

PROCESS TO BECOME A FULL ELDERBERRY MEMBER

1. Prospects **visit** Elderberry and speak with member(s) of the Membership Committee. We encourage them to complete the self-evaluation questionnaire for prospective members, which is on the EB website (click on Checklist in the second paragraph under the “Buying a Community” tab or go to http://www.elderberrycohousing.com/uploads/1/0/4/0/104044246/self_evaluation.pdf) and to be aware of what cohousing entails.
2. The next step in becoming a member is **Associate Membership**. Because joining cohousing is a big step, we ask that prospective members speak with the chair of the membership committee to insure all issues are addressed and then sleep on their decision before requesting to be an associate member. The above recommendations are based on the reality of living in cohousing, that is, consensus governance, community building, and close interaction with other members. If the prospects still wish to become Associate Members, they will pay \$300/year (or pro-rated). This gives them access to everything at Elderberry, including internal e-mails and the members-only website with covenants and policies that every member agrees to follow. We request that associate members meet with the Membership Committee and we encourage them to attend Elderberry events, making an effort to also meet as many community members as possible.
3. Prospects must attend **at least one work day and one business meeting**.
4. Prospects must attend **at least one other event** where most members are in attendance, and make a continued effort to talk with and get to know all community members.
5. If the prospects then express their desire to become full members of Elderberry, the Membership Committee will schedule **a private meeting (without the prospect present)** where Elderberry members are invited to speak about any concerns or additional information they may need about the prospects. Depending on the outcome of this meeting, the Membership Committee may suggest further interactions with the prospects or proceed to schedule the Community Circle.
6. Before becoming a full member, prospects will participate in a **Community Circle**, an open and forthright **discussion with community members** in which the prospects are asked what it is that specifically attracts them to Elderberry. This is a separate function that is set up to let the community hear from the prospects and vice versa. After the Circle, the Membership Committee will meet to be sure they are confident that the prospective member is ready to proceed to membership. If needed, the Membership Committee will set up another meeting with the community and/or the prospective member to address issues.
7. When the above six steps have been satisfactorily completed, the prospects meet formally with the **Membership Committee** to be sure the prospective members’ and the community’s questions and concerns have been addressed. If these questions and concerns have been satisfactorily answered, the prospects sign that they understand and agree to the complete checklist of EB policies and covenant.

Between the time prospects become full Elderberry members and they become Elderberry residents, they will be considered on a “waiting list” for notification of upcoming available homes. To remain on this waiting list, members must pay \$300 annually.

Approved by Elderberry Plenary August 11, 2018.