

## **Ocate Cliffs Newsletters (Jan-March 2015)**

### **2015 January 13**

Octate Cliffs Family,  
This new year's newsletter is short and important!

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#### 1. IMPORTANT: The Two Friends Campaign

We're starting a campaign called the "Two friends campaign" which is a publicity and awareness building effort. In a nutshell, you watch a video about it, get a logo item (shirt or shopping bag, which can be free or with a donation), and then tell two or more friends, and they come watch the video and do the same, and tell their friends and so on. The purpose is to build the size of our network, not mainly to raise money.

Since you are already on our mailing list, we're relying on you to take these simple actions to get the campaign going - which will take only a few minutes:

1. Watch the video
2. Place an order for one of the items (free if you wish)
3. Share on social media or through email, and "like" our facebook page

The link to watch the video is on the Ocate Cliffs home page - <http://www.ocatecliffs.org>

Please really do this!

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#### 2. Summer retreats and residents

Here's three ways to come to the land in the summer of 2015:

- a) Would you or an autistic person you know like a free place to be for an extended time the summer? Being a caretaker/resident of Ocate Cliffs might be just the thing. It's beautiful and peaceful and there's no rent!
- b) Retreats will also happen again this year. Currently looking at late June, and an expanded program that includes some building work, fun stuff, and discussions. (More to come)
- c) The place can also be rented out (by donation) for groups wishing to have a camping retreat independently (not run by us).

Please contact me (Star) about being a resident or if you know of a group looking for a place.

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#### 3. The Pueblo Connection

An autistic community is envisioned in Pueblo, CO, a couple hours drive from Ocate Cliffs. Not only envisioned, but one house has already been purchased, which is being renovated now. The idea is that other houses nearby (or even next door if they become available) can be bought to expand this into a community, and people can have a more supported living situation by supporting each other. For

information contact Vicky at vickigleitz@gmail.com

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4. Effortless fundraising

If you buy on Amazon, you can get the same prices and donate to Ocate Cliffs by going to smile.amazon.com. "Smile" is the same site as regular Amazon, but they donate a bit to the non-profit of your choice with each sale. Please select Divergent Labs as your supporting organization.

**2015 January 26**

Octate Cliffs Family,

We've set some dates for Ocate Cliffs for 2015, and hope you will be able to participate in some way. More details will be sent out later, but I wanted to send out dates early for those traveling from afar.

- June 13 through June 28 - Two week working retreat (you can come for either week or both). We'll work on the staff house, trails, tree house, and other work on the land, and cook and have lots of fun, all with the intent to maintain accessible autistic social space. We'll probably visit the lake again since that was a fun outing last year. More details on line at [www.ocatecliffs.org](http://www.ocatecliffs.org) (click on Get Involved and look for the retreat announcement)
- June 20-21 - Open house. People from the area can come for a day or to camp a night or two, hike to the cliffs, and meet people. (other activities being planned)
- July and August - The land will be open for group camping. If you know of a group who's looking for an affordable and beautiful place, please get us in touch.

Finally, if you haven't seen our video and put in a request for a free T-shirt or shopping bag, please do! Just click the video link at [www.ocatecliffs.org](http://www.ocatecliffs.org), and follow up by putting in your order for a free item, then email or post a link on facebook or twitter to help spread what we're doing to other circles of people you know. This is important since we still have a fairly small network, and need to rely on you for some person-to-person publicity.

Thanks for all your support,  
Star Ford, program manager

See attachment on the workcamp/retreat - feel free to print and post.

**2015 February 25**

Octate Cliffs Family,

We've had to change the dates for the Ocate Cliffs work retreat, which I had sent out in January.

- July 4-18 - Two week working retreat (you can come for either week or both). We'll work on the staff house, trails, tree house, and other work on the land, and cook and have lots of fun, all with the intent to maintain accessible autistic social space. We'll probably visit the lake again since that was a fun outing last year. More details on line at [www.ocatecliffs.org](http://www.ocatecliffs.org) (click on Get Involved and look for the retreat announcement)
- late June, late July and early August - The land will be open for group camping. If you know of a group who's looking for an affordable and beautiful place, please get us in touch.

Thanks for all your support,  
Star Ford, program manager

Feel free to print and post this printable flier:  
<http://ocatecliffs.org/Content/Download/Workcamp2015.pdf>

## **2015 March 25**

Octate Cliffs Family,

I've just come back from AutHaven, the 2nd year of the autistic-run retreat in Denver. Some of the participants moved heaven and earth to get there - from Oregon, California and even Ontario - which tells me how important autistic space is for those who have had a taste of it. There was discussion on how we've entered a new phase in consciousness as we create more spaces like this, learning from Autreat and Autscape and extending to more places, and in more affordable ways. We heard about the nascent intentional community in Pueblo, Colorado as a possible living arrangement for people who want to be heavily involved in Ocate Cliffs and live in a supportive community within driving distance. Things are unfolding throughout the autistic community with new leadership.

## **Looking forward to Summer**

It's spring and it's time to think about summer plans. Are you wanting to come to this mountaintop and experience the cliffs, trees, and autistic space? Have a need to contribute in a bigger way? You could sit and have a snack with friends looking out at this view:



If that appeals to you or some other autistic person in your life, I'm hoping to get tentative or definite sign-ups in the next month, and you might look into travel plans now if you're coming a long way. The dates are July 4-18 (two weeks) or any part of that. We'll work on the staff house, trails, tree house, and other work on the land, and cook and have lots of fun, all with the intent to maintain accessible autistic social space. We'll probably visit the lake again since that was a fun outing last year. More details on line at [www.ocatecliffs.org](http://www.ocatecliffs.org) (click on Get Involved and look for the retreat announcement). Or download and print this flier:  
<http://ocatecliffs.org/Content/Download/Workcamp2015.pdf>

On some other practical matters, I have a personal loan set up allowing us to pay for building materials for this summer while we work out more substantial fundraising. One of our volunteers is working on google ads (donated) and is successfully getting lots more visitors to our web site. We need this to become more widely known and better positioned to be able to bigger fundraisers.

Thanks for all your support,  
Star Ford, program manager

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If you are new to Ocate Cliffs, here's a quick table of contents that I send out to people who want to learn more.

1. Reading and videos to get familiar with it:

\* Founding paper: [www.tinyurl.com/ocate](http://www.tinyurl.com/ocate)

\* Web site: [www.ocatecliffs.org](http://www.ocatecliffs.org)

\* Facebook: Search for "Ocate Cliffs" and check out videos or leave comments. Also, please 'like' it!

2. If you are interested in the construction progress:

\* State of development: we have completed zoning approval, well drilling, water system, and toilet house. The staff house has a foundation dug and floor plans prepared.

3. If you want to receive email and/or participate in discussion:

\* We have an outgoing mailing list with two levels of participation: the newsletter circle for updates no more often than monthly, and an on-site workers circle for those considering coming to the site.

Contact Star to get on (or off) those lists.

\* Discussion group - This is a google list that allows any level of participation and is intended for people to brainstorm with the most amount of email. You can join it at:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ocate-cliffs-talk>

4. If you are ready to do something to move this along:

\* Major projects you can do: see <http://www.divergentlabs.org/tinyapp/Tribe/Needs>

\* Donations: see <http://ocatecliffs.org/Home/Involvement>