



## San Juan Public Lands Center

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[www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan)  
[www.co.blm.gov/sjra/index.html](http://www.co.blm.gov/sjra/index.html)



### **THE ASPEN GUARD STATION ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM**

For the past decade, the San Juan National Forest has offered the Aspen Guard Station Artist-in-Residence Program to painters, writers, poets, musicians, photographers, sculptors, performers, dancers, and other artists. Applications are accepted from January - March each year, and residencies for those selected are scheduled between June – Sept.

Representatives of area art associations choose six finalists and one alternate by May. Selection is made solely on the basis of merit, without regard to sex, race, creed, religion, national origin, or physical ability. Because of its historical nature, however, the Aspen Guard Station does not meet American Disability Act standards. The San Juan National Forest, Piñon Arts Council, Cortez Cultural Center, and Durango Arts Center sponsor the program.



Those selected for residency stay at the historic Aspen Guard Station for one to two weeks during the summer or fall following their application. The rustic log cabin, built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, is a former ranger station set in an aspen grove in the San Juan National Forest, 12 miles north of Mancos. In return for their residency, artists donate to the program a piece of artwork portraying an aspect of their stay at the cabin and share their talents with the public through exhibits, performances, open houses, or workshops.

#### **HOW TO GET THERE**

From Mancos, turn north toward Dolores at the intersection of US Hwy 160 onto Colo. Hwy 184. Watch for County Rd. 42 on your right at the sign to Transfer Campground and Jackson Lake State Park. Follow this road 11 miles to the cabin. The paved road turns to gravel and becomes Forest Road 561 (accessible to passenger vehicles). Along the way, you'll pass the turnoff to Transfer Campground (continue on 561). When you come to a fork, continue straight on 561 following the sign to Jersey Jim. After winding up through aspen, you see the wooden fence around the cabin on your right and then the sign and driveway.

**COMMUNITY DONATION** Artists are welcome to hold an informal open house at the cabin during or offer a workshop at another time through the Cortez Cultural Center, which will help coordinate the event. Community service donations should be set up in advance of the residency.



## ASPEN GUARD STATION ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM



**OVERALL INTERIOR** Propane lighting in each room (no electricity), indoor plumbing, potable running water, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

**MASTER BEDROOM** Full bed with mattress and box springs, nightstand, chest, closet.

**EXTRA BEDROOM** Two twin beds with mattresses, chest of drawers.

**ART STUDIO** Drafting table, desk, chairs.

**BATHROOM** Modern shower (hot water), toilet, mirror, lavatory, toilet paper, sun tube.

**KITCHEN** Propane cook stove, refrigerator and freezer, silverware, coffee mugs, cereal bowls, dinner plates, glasses, corn skewers, potato mashers, wooden spoons, spatulas, rolling pin, candleholders, dishwashing liquid, can openers, vegetable scraper, dishpan and drainer, egg beaters, vegetable steamer, salt/pepper shakers (but maybe no salt, pepper), coffee pot, ice trays, knives, flour sifter, timer, cookie sheets, cake pan, muffin pan, stew pot, baking dish, pie pan, mixing bowls, saucepans.

**DINING ROOM** Woodstove, dining table with benches, bookshelves with books, couch, end table (with a drawer full of

area maps), lantern mantles, log book (read excerpts from earlier artists and make sure to add your own). The logbook also has helpful tips on how to deal with the cabin's historic, but sometimes eccentric, edges.



### CABIN EXTERIOR

Parking area, grill and fire pit, picnic table, wood for the woodstove (you'll need to split), kindling, axe, outdoor water pump, front porch, screen doors, large fenced yards (front and back), gravel driveway with additional parking, rolling driveway gate.

**WHAT TO BRING** Food, drinking water, bedding (sheets, blankets, pillows), window coverings, bath soap, bath towels, toiletries, food, beverages, dishtowels, potholders, paper towels, clothesline, soap for washing clothes, candles, flashlights, headlamps, garbage bags.



**PRACTICE BEAR SAFETY** Artists are asked to pack out all garbage. Trash should be stored either inside the cabin or a car trunk. It's important to handle trash in a bear-resistant manner during your stay. Encouraging black bears to visit is dangerous to occupants, the cabin, and the bears. Inside and outside garbage cans are provided, but food and smelly items should not be put in the outside bin. Bird feeders, including hummingbird feeders, should be taken in at night.



**NEARBY FACILITIES/RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**



Mancos is the closest place to buy groceries. The Mancos Visitor Center has advice and information on places to visit. Nearby recreation sites include Jackson Lake State Park, Transfer Campground and Picnic Area, Big Al Trail, and West Mancos Overlook Deck. There are many areas to explore, including the West Mancos, Gold Run, Chicken Creek, and Sharkstooth trails. Peaks in the La Plata Mountains are popular with mountaineers. Maps and information are provided in the cabin.

**CLEANING** Artists are asked to leave the cabin clean and tidy for the next guest. Cleaning supplies (including mop and broom) are in the hall closet and under the kitchen sink. The cabin is exterminated, and mousetraps are routinely inspected. If residents find mouse droppings or dead mice, they should douse the area with bleach and call one of the contacts listed below. Do not sweep or mop up – stay away from the affected area. We will send someone out.



**OTHER** Past artists have donated many items to help make the cabin more comfortable, including books, nonperishable goods, decorations, and household items. Please feel free to leave a token of your appreciation. Some have even taken it upon themselves to do light maintenance. All of this generosity helps ensure that we are able to continue offering this program (funding is minimal).



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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