

Shambhala Training Form: “Turning the Flower” Supporting Education

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August 2020

Document Purpose: The purpose of this document is to present a form for online delivery of complementary education for a student warrior in the Shambhala contemplative tradition.

Document Definitions:

- **Course:** a distinct online educational offering, for example: (links given for available Shambhala Online courses)
 - [Right Use of Power](#)
 - Shambhala Care and Conduct (preparatory for signing policy)
 - [Living with Resilience](#)
 - Introduction to Shambhala Culture (based on booklet)
 - Enlightened Society Treatise (with lung, based on booklet)
 - Warrior Guide content (e.g. how to take one’s seat, how to be a genuine and honest guide, etc.)
 - Shambhala Household courses (e.g. relating sanely with money, with family relationships, etc.)
 - Intersectional Social justice topics, from a contemplative perspective
 - Ecological justice topics, from a contemplative perspective
- **Course Series:** a sequential grouping of more than a single course offering around a theme, for example:
 - Shambhala Household, levels 1 – 3
 - Warrior Guide Training, levels 1 – 5
 - Shambhala Political Engagement, levels 1 - 5
- **“Turning the Flower” form:** the overall structure presented in this document.
- **“Turning the Flower” program:** a real-world implementation or application of the “Turning the Flower” form. One possible target-state of such a program is presented in this document.
 - Pilot and phased-implementation projects are not explored in this document.
- **“Turning the Flower” solution:** a cloud-based software application where program participants access program services
- **“Warrior Guides” form:** a form for offering internationally-localized, in-person delivery of Way of Shambhala curriculum to participants who may have time, money, location, or demographic (e.g. class, race, gender, age, ability, etc.) barriers to access such teachings as they have been historically presented
- **SGS:** Shambhala Global Services; the central administrative body of the Shambhala global mandala
- **SDB:** Shambhala Database; the central data repository for Shambhala members and participants, maintained by SGS
- **[Shambhala Online](#):** “Shambhala Online offers live events, interactive programs, online courses and an extensive media library of recordings from senior teachers in the Shambhala lineage. Our mission is to support Shambhala teaching and learning across the boundaries of time and geography through technology.”

Form Overview: “Turning the Flower” is a form for online delivery of complementary education for a student warrior in the Shambhala contemplative tradition, including the following categories:

- Practice, study, and pedagogy course offerings within Shambhala contemplative tradition
- Governance and finance best practice course offerings within the Shambhala organization

- Social skills and sensitivity training in order to better equip Shambhalians to participate in Shambhala society and in wider society
- Other courses reflecting Shambhala values: including topics on ethics, politics, ecological concerns, and so on

Form Purpose: The purpose of this form is to:

- **cultivate a breadth of knowledge reflective of Shambhala values**--including the value of lifelong learning—to help Shambhalians participate in and lead their lives sanely in Shambhala and wider society.
- provide an opportunity for **partnerships between Shambhala and well-regarded third-party educational content providers** in order to deliver high-quality educational content to participating Shambhalians
- **expose Shambhalians to state-of-the-conversation awareness and sensitivity** to issues in social participation and leadership faced by global human community today

Form Application:

- To explore the application of the “Turning the Flower”, a hypothetical program is presented here. General use cases follow.
- *Note: one possible implementation of the “Turning the Flower” form is as a module of Shambhala Online. If such a thing desirable for the stakeholders of Shambhala Online, blue-highlighted sections below may already be included in the Shambhala Online implementation, and thus could be overlooked while exploring this form application.*

A “Turning the Flower” participant would:

- **Sign up for access to “Turning the Flower” through a third-party hosted, cloud-based solution.**
 - A “Turning the Flower” solution could be created and delivered by a professional development team in consultation with stakeholders, emphasizing Shambhala-values-informed simplicity and ease of use, and market alignment to, for example, an online education delivery platform such as [Khan Academy](#).
 - A “Turning the Flower” solution would have permissions-limited, secure read/write access to the Shambhala database in order to update and retrieve participant data via some kind of API.
- **Securely sign in to created account to access personal account and individual educational offerings**
 - Host / application should ensure location-appropriate data privacy, e.g. compliance to GDPR, etc.
- **Securely enter credit / pay card / generosity coupon information to credit their personal account.**
 - ‘Generosity coupons’ could be coded coupons purchased and gifted individually or in bulk from SGS.
- **View and browse available course / course series summaries**
 - Including access to such information as:
 - course name
 - course delivery method (e.g. self-directed, offered at a particular time, etc.)
 - course leader(s)
 - previously-given course feedback, including average rating and top comments / comment ratings
 - course location in respective curriculum map, as appropriate

- **Pay a reasonable amount for access to a “Turning the Flower” offering available to them**
 - Available offerings are based upon TBD curriculum sequencing, as appropriate
 - Amount for “Turning the Flower” content is TBD.
 - Amount for “Turning the Flower” content for “Warrior Guides” participants is TBD but should be informed by [World Bank-set International Poverty Line](#). (USD\$1.90 as of 2015)
 - **Various language options and demographic representations** (e.g. class, race, gender, etc.) **should be available** for the participants to choose from.
- **Upon completion of “Turning the Flower” training module(s), confirm completion of training course**
 - Course completion based on requirements of training module, e.g. duration, quiz, assessment, etc.
 - Participant can leave rating (e.g. 1-5 stars) for course and optional comments upon completion
 - Comments will be visible to all participants, and ‘escalated’ to “Turning the Flower” administrators if participant so chooses
 - Participant would receive ‘certification of completion’ upon recording fulfillment of requirements
- **As inspired, request contact with a Shambhala Tutor for additional questions, comments, or instruction related to course materials**
 - Access to Shambhala Tutors may be scheduled as guided by a tutor’s stated and actual availability meeting a Warrior Guide participant’s requested time slot
 - See “Shambhala Tutors” document for details on that form.
- **Continue taking courses and course series as desired**
 - “Turning the Flower” participants should be welcomed to continue via encouraging communications (e.g. solution notification, infrequent email reminder) of their course completions and / or upcoming, related course offerings.
 - Participants should be encouraged to personalize their learning by submitting a video of themselves talking about what they feel they learned from the coursework they completed.

A “Turning the Flower”-available Shambhala Tutor (see form document for details) would:

- Have led or taken the course and be well-informed of course content
- Post availability dates and times for “Turning the Flower” tutorial time in their profile
- Set hourly price for their interview time in their profile, understanding that hourly maximums may be set by program underwriter
- Set pay target (e.g. “Tutor Livelihood” (ie. pay to tutor), “Burlington Shambhala Center”, etc.) for their hourly pay to go towards
- Understand via participant request what kind of interview is being requested
- Re-familiarize themselves with course content previous to interview, if appropriate

A “Turning the Flower” administrator would:

- Work to ensure the operational success of the “Turning the Flower” program by providing quality customer service to the users of the solution.

A “Turning the Flower” program owner would:

- Procure professional services to build and maintain a solution to meet the needs of the “Turning the Flower” program delivery
- Hire or enlist “Turning the Flower” administrators to ensure the operational success of the program
- Work to ensure the strategic success of the “Turning the Flower” program

A “Turning the Flower” underwriter would:

- Commit to subsidizing operational and strategic costs of program
- Commit to subsidizing course content (e.g. with generosity coupons) in order to keep costs low for participant
- Be in periodic contact with the “Turning the Flower” program owner, re: program strategic health, as a stakeholder would

A “Turning the Flower” stakeholder would:

- Be in periodic contact with the “Turning the Flower” program owner, re: program strategic health

Questions and Comments:

- “Turning the Flower” seems to look a lot like what Shambhala Online offers already. Does the “Turning the Flower” form need to be implemented in a new solution? Or could Shambhala Online be adapted to support it?
 - Shambhala Online could be adapted to support the “Turning the Flower” form if that is desirable for the stakeholders of Shambhala Online.
 - “Turning the Flower” could reflect an extension of Shambhala Online content to include a wider breadth of topics than the current preponderance of contemplative practice and study offerings
 - “Turning the Flower” could reflect an extension of Shambhala Online content to vetted well-regarded third-party providers.
 - “Turning the Flower” could augment Shambhala Online content by adding a testing / evaluation component at the end of a course offering to reflect achievement of content understanding.