

## Description of Earth Matters and Lodging Options

Earth Matters is a private retreat center located near the town of Ben Lomond in the Santa Cruz Mountains of Northern California. It is about 25 minutes from Santa Cruz, 50 minutes from San Jose and 90 minutes from San Francisco. It was designed to be a place where Sacred Ceremony could be held and life in all its forms is respected.

Earth Matters encompasses 127 acres of largely-wooded landscape (Oaks, Madrones and Redwoods) plus many other species of plant life. It is entirely off-the-grid and a place of peace, silence and serenity that is lovingly tended by Jody Snyder and Noel LittleJohns, a husband and wife team who steward the land. The site abounds with gardens, ponds, paths, statuary, fruit trees, a vast abundance of flowers and varied meeting sites. Noel is a renowned chef and Jody is a woman of many gifts: gardener, collage master and teacher who has been walking a medicine path for many years.

The accommodation choices at Earth Matters are varied. Below are broad descriptions of the various options.

**Within the Guest Lodge:** (A two-story building containing a kitchen, meeting area where some of our ceremony will be held and where we eat our meals either inside or outside on the deck, as the weather permits) the lodging choices are as follows:

- 1) **Master bedroom and adjoining bathroom** (Contains one double bed. Bedding is provided. Bedroom is adjacent to the meeting area.)
- 2) **Loft** (Light-filled area above the main meeting area and near the kitchen, contains one double bed. Bedding is provided)
- 3) **Dorm area** (Downstairs with several twin-sized bunk beds and 1 double-sized bunk bed, adjoining bathroom and easy access to “outdoor” showers and toilets. Bedding is provided.) Bringing an additional blanket or sleeping bag is recommended but not required.

### **Outside of The Guest Lodge:**

**Cabins:** There are three, small cabins on the land that are within a short walk of the Guest Lodge. Each has electricity. Two are heated by propane and one by a wood stove – when needed. Two people who are comfortable in close quarters with one another could share a cabin. Each has a nearby, outdoor “Outhouse” with cold running water. The cabins are quite private. People staying in the cabins use the showers in The Guest Lodge. Bedding is provided.

**Camping:** There are many and varied camping sites on the land. Four of them are close to the Guest Lodge. Others are by the Medicine Wheel or the Tipi Village. Campers bring their own camping gear, bedding, etc. No bedding is provided. All camp sites are within a relatively, easy walking distance of an Outhouse.

**Tipi Village:** The Tipi Village is farthest from The Guest Lodge (a 10 minute walk) and is comprised of 3 tipis of differing diameters which can accommodate from 1 to 2 people to 4 to 5 people. Those who choose to stay in the Tipi Village provide their own bedding, mat/mattress, pillow etc. (A cot option is provided for this ceremony.) The tipis have firm dirt floors and are perhaps most comfortable in summer weather and after the rainy season ends. The tipi village is located near the parking area and near a creek and is noted for its silence and privacy.

**Note:**

Tipi Village accommodations are not available during the rainy season, roughly from October/November to April/May.

