

THE HAWK CIRCLE TIMBER FRAMING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM



Hawk Circle
Apprentices
after raising the
Spruce Cabin.

Timber Framing, Carpentry, Heirloom Tools, Natural Building & Work Skills

This program is for passionate students who want to learn timber framing, at our education center in Cherry Valley. Apprentices live at our farmhouse for **four weeks**, working and learning by doing five days a week. They provide their own food throughout their stay here, using our farmhouse kitchen.

We typically timber frame and work on our woodcraft and carpentry skills from Monday through Friday, with weekends free for food shopping, exploring the woods or surrounding towns or working on personal projects.

Apprentices learn to make hardwood pegs from logs, using drawknives and the shave horse.

They learn to make mortises and tenons, and have the time to practice making them repeatedly. They learn about how to measure and lay out every part of the frame, including sill beams, posts, girts, tie beams, plate beams, knee braces, rafters and purlins. We'll cover **square rule methods**, and use heirloom hand tools.

We will be building a small **timber frame porch** that will be part of our student cabins, with beautiful eaves, built from locally harvested **tamarack** and **eastern hemlock**. These porches allow students to hand up their rain gear, stow their water bottles and headlamps, take off wet shoes and

have space to visit outside of their cabins, protected from the rain or elements. It will add to the usable space inside, and make them more inviting and comfortable.

Sustainable building using **clay/wood chip insulation** and **clay plaster techniques** are sometimes shared during this program.

If this program sounds like what you are looking for, please contact us for an interview and apply using the application at the end of this brochure.

Please Note: Due to COVID, we are implementing NYS Department of Health and CDC guidelines for all aspects of our program. Details given upon program acceptance.

Logistics & Equipment

Housing:

While you are part of the apprentice program, you will be provided a single or shared room in our farmhouse, or one of our rustic cabins. The farmhouse has a fully equipped kitchen, pantry, and freezer/refrigerator. The house is heated by a wood stove, which is the responsibility of all house residents to maintain. We do have a washing machine and dryer available with a clothes line for drying.

All rooms are provided with a twin size bed, end table/shelves and or dresser, and a light. For additional lighting, I would suggest bringing an extra lamp. We do not have much cell service coverage currently. There is a wifi connection available at Rick and Trista's home on site, but this is for vital communications and not for everyday use, typically. There are libraries and cafes in Cherry Valley and Cooperstown close by with high speed connection.

Community Policies:

Upon your arrival you will receive a community handbook which will provide you with information in regards to community living at Hawk Circle as well as information of the surrounding area. We are a non-smoking community, drug free, permitting alcohol for those students 21 years of age or older. During times where youth programs are in process, alcohol is not allowed on the Hawk Circle premises. Sorry, **we don't allow pets** in this program.

Equipment List:

Bring clothes for warm days and for the colder weather to, as we live in the mountains:

- boots/comfortable shoes**
- clothing for layering**
- warm jacket**
- hats, gloves, scarf, gloves**
- WORK GLOVES & SAFETY GLASSES**
- lamp (optional)**
- blankets/sheets/pillow & case**
- notebook, journal & camera**
- biodegradable soap/shampoo**
- laundry detergent**
- sunscreen/personal first aid kit**
- daypack**
- flashlight/headlamp**
- good rain gear**
- bath towels**
- toothbrush/toothpaste**
- alarm clock, watch, carving knife**
- water bottle**
- any tools you would like to bring**

Right:

Noah guides the plate beam onto the post during the raising of the Aspen Cabin.



Far Right:

Ben makes wooden pegs for the timber frame cabin.





"It's not enough to just read about skills, like wood craft, or survival and watch YouTube videos, or see it on television. You have to practice over and over, get your techniques right, get an understanding of what you're trying to do and find the way that is just right for you.

Once you've done something ten or twenty or thirty times, that skill really sinks into your bones and becomes part of you. You will own that skill, and even years later, can replicate it with ease. That is our goal."

-Ricardo Sierra



Program Cost, Dates & Travel Information

Program Cost:

The Timber Frame Apprenticeship Program is **\$1,600 for four weeks**, and includes housing, electric, washer/dryer, tool use, some craft and project materials as well as instruction in timber framing, carpentry and homestead skills.

A **deposit of \$400** insures your spot in this program, with the balance due two weeks before your arrival. This can be paid online, through Paypal, MC/Visa or check.

Please be aware that this is a four week commitment, and plan accordingly with your food budget, other financial needs, and your post program planning.

Apprentice Program Dates & Seasons:

Our apprenticeship runs **May 2-29, 2021**

We may run a fall Apprenticeship in 2021, but at this point, we don't have any dates or information that we can confirm.

Public Transportation:

If you are arriving by plane, train or bus, you will be coming into Albany which is about 1 hour and 15 minute drive from Hawk Circle. **Round trip transportation from Albany to Hawk Circle is \$75.** Please let us know your travel plans as soon as possible. Please check with us before making your reservations so we can be there to pick you up.

GPS Address:

**3496 State Highway 166,
Cherry Valley, NY, 13320**



Above: The Eagle House Rafters are complete.

Left: Raising the Jessup Frame.



Timber Framing Sustainable Building & Traditional Skills

This program takes place at our Retreat and Wilderness Camp facility, and the projects that we will learn on are **‘non-commercial’** in nature, meaning that they aren’t contracted structures for clients that have deadlines, pressure and stress. They are for the growth of our small non-profit nature center, and this allows us to learn **without the pressure of ‘learning on the job’, which is a difficult way to start this journey.**

We allow each person to learn at their own ability, pace and interest. It can take a few days to build up our hand strength for cutting, chiseling, hammering and making pegs, so we will start slow and intersperse our work with classes in timber framing philosophy, design, tool study, sharpening, etc, to round out our full days. I’m excited for you to experience it! -Ricardo Sierra





Hawk Circle Apprentice Program Application

May 2-29, 2021

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone #: _____ Work Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please list all known allergies to any foods, insects, or medications, or any medical concerns :

How did you find out about us? _____

What is your main reason for attending this program? *Please feel free to write on the back of this application as well.*

The Fine Print: I understand that the \$400 deposit is part of the \$1,600 program fee, and is non-refundable once you are accepted into the program.. If you are not selected for this course, it will be refunded in full. If you are unable to attend your program as scheduled, half of the deposit can be transferred to future program or apprenticeship if desired. The balance of the course fee is due two weeks prior to the start of your program. In the case of any property or equipment damage due to a lack of responsibility on the student’s part, we require a credit card number to be kept on file during your stay here. Your card will not be charged without notification and explanation of the charges. Example of such situations is room damage, misuse of tools and or equipment, loss of tools or any other property damage that is a result of negligent behavior. Hawk Circle has the right to dismiss a student from the program if the community guidelines and policies are not followed or there is behavior that negatively effects the community.

Community Policies Understanding, Liability and Media Release

I agree by my signature indicated below, that I have read and agree with the community policies as well as the fine print above. I understand that the program offered by Hawk Circle can expose myself to activities that have inherent risks, and that the staff of Hawk Circle will make every effort to keep each activity as safe as possible. I further understand that Hawk Circle is not responsible for safety or medical issues that were not disclosed to the staff prior to the start of the apprenticeship. I also give my consent for Hawk Circle to use video or photos that I am involved in for their non-profit website, blog or other social media accounts.

Signature: _____

Name (please print): _____

Date: _____

Visa/Mastercard CC# _____ EXP / / Security Code _____

Thank You! We are looking forward to meeting you!

Mail Completed Application to:

Hawk Circle, P.O. Box 506, Cherry Valley, NY 13320

Contact Info: HawkCircleOffice@gmail.com (607) 264-3910 Office