

**Informed Consent for Online Survey**

**The Spirituality Project in Mount Shasta, CA and Ashland, OR & Region**

Principal Investigator is Madeline Duntley, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology  
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**You are invited to participate in a sociological study of the contemporary spiritual beliefs and holistic/metaphysical healing practices of residents and visitors to the Mount Shasta-Ashland regional area. The result of this research will be presented in scholarly articles, books, or at conferences.**

**Purpose:** The tourist towns of Mt. Shasta, California and Ashland, Oregon represent a “spiritual marketplace.” The region offers many spiritual options for residents, including Western Esotericism, Eastern spiritualities, First Nations rituals, New Age and alternative spiritual practices, neopaganism, as well as a variety of institutional religious denominations. This survey/interview focuses on the metaphysical beliefs, alternative healing practices, community-based activism, and associational gatherings and networks of spiritually engaged people who self-identify as “spiritual but not religious.” This form of spirituality has a distinctive history in the region. The “spiritual not religious” population is not typically affiliated with traditional Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist, or LDS/Mormon or other institutionalized religions/denominations.

**Selection:** You were selected because you aged 18 or over, and are a resident of or visitor to the Mt. Shasta, CA and Ashland, OR region, and/or were identified as having specific knowledge relating to this topic because of your spiritual orientation and participation in and/or leadership or management of a spiritual/religious gathering, workshop, group, class, ritual, seminar, workshop, farm or spiritual agribusiness, school, store or other business, book authorship, healing modality or spiritual gift or technique, creativity in esoteric or spiritual art/photography, or a leader/participant, event organizer, or for your involvement or leadership in other relevant and related organizations, groups or events.

**Participation:** If you agree to participate, you will be invited to complete and submit an anonymous survey in an online format. The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. **Your submission of this completed online survey is an indication of your informed consent to participate in this study.** The survey will be available to you via a link to an online survey available at this web address: [www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/sociology/people/madeline-duntley.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/sociology/people/madeline-duntley.html) Please remember to clear your browser cache and page history after submission of the online survey in order to protect your privacy.

**Confidentiality:** This survey’s results will be accessible to me, my research team, to journal and conference editors and reviewers; and, if accepted for publication or presentation, to both academic and general audiences. No identifiable personal information from you will appear on the written or online survey itself. If you would like to participate in an **optional** follow up communication or face-to-face or phone interview with me, please contact me using the phone/email listed in this informed consent form, which is also posted at:  
[www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/sociology/people/madeline-duntley.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/sociology/people/madeline-duntley.html)

**Risks and Benefits:** The anticipated risks to you are no greater than those normally encountered in daily life. This much-needed regional analysis will benefit both academic and general audiences by charting the current holistic spiritual beliefs, community engagement, and metaphysical healing practices of this rarely studied spiritual subculture. The results of this study will show specific ways in which contemporary spirituality is connected to the local landscape. It will also provide detailed information about the underlying spiritual beliefs regarding access to “spiritual healing” within a wide range of alternative health care modalities. These findings will equip community leaders, tourism and land-use experts, and agriculture and health care professionals to better serve this spiritual subculture.

**Rights as a Participant:** You may ask any questions regarding the research and they will be answered fully and completely. You may withdraw from the study at any point, without penalty, and without affecting your relationship with Bowling Green State University or with any individual involved in or participating in this study.

**Contact information:** If you have questions about this research project, please contact Dr. Madeline Duntley directly. If you have any questions or concerns about research approval or your rights as a participant, please contact the HSRB (Human Subjects Review Board) Chair.

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