Revised September 2026

CEOLP

Volunteer Role Descriptions

Care of the Body

- Responsible for assisting the family and friends of the deceased in preparing the deceased's body for repose in the home up to 72 hours.
- Tasks include maintaining cool body temperature at time of repose, creating a peaceful and calm environment for the body's repose, and assisting family in preparing the body for transport to the site of disposition.
- To be successful in this role, a volunteer needs reliable internet/phone service, a reliable vehicle for transport to home of deceased, and good communication, listening and organizational skills.

NOTE: *To fill this role requires extensive experience, which is obtained through attending a training workshop, shadowing the team leader, and directly participating in multiple cremations.*

Fire Team

- Responsible for building and maintaining an effective fire for the ceremonial cremation at the CEOLP open-air cremation site. The Fire Team is comprised of multiple roles, including Fire Master and Fire Tenders and spans across time to include tasks needed before, during, and after the funeral pyre.
- Tasks for Fire Master involve organizing and overseeing volunteer fire tender assistants, ensuring the necessary fire tools and supplies are on hand, communicating directly with the Master of Ceremonies, and supervising the post-burn and cremains gathering the following morning.

  Tasks for Fire Tenders include packing and stacking of wood, prepping and maintaining the pyre under the close direction of the Fire Master, and tending to the ember/coal pile hours after the ceremony concludes.

- To be successful in this role, a volunteer needs thorough knowledge of the protocols of safe fire tending, careful attention to the building and burning of the pyre, and attunement to the sacredness of the ceremonial event.

NOTE: *To fill this role requires extensive experience, which is obtained through attending a training workshop, shadowing the team leader, and directly participating in multiple cremations.*

Site Host

- Responsible for ensuring that all guests are greeted, and a smooth flow of ceremony participants and the procession is established.
- Tasks include assisting family with setting up the altar, overseeing use of the microphone, guiding parking of transport vehicle and where guests should stand for the procession, handing out juniper to guests, and ringing the gong to indicate the start of the procession.
- To be successful in this role, a volunteer needs to be attentive to the needs of others and to those of the ceremony, and to be flexible in relation to a variety of tasks.

Censer

- Responsible for providing an aromatic smoke offering during the cremation ceremony.
- Tasks include gathering juniper, wood and other items needed prior to the cremation morning, lighting and maintaining censor smoke during the ceremony, and cleaning up the site afterwards.
- To be successful in this role, a volunteer needs reliable internet/phone services, a reliable vehicle for transport to the cremation site, and dependability.

Site Prep

- Responsible for preparing the cremation site for use immediately before and after the ceremonial event.

- Tasks include setting out folding chairs, wiping off benches, raking procession path, pulling weeds, stacking wood, removing cover from Pyre, and Zen raking inner circle after fire team is done.
- To be successful in this role, a volunteer needs an appreciation of outdoor work and some physical stamina.

Parking

- Responsible for controlling traffic movement at cremation/burial site and nearby roads.
- Tasks include arriving early to place orange cones and post parking signs, direct vehicles, and serve as a shuttle driver, as needed.
- To be successful in this role, a volunteer needs good observation and communication skills and the ability to stand for an extended period.

Cremains

- Responsible for collection of cremains after cremation.
- Tasks include closing the pyre after the body has been fully cremated, collecting ash and bone cremains the following day, pulverizing any bone fragments, sweeping out the pyre and surrounding area, and assisting family members, as needed.
- To be successful in this role, a volunteer needs to deal sensitively with bereaved family members.

Site Management

- Responsible for preparing the cremation or burial site for long term use.
- Tasks consist of annual maintenance, including weed control, oiling of benches and painting of posts and bamboo railings as well as general clean up, as needed.
- To be successful in this role, a volunteer needs an appreciation of outdoor work and some physical stamina.

Natural Burial Site Team

- Responsible for preparing grave site for burial and burial party.
- Tasks include excavating and backfilling grave (with family and friends by their request), assisting with pallbearing, placing stone and steel marker on grave, and coordinating with Facilitator and Burial Site host.
- To be successful in this role, a volunteer needs physical strength for grave digging in soft sand and lowering the body into the ground and a willingness to work with grieving family and friends of deceased.

Publicity

- Responsible for dissemination of information regarding upcoming events hosted by CEOLP.
- Tasks include updating the Crestone Eagle on a monthly basis and submitting information about special events to the Eagle and other local venues.
- To be successful in this role, a volunteer needs good time management and organizational skills.

Informed Final Choices

Crestone End of Life Project