



THE
ELDERBERRY
SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL MEDICINE

HERBALIST TRAINING PROGRAM PRE-REGISTRATION INFO

Thank you for interest in the 2023 Herbalist Training Program!

Please read this detailed information about our program before you apply.

Where and When

Our program spans 8 months, meeting in person one weekend per month March through October. Typical weekends involve Saturday classes in our SW Portland classroom, followed by a Sunday of hiking in various locations near Portland. Each day starts at 10 am and ends at approximately 5 pm.

2023 In-Person Dates: March 18-19, April 15-16, May 20-21, June 22-25*, July 22-23, August 19-20, September 16-17, October 21-22.

The all-inclusive version of this program also provides access to five months of live online materia medica classes, our Plant Medicine series, on Thursday evenings in March, April, May, September, and October.

What to Expect in the Indoor Classes

Our indoor classes are held in a comfortably heated and well lit yurt. Students and the instructor sit in a circle, some on chairs and others on pillows on the floor. Most students take notes with pen and paper. Classes will include lecture, discussions, organoleptic medicine tasting, meditation, gardening, harvesting, medicine making and sometimes even sharing songs. Topics covered include plant identification, ecology, ethical wildcrafting, materia medica (medicinal properties), and plant communication.

What to Expect on Hikes

Our days in the field often include a few miles of easy to moderate hiking. We go out in all types of weather, so sometimes we spend the day in the rain and other days in bright sun. Students should be prepared for all types of weather with appropriate footwear, clothing, and an all-weather-embracing attitude. Each hike includes training in plant identification, ecology, medicine making, and materia medica. Harvesting may be possible on some of the hikes.

***The Camping Trip**

One of the great benefits of this program is the opportunity to camp together and spend extended time in the forest. June 22-25 we will spend 4 days and 3 nights in the field meeting plants, harvesting, medicine making, and enjoying each other's company.

Carpooling

The farm where our classroom is located has a limited number of parking spaces and carpooling with fellow students after the first weekend will be required. Carpooling to hikes is strongly encouraged.

Planning for Accommodations

For students attending from out of town, you will need to find accommodations for the night between our Saturday class and our Sunday hike. Staying overnight on the farm is possible, but arrangements with the farm community would need to be made.

Homework and Certificate of Completion

Our program was created for the pure love of learning plant medicine. Attendance is the main requirement for receiving a certificate of completion. All students will complete some short and long term projects, but overall there is not a lot of homework. There are no exams, and we do not formally evaluate you. There is a short list of required books.

Application Process

After you fill out the online application we will contact you within a few days to find a time to set up an interview over Zoom. Please be ready to have time available for a 30-60 minute interview in the week following your application. The interview is an opportunity for you to ask questions about the program and for us to find out if your interest in the program matches with what we offer. We will also discuss our liability, media and ethical wildcrafting agreements during your interview.

After the interview, we will quickly let you know if you can proceed with the enrollment process. The full tuition is due when you complete registration. We will hold your space for one week after your acceptance.

Refund policy

The Herbalist Training Program is designed to be an 8-month commitment to herbal education and community building. We expect all accepted students to attend to the program to its completion. A full refund for tuition minus a non-refundable \$180 deposit can be issued up to 30 days before the start of the course. Less than 30 days (but more than 7 days) before the class begins, 50% of the paid tuition amount can be refunded. **No refunds are possible for cancellations less than 7 days before the start of the first class or after the program begins.**