



Sacred Earth Foundation

MISSION

To hold Sacred Earth Foundation lands in trust, steward with reverence, and teach sustainable living to children of all ages.

VISION

A thriving hub of practical stewardship, reverent Earthcare, and nourishing community, inspiring generations of people to love the Earth deeply, wisely and actively and to use that love to change the world.

VALUES

REVERENCE ~ Honoring the earth as sacred

We see our interdependency with all things and acknowledge that the bounty and beauty offered by the earth sustains our lives. We humbly:

- Recognize that the earth is not a possession of humanity; SEF lands will not be treated as a personal asset or commodity, nor sold or encumbered except for the greater good of the land and mission.
- Value our connection to the 4-legged ones, knowing that animals are powerful teachers and healers.
- Share in common the life that courses through us all and stand in wonder and awe at the mystery of this sacred earth.

STEWARDSHIP ~ Caring for the ecosystems entrusted to us

We prioritize healthy ecosystems in all of the workings of the organization. We:

- Preserve habitats for native plants and animals and acknowledge the rights of other species on this land.
- Encourage healthy forest growth through active management for diversity and resilience.
- Mitigate the effects of human presence, recognizing our impacts past, present and future.
- Manage invasive species, always seeking a balanced and healthy ecosystem.
- Protect our air, waters and soils through careful management practices and ongoing learning and improvement.

VITALITY ~ Weaving the threads of past, present and future

We tread lightly on the land as a human community, working towards sustainability and beyond. We:

- Learn from those who came before us, the native peoples of this place, our ancestors and elders, and the past generations of Ekone stewards.
- Employ innovative technologies for clean energy production and conservation, striving for infrastructure systems that are life-affirming.
- Use ecologically sound principles for food cultivation and animal husbandry, with respect for the soils, plants and animals that nourish us.
- Practice and promote natural burial, turning our last act into a gift for the earth.
- Apply principles of natural horsemanship in the riding, training and care of our horses, modeled on studies of wild horses and the teachings of visionary trainers.
- Value children as the keepers of our future world and work to inspire and prepare them to be good earth stewards.

LEARNING ~ Fostering a culture of inquiry, curiosity and life-long learning

We provide quality outdoor experiences for children and adults, and opportunities to learn in a hands-on way about sustainability, stewardship, reverence and community.

We:

- Promote deeper relationships with self, with others, with the earth and with all of life.
- Cultivate a hearty work ethic, a sense of purpose in the world, and a bias for action.
- Practice and teach compassionate communication, constructive team work, creative problem solving and work as play.
- Recognize horses in particular as colleagues, mentors, and allies in stimulating the personal growth and capacity necessary for healing the earth and human communities.
- Prioritize the education and empowerment of children, as the future change-makers and keepers of this world.
- Employ a joyful approach to this work and have fun on the journey.

COMMUNITY ~ Nurturing positive relationships and a healthy organization

As a community of dedicated and committed individuals including residents, staff, volunteers, board members, campers, donors, guests and others touched by Ekone magic, we:

- Value personal responsibility, collaboration and initiative in caring for this place, with each of us giving more than we take, recognizing that all contributions are given freely and without recourse.
- Honor the gifts and skills each person contributes and strive to see that all members of the organization receive fair and respectful treatment.
- Commit to conflict evolution and resolution and embrace interpersonal challenges as opportunities for growth.
- Apply sound principles and best practices, transparency, honesty and fiduciary responsibility in our organizational culture.
- Utilize the framework of “For the Good of the Whole” in our organizational decision making.