

What's Joining Compersia Like?

When people get excited about income-sharing and possibly joining Compersia, that makes us excited too! What's that? You can start next week? Aw shucks, that's flattering, but we like to take things a bit slower than that.

Why? Because sharing income (and almost every aspect of our lives) with another person is a big decision to make. Our commune is (economically) a lot like a group marriage. Our commitment to those we share our home with is much larger than if we were simply roommates, and the pace of our membership process reflects that. We like to allow time for our relationships with potential members to grow organically.

There's no simple timeline that can capture this gradually deepening relationship. We might hit it off quickly, or it may take time for us to open up to one another. Maybe you'll arrive excited about membership, then realize along the way that it's not actually something that makes sense for you. Maybe you'll arrive vaguely curious, and the concept of membership will slowly start to grow on you.

This gradual process might be split into the following stages, but there's no way of knowing exactly how they will manifest for any given person, or how quickly a person will progress through them:

1. **Curiosity:** You're intrigued. Maybe you've made a friend who lives here or heard about us somewhere. Start by coming to one of our events or ask to join us for dinner! We don't bite! We'd be happy to show you around and have our brains picked.
2. **Exploration:** We're intrigued that you're intrigued! If we're all getting along well, maybe you'll grace us with your presence on a more regular basis. Maybe you'd like to get involved in one of our projects, or maybe some of us would like to get involved in one of yours! If you're curious about membership, we can explore that possibility more deeply with you, offer some relevant reading, and have you at some of our meetings, so you can see our decision-making process at work.
3. **Visitor Period:** Eventually we might start to wonder: "Are we ready to live together?!?" If you're ready, send us a letter of interest that says you'd like to go through our formal membership process. If we're also ready, we'll invite you for a "visitor period" to test the waters out. You'll spend some time with the commune, almost as if you were a member, either living here or treating this as one of the centers of your life. There will be some formal membership process hoops to jump through, but you'll have a dedicated "visitor buddy" to help you navigate them. After your visit we'll ask you to spend some time away while we reflect on the possibility of committing to you as a member (and while you reflect on the possible commitment of becoming one). We'll let you know our decision once we make it (we'll try not to leave you hanging).
4. **Membership!:** If we invite you back as a member, please join us! Give us your money! You can also have ours. Each of us begins as a provisional member, with the opportunity to up our mutual commitment with full membership in 6-9 months.

Compersia's Membership Process in Brief No-Frills Terms

A four step process of getting to know us and us getting to know you, taking on more responsibility and being given more power... until you become one of us!

NOTE: These steps must be done in order. Your request for a visitor period will be rejected if you haven't become familiar to us. Your request for membership will be rejected if you have not completed all the steps of your visitor stage.

1. Interested Party
 - a. Goal: Become familiar with each other.
 - b. Process to reach this step: None
 - c. What you do: Come hang out with us, talk with us, get to know us as a group and individually. Come to dinner, attend public events, attend meetings.
2. Visitor
 - a. Goal: Learn about how the community works. Give the community an idea of what it would be like to have you as a member.
 - b. Process to reach this step: Formally announce your interest in membership via an email or at a meeting.
 - c. What you do: Fill out the questionnaire you are sent. Correspond with the Intake Team to schedule your visit (30 days of residing with us over the course of 6 months). Live and work with us, come to meetings. Complete a clearness and membership application.
3. Provisional Member
 - a. Goal: Try out living with us as a member. See if this is a good fit for everyone.
 - b. Process to reach this step: Get accepted by a consensus vote of the current members.
 - c. What you do: Share your income, share your expenses, join the consensus group. Go through another clearness in 6-12 months and apply for Full Membership.
4. Full Member
 - a. Goal: Prosper together.
 - b. Process to reach this step: Get accepted by a consensus vote of the current full members.
 - c. What you do: Pretty much just like provisional membership but not provisional any more.

