



San Juan Public Lands Center

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www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan
www.co.blm.gov/sjra/index.html



ASPEN GUARD STATION ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

THE PROGRAM

For 15 years, the Aspen Guard Station Artist-in-Residence Program has offered painters, writers, poets, musicians, photographers, sculptors, performers, dancers, and other artists a unique setting in which to practice their chosen art form. Applications are accepted annually beginning Jan. 1st. To be considered, applications must be stamped 'received' by the San Juan Public Lands Center in Durango by no later than March 1st. Selections are made by May 1st, and residencies are scheduled between June and September each year.



Those selected stay at the historic Aspen Guard Station for one to two weeks. Residents are required to donate either a piece of work representing their experience while at the cabin or a monetary donation for cabin maintenance. They are also asked to share their talents with local communities through an open house, exhibit, performance, or workshop during or after the residency. Residents are also required to participate in an annual art show reception held each fall one year after their residency. Community service donations must be set up in advance through the Program Coordinator.



THE SELECTION PROCESS

The Dolores Public Lands Office sponsors the Artist-in-Residence Program. Representatives of Durango and Cortez art associations judge entries and select residents. Applications are judged for artistic value, uniqueness, creativity, historic or natural resource content/message, and the ability expressed by the artist to work in a primitive setting. (See *How to Apply*.) Selection is made on the basis of merit, without regard to sex, race, creed, religion, national origin or physical ability. However, because of its historic nature, the Aspen Guard Station does not

meet American Disability Act (ADA) accessibility standards.

THE FACILITY

The Aspen Guard Station was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s to serve as District Office for forest rangers. After sitting idle for decades, it was reborn as the home of the Artist-in-Residence Program in 1994. Because the cabin is a historic structure, no permanent changes can be made by residents to its interior or exterior. The cabin is located 12 miles north of Mancos, Colorado, on a hard-packed dirt road accessible by passenger vehicles. The rustic log cabin is set in a mature aspen grove and offers a primitive, yet comfortable, setting at 9,220' in elevation on the west side of the La Plata Mountains. Weather at this elevation is unpredictable, and snow can fall even in summer. Some visitors who live at lower elevations may experience mild altitude sickness until they become accustomed to the elevation.



A wood stove offers heat, and wall propane lamps light the rooms. The cabin has indoor plumbing and hot/cold running water, however, residents are asked to bring drinking water. The kitchen has a propane cook stove, propane refrigerator/freezer, and stocked cabinets. There are two bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, and studio with drafting table. There is no electricity and limited cell phone coverage. Residents are asked to conserve both water and propane. The cabin is outfitted with ranch-style furnishings. Because of its remote location, rodents may be encountered inside the cabin, and wildlife and livestock outside. Residents are welcome to have up to three overnight guests. Camping is not allowed on the premises. Guests may want to stay nearby at the Transfer Campground or camp nearby in the National Forest.

HOW TO GET THERE: From Mancos, turn north towards Dolores at the intersection of US Hwy 160 onto Colo. Hwy 184. Watch for County Rd. 42 on your right at the sign to Transfer Campground and Jackson Lake State Park. Follow this road 11 miles to the cabin. The paved road turns to gravel and becomes Forest Road 561 (accessible to passenger vehicles). At the Forest boundary, continue towards Jersey Jim. Continue straight on 561 past the turnoff to Transfer Campground. At the next fork, continue straight on 561, following the sign to Aspen Guard Station, et al. After winding up through aspen, the wooden fence around the cabin will be on your right, and then the sign and driveway. Gate is kept closed for your privacy but not locked.

A LOOK AT THE ASPEN GUARD STATION

OVERALL INTERIOR: Handmade furniture, propane wall lighting (no electricity), indoor plumbing and hot water, smoke/carbon monoxide detectors. Mousetraps and ant traps. Casement windows – please unlatch before cranking.



MASTER BEDROOM: Full bed with mattress/box springs, nightstand, chest, closet, curtains.

EXTRA BEDROOM: Two twin beds with mattresses, chest of drawers, curtains.



BATHROOM: Shower, toilet, mirror, lavatory, sun tube.

HALLWAY CLOSETS: Mops, brooms, other supplies. (Hatchet, shovel, tools by back door.)



KITCHEN: Propane cook stove (burners and oven must be lit), refrigerator/freezer, silverware, cups glasses, cereal bowls, plates, corn skewers, pots and pans, potato mashers, wooden spoons, spatulas, rolling pin, candleholders, lighters,

dishwashing liquid, can openers, vegetable scraper, dishpan and drainer, egg beaters, vegetable steamer, salt and pepper shakers, coffee pots, ice trays, knives, flour sifter, timer, cookie sheets, cake pan, muffin pan, stew pot, baking dish, pie pan, mixing bowls, saucepans, hand towels.

Cleaning supplies are under sink. Mantles, lighters and supplies are in drawers. (Open cabinets as directed, very carefully.)

ART STUDIO: Drafting table, desk, chairs

DINING ROOM: Woodstove, dining table with benches, couch, end table (drawer has maps and helpful tips), small library, games, log books (read entries and add your own).





EXTERIOR: Parking area, grill and fire pit, picnic table, wood for the woodstove (you'll need to split), kindling, axe, outdoor water pump, front porch, screen doors, large fenced yards (front and back), gravel driveway, driveway gate.

WHAT TO BRING: Food, drinking water, toilet paper, bedding, bath soap, bath towels, toiletries, food, beverages, dishtowels, paper towels, flashlights, headlamps, garbage bags, hair rollers (for pet hair removal), sense of humor, and patience. Lighters are preferred over matches.

BEAR SAFETY: Handle trash in a bear-resistant manner during your stay. Trash should be stored either inside the cabin or in a car trunk. Pack out all your garbage. Encouraging black bears to visit is dangerous to occupants, the cabin, and the bears. Inside and outside garbage cans are provided, but food and smelly items should not be kept in the outside bin. Bird feeders, including hummingbird, should be taken in at night.

NEARBY FACILITIES: Mancos is the closest place to buy groceries. The Mancos Visitor Center has advice and information on places to visit. Nearby recreation sites include Jackson Lake State Park, Transfer Campground and Picnic Area, Big Al Trail and West Mancos Overlook Deck. There are many areas to explore, including the West Mancos, Gold Run, Chicken Creek, Bear Creek, Windy Gap, Aspen Loop, and Sharkstooth trails. Peaks in the La Plata Mountains top 12,000' in elevation. Maps and information are provided in the cabin.

CLEANING: Residents must leave the cabin clean and tidy upon their departure. A clean-up check list at the cabin describes what is expected. Cleaning supplies are in closets and under the kitchen sink. The cabin is exterminated, and mousetraps are routinely inspected. If you see mouse droppings, douse the area with bleach, wait for 10 minutes, and wipe up with a wet cloth and plastic gloves (in kitchen drawers). Do not sweep or mop up – stay away from the affected area. Alert the Program Coordinator if you observe live or dead mice.



OTHER: Past artists have donated many items to help make the cabin more comfortable, including nonperishable goods, decorations, and household items. Please feel free to leave a token of your appreciation. Some have even done light maintenance. This generosity helps assure that we are able to continue offering this program (funding is minimal).

REQUIRED:

- Signing of a volunteer application and residency acceptance form prior to your stay;
- Donating one piece of artwork inspired by the program, or making a monetary donation to be earmarked for cabin maintenance;
- Offering an open house, exhibit, performance, or workshop free to the public;
- Participation in the annual art show and reception the following fall;
- Ability and patience to live in a rustic setting;
- Adherence to cleaning, bear safety, and water conservation requirements;
- Agreement to have no more than three overnight guests.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Ann Bond, San Juan Public Lands Center, 15 Burnett Court Durango, CO 81301, 970 385-1219
- Toni Kelly, Dolores Public Lands Office, 110 N. 6th Street, Dolores, CO 81323, 970 882-6806

