

Mountain Stream Meditation/Nevada City Insight Center

Affinity Groups - Internal Guidelines

October 2021

Definition of a Mountain Stream Meditation Affinity Group: Affinity Groups arise organically from within the Sangha and are led by a Sangha member(s) to increase participants understanding and practice of the dharma.

While similar in nature to short duration MSM Program Committee offerings, Affinity Groups will be initiated, organized and led by a community member, upon approval from the Program Committee.

Affinity Group Guidelines

1. Primary Intention – to align with Mountain Stream’s vision, mission, and values.
2. Affinity Groups are inclusive and open to all interested Sangha members.
3. Affinity Groups benefit the community by presenting topics, themes or experiences that increase and inspire present moment awareness and mindfulness.
4. Generally, Affinity Groups do not have any associated expenses and no fees for attendance are appropriate.
5. Typical duration of an Affinity Group would range from 4 to 6 weeks, one to two hours per week.
6. Affinity Groups by their nature are primarily discussion groups moderated by the group’s initiator. The primary topics can be inspired by one or more books, teachers, and/or teachings.
7. Affinity Groups are careful to avoid possible confusion about what Mountain Stream represents - Theravada Buddhism, Insight Meditation (Vipassana) - by not presenting alternative or conflicting spiritual paths.
8. Affinity Group proposals will be reviewed by the MSM Program Committee prior to start-up.
9. Announcements of approved Affinity Groups will require coordination with MSM’s Administration Team.

Important Factors for Affinity Group Leaders

10. Leadership Qualities:
 - Holds an attitude of collaboration
 - Demonstrates skillful, mindful and ethical communication
11. Understands the Center’s resources for hosting MS programs, including staffing, scheduling, technology (Zoom), and compliance with the Nevada City Use Permit. Note: Many Affinity Groups may be offered solely in a virtual setting (i.e., Zoom).