



SHAMBHALA OFFICE OF CULTURE AND DECORUM

Role Description

Representatives of the Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum

General Qualities:

It seems to be helpful if candidates for this role are generally cheerful and well-accepted in the local community, as they will be in a position to communicate new forms and to enhance the use of forms and protocols in your centre. Many current representatives in this role were chosen because of their natural grace and ordinary dignity, which helps them to lead by example and to be accepted in this post by the local community. It is important for the person in this role to embody a culture of kindness, using skillful means and having grace under pressure – as pressure situations do arise in this sort of leadership position. A sense of humour is very helpful!

It seems that many centres tend to choose ladies for this role, but gentlemen are also welcome! Some experience serving in the Kalapa Court has proven helpful in terms of creating environments and developing attention to detail, but it is not required.

While the individual does not need to be an advanced practitioner to fill this role, a commitment to Shambhala and a steady relationship and commitment to meditation practice is necessary. People in this role can act as catalysts, magnetizing lungta, inspiring others, and helping to create environments and social situations where the culture of an enlightened society can cheerfully occur.

Responsibilities include:

- Act as a leader in creating the environment and atmosphere of the Kalapa Court in the Centre.
- Remember that Shambhala decorum and protocol are not just for dignitaries to experience, but are a set of forms and graces that can be extended to all members and to our guests.
- Train in the principles of Shambhala culture, decorum and protocol with materials provided by the Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum and by working with the Director of this office.
- Study the Shambhala Edict on Wholesome Human Conduct and make sure that it is posted in your centre. How can the principles in this edict be fostered in all aspects of our life as Shambhalians?
- Work with households, families and groups to incorporate Shambhala culture in their homes to create domestic elegance and generational culture. Also, support practitioners who are creating Shambhala Households by hosting discussions, and helping your community stay up-to-date with the available resources.
- Work with Centre leadership to enhance cultural events, celebrations and sense of community. Explore how we might express more graciousness and cheerfulness in our events and celebrations, and how our forms can be used to maintain kindness and dignity in all of our meetings and discussions.
- Work with Centre and Kalapa Court to design any formal occasions or oaths
- Be a resource in the Centre for questions regarding decorum, protocol or precedence
- Work with Centre leadership to cultivate local celebration of Nyida Days, as well as other social events, as per information and guidelines provided by Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum
- Work with Centre leadership to uplift the appearance of the Shambhala centre, and employ guidelines provided by the Office of Culture and Decorum leadership group and the Sakyong's Advisory Panel on Sacred Environments.
- Work with coordinators of Open House, Way of Shambhala courses, and other events to incorporate Court principles and hospitality into these formats.
- Encourage and inspire local community members and leaders to share Shambhala culture with other groups and individuals in the area.