

Tell a wise person, or else keep silent, because the massman will mock it right away. I praise what is truly alive, what longs to be burned to death.

...and so long as you haven't experienced this: to die and so to grow, you are only a troubled guest upon the dark Earth.

~ Goethe



Our Purpose

The Men's Leadership Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring authentic manhood. We encourage and support soulful living in the service of a just, joyful and sustainable world.

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Guides

Jeffrey Duvall is a world-renowned wilderness rites of passage guide. He conducts programs as a staff member of the School of Lost Borders, in addition to his work with the Men's Leadership Alliance. Jeffrey is author of 'Men, Meaning, and Prayer: The Reconciliation of Heart and Soul in Modern Manhood'. A devoted husband and father, he lives with his wife and son in Nederland, Colorado.

Jonathon Hefter has been active in soul-based support work since 1993. He has participated in Vision Fast ceremonies with both the School of Lost Borders and the Men's Leadership Alliance. A graduate of MLA's Leadership Training Program and a certified 4 Gateways Coach, he has served several times as a Guide with The Berkshire Men's Circle. In 2007 Jonathan launched Witness Circle Ceremonies & Coaching, offering soul-based coaching and ceremonies, committed to bringing ancient ways to a modern world. He and his wife live in both Manhattan and Connecticut.



Vision Fast for Men

**A ten-day Program
with a three-day Solo Fast**

June 17-26, 2010

Sponsored by



**Men's Leadership
ALLIANCE**

and Walking the Four Directions

About This Program

The Vision Fast is a pan-cultural ceremony that has been an integral part of a healthy humanity for thousands of years. Communities around the earth continue to center their love, dreams and spiritual existence on the simple experience of solitude, fasting, prayer, healing and vision in nature. The way we offer this ceremony is similar to the ancient tradition of life-long rites of passage and initiation traditions of all our relations, involving a preparation phase, a threshold phase (three days of fasting), and an incorporation phase involving a council of elders, mirroring your vision-fast passage story, ending with a return to community and family.

This program is also for those who wish to learn more about guiding and holding the vision fast-passage ceremony. It is intended for those who are interested in becoming more comfortable in offering this to others. In essence, staffing this program is a first step in the study and practice of becoming a vision fast passage guide.



For more information

or to register please contact

**Men's Leadership
ALLIANCE**

PO Box 17806 • Boulder, CO 80308
(303) 444-9022 • mensleadershipalliance.org

Vision Fast Participants

You are expected to arrive in Eldora, Colorado on Thursday, June 17th. Completion of the program will occur with a council of elders, on Saturday, June 26th. In total, we will have 10 days together. Part of the intention in coming to Eldora a day early is to aid in preparing for the 8,700 foot elevation where your fast will occur. You will need to make other preparations for your fasting experience prior to our time in Eldora. These preparations will be made known after you submit your letter of intention and registration.

Vision Fast-Passage Guide Trainees

A letter of intent and deposit is required. Like the participants, your letter of intention will also involve what is calling to you; your intention to serve others in this way. Guide trainees may be asked to remain in Eldora for a half day on Sunday following Saturday's Elders council. Please contact us with any questions.

How To Proceed

- Write a letter of intention that reflects the call inside you to do this; the passage and pilgrimage speaking out to you. You might want to consider writing like you are hearing your own story being told in the third person. This letter will help us better support and guide you.
- Use the questions listed next as an aid to help you get your writing started. When complete, mail your letter of intention in with your registration.
- A gear list, with other details, will be sent to you in return. Your meals will be your responsibility, however an outdoor encampment kitchen will be available for use. You will be responsible for bringing your own food and will need to do your shopping before departure.

You are stepping into an ancient ceremony—one which never fails to affirm one's beauty and vision. Your letter-writing will be a commitment to your soul and your passage. You are engaging in this ceremony for yourself, your people, and your community—something larger than yourself. It is a journey where body and spirit become one.

Questions To Get You Started:

In contemplating these questions, it may be helpful to go into the countryside, or a quiet location, and walk in the knowledge that you are beautiful; that your life is important. Hold this inside you as a touchstone and listen to the world around you. As you further prepare, simply carry these wonderings into your daily life.

- Looking back over your life—is there important information at the shedding skins of your growing? Any unfinished relational heart business? Any relationship struggles taking away from your core energy reserve?
- Reflecting on your current life—where is the energy and how is it all unfolding? How does it serve you, or hold you back from your radiance?
- Then, with forward-looking gaze, standing in all your beauty, what do you see that calls your heart and soul to be free and alive in the world?

Cost

We offer a sliding scale registration ranging from \$850-1,250. We ask that you pay what you can afford and help with scholarships. We know that this program is worth \$1,250, but we want to ensure that anyone who wishes to attend is not held back due to financial considerations. A deposit of \$175 is required to hold your reservation and assure your place in this gathering. Space limited to 12 participants. If you wish to set up a payment plan or inquire about a scholarship, please arrange this with MLA *prior* to the event.

Deposit (non-refundable): \$175

Fee

- before May 6 \$850-1,250
- May 6 to 20 1,050-1,250
- after May 20 1,250
- on-site payment \$1,375

Cancellation

- before May 6 full refund (minus deposit)
- May 6 to 20 75% refund (minus deposit)
- after May 20 no refund

Register online at: www.mensleadershipalliance.org. You can register securely with your bank account or credit card via our online payment link, or print out the the form and mail in your registration and check.