

Placeholder Village Community Agreements

People who are houseless are often treated as though they are bad at making decisions. We believe that each person is the expert on their own experiences, thoughts, and feelings and knows what is best for themselves. As the expert of their life, people have the ability to direct decisions about their life. We call this self-determination. Self-determination is possible when people have:

1. **Choice:** the ability to try something and learn from it.
2. **Stability:** the ability to eat and sleep in a warm place whenever you need to.
3. **Security:** confidence knowing that your body and property are safe from violence and theft.
4. **Community:** neighbors who care about you and help make your life better.
5. **Responsibility:** the desire to help yourself and to be accountable for your decisions.

Please read and discuss the Community Agreements with the Staff Liaison and then write your initials as a way of saying that you choose to follow each Agreement.

1. **Choice:** *The ability to try something and learn from it.*

The people who live in Placeholder Village regularly gather to talk about how to improve their community and solve their problems together. At Placeholder Village, we call this the General Assembly.

General Assembly happens when everyone in the Village gathers to discuss issues that are important to the entire community. A General Assembly will take place once a week and whenever else the Village decides to hold one. Participating in General Assembly is one way for residents to be in charge of their own lives. The General Assembly can consult with the Advisory Board at any time to make changes to these Community Agreements.

I agree to participate in weekly General Assembly meetings.

2. **Stability:** *the ability to eat and sleep in a warm place whenever you need to.*

A Steward is a resident who is responsible for specific tasks that are important to the safe and healthy functioning of the Village. A Steward's responsibilities may include managing the kitchen, organizing security, accepting visitors, bringing in fuel, or anything else that the General Assembly decides is required.

I agree to take turns acting as a Steward, as directed by the General Assembly.

I agree to provide 10 hours of service to the Village every week (including acting as a Steward)

3. **Security:** *confidence knowing that your body and property are safe from violence and theft.*

The Village is safer when everyone communicates and watches out for each other. Daytime security will be provided by the front gate, the watchfulness of residents, and any dogs who may live in the Village.

Daytime visitors to the Village will first be cleared by a criminal background check. A new visitor is anyone who has not yet been cleared with a background check. New visitors will be received in the Visiting Area by the Steward or the Staff Liaison.

The General Assembly has the power to temporarily or permanently exclude people from the Village based on their past or present behavior.

A photo gallery of dangerous people who have been excluded from the Village by the General Assembly will be kept near the front gate, and anyone providing security needs to be familiar with it.

Overnight security will be provided by residents and volunteers in 4 hour shifts (10pm-2am and 2-6am). Outside volunteers can help provide security, but need to be approved by the General Assembly and accompanied by a Village resident.

For everyone's safety and peace of mind, no overnight guests are allowed in Placeholder Village.

I agree to not let anyone into the Village who hasn't been cleared with a background check

I agree to take turns performing overnight security shifts.

I agree to not host any overnight visitors.

4. **Community:** *neighbors who care about you and help make your life better.*

People are happier and healthier when they are surrounded by people who care for them. Placeholder Village is a safe place for people who may be struggling with their mental health. The General Assembly and the Advisory Board together decide what kinds of mental health support are needed in the Village.

Village quiet hours are 10:00 pm – 6:00 am. Visitors will need to leave the Village by 10:00 pm every night.

I agree to socialize indoors after 10:00 pm and to keep the volume low.

I agree to ask my visitors to leave by 10:00 pm.

I agree to ask my neighbors, the Staff Liaison, or an Advisory Board member for help when I need it.

5. **Responsibility:** *the desire to help yourself and to be accountable for your decisions.*

Behavior that makes the community unsafe is not allowed. This includes illegal behavior, and anything violent or abusive. Violence or criminal activity is cause for instant eviction.

The General Assembly can vote to refer someone to the Advisory Board for probation or expulsion. At least five people need to vote in favor of probation, and getting off probation requires consent of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly will work with the Advisory Board to design a customized conflict resolution process for the village.

I agree to solve my conflicts peacefully using dialogue.

I agree to help design Placeholder Village's conflict resolution process.

For problems that are difficult to solve, I agree to participate in Placeholder Village's conflict resolution process.