

Leadership Training in the Dorje Kasung

Currently there are two types of programs that contain aspects of Leadership Training in the Dorje Kasung. The Magyel Pomra Encampment (MPE) and the NCO Leadership Training Program. Both programs are in principle open to members of the greater Shambhala mandala, particularly if the member is engaged in an active Shambhala leadership role. Both programs require an application process.

The NCO Leadership Training Program can also be conducted specifically for 'non-kasung-leaders' of the Shambhala mandala, in a 'non-kasung' context and in any geographical region.

1. Magyel Pomra Encampment (MPE)

MPE is an outdoor, contained, intensive 24/7-practice mandala, within which nothing is excluded. It is a powerful invitation to experience the shedding of one's habitual patterns of body, speech and mind in the process of meditation in action. It is an opportunity to work with one's actual relationship with heaven, earth and man. It is a genuine intensification, expansion and synchronization of mindfulness and awareness beyond one's own 'centralized' sense of being. It is thus a program (or an actual living mandala) to which both the current Sakyong and the Drug Sakyong have repeatedly invited (if not ordered) the leaders of the Shambhala mandala.

Duration: 10 days to 2 weeks.

Times: usually once a year or every other year in the summer.

Locations: SMC or Dorje Denma Ling. (There are plans to hold an MPE in Europe in the near future).

Application process: MPE application forms are available a few months before every MPE, from the local rusung, regimental commanders or regional commanders.

2. Non Commissioned Officer Training (NCO Leadership Training Program)

The NCO Leadership Training Program is in essence very similar to MPE as described above. It is however drastically condensed in time and it focuses on every participant's practical development and experience of leadership qualities and skills.

Every participant will experience and learn to lead others in the meditation-in-action practices and exercises, transmitted to the Dorje Kasung by the Dorje Dradul. Learning-feedback from the led and from the development of the circumstances one creates is instant, automatic, constructive and encouraging. We are working with fundamental, genuine nature and dharma, as we manifest it in every moment through our body, speech and mind, our sense of presence and being, our action, re-action and our ability to engage others in an encouraging, empowering way.

This is by no means a psychological encounter situation, but rather a genuine, compassionate and at the same time relentlessly commitment situation in which we can experience ourselves under pressure and learn how to BE before we act.

Duration: 3 to 4 days (or long weekend)

Times: Any time by invitation from a region at any jointly decided time as well as once a year or every other year in the summer before MPE.

Locations: Can be conducted in almost any urban situation, land centre or rented retreat camp.

Application process: Regions who wish to host an NCO-leadership training program need to contact:

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A brief Description of Leadership Training approach:

The following is a very brief description of the leadership training approach as offered during the NCO leadership training programs. This does not describe any specifics or particular exercises, which are employed to create this learning experience.

The Program is not so much an intellectual study program but a constant, hands-on, guided exercise in intensified, real leadership challenges.

The leadership training we conduct for dorje kasung as part of the sergeant training is based on the premise that a crucial aspect of enlightened leadership is manifesting the essence of the teachings, creating an environment in which others can connect with their own basic nature/goodness and intelligence and thus creating a responsible working relationship of personal commitment and empowerment.

The Kasung leadership's objective and challenge is to train kasung to be intelligent and responsive. Kasung need to be able to read and sense the needs of any situation that occurs, and act without constant, close supervision in the face of sudden chaos and pressure. What the dorje kasung do not need, are followers who are afraid to speak their mind or use their own intuition and intelligence. Where the following of strict rules is dictated without open encouragement, responsible trust and genuine empowerment, failure and conflict is inevitable.

Even the most elaborate and well thought out, well meaning preconceived strategy, or set of rules, regulations and guidelines, cannot anticipate the unforeseen variables of every situation a kasung may encounter and has to intelligently act in. Kasung leadership is

challenged to accommodate and encourage their kasung to relate to and expose the intelligence and wisdom already inherent in the situation and its participators.

Therefore a key element of kasung leadership training relates to the ability of genuine, responsible, committed empowerment. Needed are leaders who do not hide behind their title, post or position. Leaders who do not conveniently buy into others' father-projections, leaders who resist the temptation to dwell in their own glory of supposedly having all the answers and feed others' hunger to be told what's right, wrong, good or bad. What is needed are leaders who dare to step out from behind their title and role, and therefore are able to relate directly and nakedly to others' inherent warrior qualities, basic goodness and wisdom. Leaders who can develop the ability to genuinely encourage open, grounded intelligence, and the development of trust in every ones intuition and fundamental nature.

The development of such leadership qualities requires one to dig deep into ones personal experience and to challenge and overcome ones own habitual and karmic patterns and to gain confidence in the inherent intelligence and basic goodness of others, of space and the environment around us and oneself. This learning process is the focus of the NCO leadership-training program, where everyone gets to work with others using the meditation in action practices and exercises transmitted to the Dorje Kasung by the Dorje Dradul.