

Ocate Cliffs newsletters

2016 December 20

Dear ___ and the Ocate Cliffs family,

Ocate is covered in snow, keeping the humans away, so I have no new pictures this time. I like to keep in touch at least a couple times over the winter to make sure people know we're still moving along. The country is divided and in a frightening place for many of us. Sometimes fears of the future exceed our ability to name the problem and we can become ungrounded and lost in the search for a solid step to take. So it's especially important now to create places that inspire us and build us all up. Ocate Cliffs aims to be a place where we can find and reconnect lost parts of ourselves. Through time in introspection, alone with nature, and with others who think as we do, we can find our language, our footing, and the fire to become the agents spreading compassion that we are meant to be.

Speaking of fire, the wood stove is installed, as are the doors, windows, framing, and most of the insulation. So it's comfortable now inside. As soon as it's possible to get up the mountain again, we have a plumber and electrician lined up for the rough-in work on fixtures and solar electric system. Other on-site projects for the winter include more forest thinning and completing the loop road so that fire trucks can get in and out.

In 2017 I hope to have one or two staff positions for people to live on site roughly May through September (or longer), and help us host more groups of guests. Let me know if this is something you want to do, or if you know someone that it could fit.

Lastly, we've started work with a publicist to develop marketing materials and help us capture some media publicity.

Let's hope we not only survive the holidays but also find light in small things. In just a few days after the solstice, it is possible to notice the days getting longer again.

Star Ford
Program Manager for Ocate Cliffs

2017 February 12

Dear ___ and the Ocate Cliffs family,

We're hiring! Would you like to be up at Ocate Cliffs for the whole summer, or know someone who would? This could be a great opportunity for a young adult who might need a first step into the working world, or someone committed to autistic empowerment.

The full job announcement is here: <http://www.divergentlabs.org/ocatecliffs/volunteer/residential-position/>

(Or printable PDF here: <http://www.divergentlabs.org/ocatecliffs/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/sitestaff20170108.pdf>)

Here are some of the things we need a paid person or people to do:

- Host visitors and retreat groups, providing food, accommodations, and work supervision.
- Household chores, other labor.
- Administrative tasks such as phone/email outreach, newsletters.
- Create training materials and operations practices.
- Listen and provide emotional support to guests and other staff.
- Contribute to group cohesion and building an autistic culture through games, discussion and other activities.

Please forward this whole email and/or the links to anyone who has networks of people looking for work - thank you!

Star Ford
Program Manager for Ocate Cliffs

2017 March 15

Dear ___ and the Ocate Cliffs family,

Three little updates from Ocate Cliffs.

First if you are planning on getting anything from Amazon, and you do it tomorrow (3/16), Ocate Cliffs will get 5% of the purchase, without costing you anything. To start, go to smile.amazon.com/ch/46-4270511 and check out from there.

Second thing, flowers are blooming in New Mexico and the construction season is upon us. We're getting solar electricity installed now as I write - I think of it as "prepaying for 30 years of electric bills".

Lastly, as a reminder - We're hiring! Would you like to be up at Ocate Cliffs for the whole summer, or know someone who would? This could be a great opportunity for a young adult who might need a first step into the working world, or someone committed to autistic empowerment. The full job announcement is here: <http://www.divergentlabs.org/ocatecliffs/volunteer/residential-position/>

Please forward this whole email and/or the links to anyone who has networks of people looking for work - thank you!

2017 April 16

Dear ___ and the Ocate Cliffs family,

We have updates on construction and summer plans for Ocate Cliffs in this newsletter. If you're new to the mailing list, Ocate Cliffs is an autistic-run retreat center where authentic contribution by autistic people is central to everything that happens.

Construction: In the construction world, we have the solar panels installed, and the rest of the indoor wiring and plumbing are coming next. The pictures below include the wood stove and stairs, and the upper story walls for the 6 bedrooms in the staff house. We also have satellite internet service installed.

It's still freezing at night and could still snow up there, but it's clear enough for some work to be done in April, and much more in May.





Summer: Some people have started asking what's going on this summer in terms of retreats, and the short answer is we don't know yet. The new limitation we have this year is that I had to get a full time job, which limits how much I can be there. Someone will be there when we finish the hiring process, and that person will be taking over some of my responsibilities. After that transition we will send out more information on events.

Moving: In related news, I'm in the process of moving from Albuquerque (which is three hours away from Ocate) to Las Vegas NM (which is only one hour away), so it will be much easier to devote my weekends to Ocate Cliffs.

Publicity: We have professionally printed flyers now, and I can mail those out as needed - contact me if you would like some.

Annual report: If you would like to read an overview of Divergent Labs in 2016, our annual report is here: <http://stuff.divergentlabs.org/transparency/2016/2016annual%20report1.pdf> (also available from the transparency page: <http://stuff.divergentlabs.org/transparency/>)

Thanks so much for supporting Ocate Cliffs, and please help us spread our base by forwarding this to your contacts, and tell people about the web site - www.ocatecliffs.org.

Star Ford, Program Manager