



Holden Village

Introduction to Living and Working at Holden Village

For over fifty years, Holden Village has welcomed all people of goodwill into the beautiful wilderness of the Railroad Creek Valley to be called, equipped, and sent forward into a sustainable life of faith and service. **If you have gifts to bring to the Village, we invite you to consider** a gap year, internship, or job assignment with us, both as an investment in yourself and a way to give back to others.

As you think about whether Holden Village is a good fit for you to work and live, please consider the following characteristics of this community. The following information is designed to help you make an informed choice if Holden is right for you.

HOLDEN IS...

Living in Community

Each staff member shares a commitment to personal growth, common work, a spirit of hospitality, and service to others. These shared disciplines strengthen our sense of common purpose. Although Holden Village is a community founded in the Lutheran faith, we welcome staff and guests of all faith and non-faith backgrounds. We commit to creating and maintaining a community free from discrimination or harassment toward any person and we fully believe in justice, equity, diversity and inclusion for all. In work, play, and conversation – and in agreement and disagreement – we offer ourselves to each other in mutual respect and forgiveness.



A Special Place to Work

Employees and volunteer staff members are key to creating a place of welcome, celebration, and hilarity in all aspects of Village life. The staff supports Holden's mission by helping the Village operate in many work areas. Holden is able to offer reasonable rates to all who come here because of the dedicated volunteers, employees, and donors who support this ministry of hospitality. Staff compensation can vary from free room and board only for short term volunteers, to a small stipend for seasonal and long term volunteers, and up to a modest wage for long term employees. For long term staff, benefits including life, dental, vision and medical insurance coverages. Boat tickets, free downlake parking, along with friends and family visits and vacation days we call "out of the village" round out the benefits for long term staff.



Wilderness Living

Holden Village is nestled in the Railroad Creek Valley in the Northern Cascades Mountains toward the north end of Lake Chelan. No roads connect to Holden Village, which makes the journey itself exceptional. Travel to and from the Village includes a ferry boat ride on Lake Chelan and a bus ride from the dock at Lucerne up to the Village. The Glacier Peak Wilderness boundary is right next to the Village, giving us access to many beautiful hikes of varying difficulty levels right out of our back doors. Holden's remote

location also means that access to emergency medical care is anywhere from four hours to four days away. Because of this, you should be in stable health to consider working and living in the Village. Another lifestyle adjustment is limited access to technology. There is no cell phone reception in Railroad Creek Valley (though you may find reception if you climb some of the nearby peaks!). Additionally, there are no television or radio signals that reach the Village. You are welcome to bring your phone to use for music, photos or limited Wi-Fi. Staff here for more than three weeks have wireless access to our satellite internet, which is available in select locations around the Village. Due to the limited satellite bandwidth, the internet can be used for email and other basic tasks, but functions such as streaming, video calling, and other activities with a large amount of data transfer are not possible. As we seek to honor our unique wilderness setting, all Villagers are asked to avoid using technological devices in public spaces.

Ministry and Worship

While work sends us in many directions and disciplines throughout the day, we intentionally gather as a community for meals and daily worship. Those who are interested in being more involved in worship can volunteer to read, sing, play an instrument, or help plan worship services.



A Place Rich in History

The Railroad Creek Valley has existed for a millennia. The Wenatchi, Entiat, and Chelan Indigenous people used this valley as a passing through place in the summer months for hundreds of years. Holden was a mining village until 1957 when the mine was closed. In 1960, Howe Sound Mining Company gave the Village to the Lutheran church; programs and ministry began in 1962. Holden attracts more than 6,000 people annually, most of whom come in the summer months and stay for about a week.

Daily Rhythms, Seasons, Comings & Goings

Since its inception, the rhythms of the Village have been shaped by the seasons, the coming and going of staff and guests, the daily practices of worship, and gathering around the table. Holden Village, while set apart by its location, is not a static place exempt from the challenges of the real world. To the contrary, Holden is ever-changing, with a mix of people



coming into the valley with their own stories and on their own journeys. People new to the Village are often surprised by the busy, bustling nature of daily life. Summer is a busier season, while winter is slower paced, but both provide wonderful opportunities to engage your passions and your creative and intellectual pursuits. Villagers work hard and find themselves with multiple recreational and extra-curricular opportunities in addition to their work commitments. Remember, too, that living and working in a retreat center bears little resemblance to being on retreat. Those who find most joy in serving here do so because they love to offer their gifts and time for the sake of others.

Holden takes pride in creating a work environment where training, experiences, talents and community relationships help all to grow.

