing, bandannas, or laminates, you represent the team – even when you are off duty!
4. **Media relations policy:** You may speak to the media or write about your Burning Man experiences, but please note that while you may speak of yourself as a Temple Guardians volunteer, you need to clearly let any member of the media know that you do not speak for Burning Man or your team.

# Use of the Temple Space

**No exclusionary use of the space.** The Temple is available for everyone and can not be exclusively claimed by any one group. Temple space cannot be “booked” or reserved by anyone. Press and other passes are not license to violate the rules of the space or the rules of Burning Man.

**Fire free zone:** The Temple is built around having Lamplighter lanterns in specific safe spaces. No other fire is allowed on the burn pad, this includes smoking, smudging, candles, and incense. This is a rule for the event, complaints about the policy can be escalated to your Voice. Your Voice will help you locate the fire extinguishers on beginning your shift. Remember, this Temple was built to burn, please help protect it from doing so early.

If you want to personally monitor someone who is doing a ceremony with a candle or incense so that you can put those out after they leave, you may do so, but please remember that you are there on fire watch until the flame or cinder is out completely. Conversations about this should be quiet reminders of the safety of the participant, the Temple, and the others there.



# Use of the Temple Space

**No climbing, even to reach a higher level for leaving offerings.** Rangers are at the Temple most times and can assist with uncooperative climbers.

**Report physical altercations to your Voice.**

**Vehicle sound system use is restricted** by DMV rules. This may be escalated to your Voice who can summon Rangers to manage. Temple Voice on duty will have . Always record the DMV license # and description of offending vehicles and give to your Voice.

## **Guidelines:**

Offerings are to be left where they are. If you find someone who is moving or otherwise changing something with an offering that someone has left (and it is not clear that this is the person who has set this offering), please approach them and speak from your heart about the importance of allowing those items to remain where they are.

# Your Temple Team Voices

## **What does a Temple Voice do & how do I find one?**

The Voice of the Temple is a team of experienced Guardians that hold space for the success of Guardians at the Temple, there will be two or more working with you during your shift.

Voices run the shift from 30 minutes before your shift begins until 30 minutes after it ends. This team is there to answer questions and help with anything you need, including being there for you if you need to talk. Voices manage uncooperative people, art cars, and other situations which require escalation.

Voices carry staves to help you identify and locate them during your shift.

# Your Temple Team Support

## **What does Support do?**

Support Guardians are some of our most experienced Temple Voices who have chosen to take on a role of larger responsibility. Support holds space for the success of Voices on shift and is the main point of escalation for Voices needing assistance or information. A Support Guardian is on call during all shifts via radio and additionally is present to run the process of checking in and out during all shift changes.

Support is also available to help with your transition off shift and back in to the city. If you have had a situation that leaves you in need of generous listening and healing conversation, a Support Guardian will be available to you at the end of your shift.

# How a shift works

The Guardians outpost is where you will report to sign in for your shift. This is located approximately 600' off the 7:00 radial from the Temple. Look for the Temple Guardians flags.

Sign in for your shift begins 30 minutes before shift start time. Outpost closes 15 minutes after the shift begins and you will not be able to check in after that.

Your Voice will brief you about the Temple and anything you need to know before your shift begins. Voices will also help you to transition from being in the city to serving at the Temple.

Once you are at the Temple, please serve as requested by your Voice. Let them know if you need to be rotated or relieved.

At the end of your shift, return to the outpost with your Voice and check out. If you do not check out, we may think that something has happened to you and will have to organize groups to go searching.

Reminder: While some shifts do end up with openings because of no-shows, we can only take replacement Guardians if those shift slots open up. We no longer are able to take "walk-on" Guardians regardless of how full the shift may be. Ask at training about open slots on the schedule.



# Assistance Available To Guardians

Did you have a conversation that made you uncomfortable or set you off balance? We have people for that! Speak to your Voice & Support, they can put you with the right people. These resources are available for you, take advantage of them if you need them.

**Loud Mutant Vehicles:** Find the driver/person in charge and have a really great conversation with them. Explain where they are and the impact that their sound has. If they do not wish to cooperate, bring the issue to your Voice.

**Uncooperative Participants** and other problems: Always bring these to your Voice team, they can help and have additional resources available to them.

# Invisibility

Being invisible is one of the greatest resources of the Guardian. We step in from the shadows when we are needed and we disappear back in to them when that part of our service is complete.

Step lightly, think before you speak or enter in to the experience of another participant, and when you do, act skillfully and make the smallest impact possible. Remember, small pushes from a great distance are the tool of your trade as a Guardian.

# Being an example and setting the tone

When you are standing as a Guardian at the Temple your work is to hold the space for all.

**Managing the negative:** This is a reminder that you cannot create space by negating something that is within it. You cannot create space by pushing against the thing that you find problematic. You have to be what you stand for and what you are committed to, then let that guide your actions.

**Be open and vulnerable to the Temple and those around you:** Accepting the gift of the Temple means that you let in the kindness and openness that the Temple gives back. The Temple is like water, it will find its way in through the cracks in your armor. Don't fight it, let it in and be with what is going on there. Give yourself to the Temple and you in turn give to the community.

**The focus is our Temple and our community. It is not about us.** We do not police, we suggest and remind people of where they are and what the space means to the community. Being a Guardian does not mean that you are a guard, it means that you hold the sacred trust of our community and Temple.

**We do not make the sacred space our own, but we hold it open and accepting as an invitation for all.**



# MOOP/LNT

What Is MOOP? MOOP is an acronym for “Matter Out of Place”, a convenient way of referring to anything that is not originally *of* the land on which our event takes place. So everything that wasn't originally *on* or *of* the Black Rock Desert, no matter how small, is considered MOOP, and is to be removed as part of our Leave No Trace efforts. MOOP also includes greywater, and the particulates contained therein.

MOOP is the biggest challenge of the entire event. Burning Man is the largest Leave No Trace event in the world and that happens because of you! Bring your MOOP bag and help keep the Temple site clean.

Smaller, lighter offerings can be moopy! Try to help participants weigh down light and moopy offerings so they don't become windblown. Some shifts have a staple gun available (we will try to make sure there is one for you but don't depend on it, items get lost during the week).

# Dealing With Emergencies

What is an emergency?

- Fire (even if it has been extinguished)
- Child/Elder/Spouse abuse
- Lost Child (found without parents or parents looking for a lost child)
- Violence that is non-consensual
- Assault
- Sexual assault
- Medical or psychiatric emergency
- The placing of any Guardian in danger
- The placing of any participant in grave physical danger.

Report these things to a Voice or Ranger. Never leave anyone alone who is a victim, call for other Guardians or send a participant to get them. **We do not leave people who are injured, sick or are in need of assistance alone, ever.**

# Being Prepared For Your Shift

Consider that from the time you head to the Temple that you may be away from camp for 5 or 6 hours – be prepared!

**Food and water** – Your survival pack should have both food and water for your time away from camp. Remember that thirst and hunger can show themselves differently in the desert. Watch your mood and eat if yours seems off. Keep drinking, if you wait until you are thirsty you are already behind the curve.

**Changing weather conditions** – Have what you need! Dust storms appear and vanish without warning, so have your dust mask and goggles available, sunscreen and lip protection for daytime, cool to cold weather gear at night along with lights. If your shift goes from night to day or evening to night, be aware that temperatures can swing dramatically during the time you are at the Temple.

**Weather Events** – Sometimes you will need to shelter in place during dust, rain, or hail storms. Find a safe place inside of the Temple and stay there until you get word from your Voice. We will be in touch with them via radio with updates as soon as we have them. Be there for your fellow Guardians and watch your mood, severe weather events can be difficult to be in.

Most of all, you need to be prepared to bring your best self. While there are many mundane tasks at the Temple our work is in what we bring in our hearts to hold the space.

# When/Wheres

Thursday - White Procession 5-9am at the Temple

Friday – GROUP PHOTO! All Temple Guardians join us at the Temple for a group photo at 6pm!

Friday - Temple burn perimeter training, 1pm at Temple Guardians @Center Camp 5:30 & Esplanade

Sunday - 9 am Temple closure at the Temple

Sunday – 3:30-3:45pm Meet at Guardians outpost to sign in for burn perimeter.

Sunday – 4pm Start Temple burn perimeter operations

Sunday – 8pm Temple Burn Begins

Additional updates will be given at training!

# Temple Burn Day (Sunday)

The Temple closes at 9 am on Sunday morning.

This is a difficult time for many. What the Temple calls for during this time is unlimited compassion from the Guardians on duty. It will likely feel awkward and difficult to turn people away from entering the Temple. This is okay, be with the feelings and give empathy and compassion to those who you are dealing with.

You will encounter people who were unable to get their time at the Temple, and this may be very hard for them. Make sure that they understand the options which are available and what we can do for them. They may:

- Leave offering with you to be brought in by Offering Carriers
- Leave offering with memory box (arrives at 9am ) to be brought in during the final step before the Temple burns
- Bring their offering to the fire after the perimeter is dropped. The fire after and the fire during is the same fire, and many find comfort in knowing that.

If you have offerings that you have collected, flag down the offering carrier team members to have them brought in. Encourage the use of the memory box (at the 6:00), supplies will be on hand for writing.

If someone is heavy with grief, flag down an offering carrier and bring the participant to their attention. They have the facility and time to spend giving that participant the listening that they deserve.

This is your opportunity to engage everyone! Talk to them about the Temple, ask what drew them there. Share yourself and have them see what makes the Temple special for you. Take the opportunity to grow your community!

# Having a great conversation

**Listen**, give your time and full attention generously.

**Consider** what they are trying to get you to understand.

**Ask** open ended questions (questions which the answers cannot be answered with a single word – “Can you tell me more about your day?” is an open ended question, “How was your day?” can often be answered with one word and won’t further the conversation.)

**Show** understanding – repeat to them the story as you understand it. Use your own language, soften the sharpest corners, and own the story as your own. Let them correct you and repeat back to them your new understanding. When someone repeats themselves to you, it means that they do not feel that you are getting the important parts.

**Create** something new for them. Don’t tell someone how to fix things, relate ideas that can help them solve their own problems and leave them empowered.

“Have you considered...”, “Do you know about...” are good ways to introduce ideas that may have them come to their own solutions. Remind them of their values as they have communicated them to you.