

Stepping Into Belonging

Pico Community Autumn Gathering 🍁

INFO PACK (UPDATED)

Dear Friend,

Our Autumn Gathering is approaching! (fanfare sound playing)

The main intention of this Gathering is to discover together what are our individual roles in the process of shaping a thriving local community (or a network of communities) in our very special context: Pico island, with all it's blessings and challenges.

You have an essential role to play in this process, and we sincerely hope that you can be there with us.

Here are some practical information that you need to know.



When to arrive?

We ask you to **arrive anytime from Friday 10.30 am to 9am on Saturday. After that, the Gathering doors will close and you won't be able to join.**

While 9 am on Saturday is a cut off time for arrival, we kindly ask you to aim for no later than 8am (or, ideally, Friday), so there's enough time for you to arrive, pitch your tent, and get onboarded into the space before breakfast at 9am.

Please note that the first meal we'll be providing is breakfast on Saturday. Bring your own food for Friday.

⚠ We'd also kindly ask you to let us know when you are arriving, so we can welcome you and onboard you into the space. Just send Michal a private message.

When to leave?

The closing session is on Monday afternoon, but we'd love you to stay for the Farewell Party that evening. If you can stay on Tuesday and help with the clean-up that would be greatly appreciated.

Do I need to be there all the time?

The gathering is a full-time commitment. You're welcome to hop-off for a quick errand during the gathering (eg. feed the animals), but we're expecting you to spend most of the time with us, as well as sleep there.

We also strongly advise that you take full part in *Stepping Into Belonging* process, distributed over 3 days of the gathering. This is the "main dish" of this Gathering.

What should I bring?

- ☐ camping equipment (tent, sleeping mats, sleeping bags etc.)
- ☐ cushion to sit on in the ruin
- ☐ a blanket for warmth
- ☐ shoes to wear inside the ruin (we don't want to bring the mud in, because it will be a nightmare to clean, so we'll ask for a separate set of shoes)
- ☐ pen and paper (or better, a journal to write in)
- ☐ a bowl (there will be soup, plate won't hold it), cutlery, cup, water bottle - we'll also ask you to clean your own dishes after the meals
- ☐ instrument(s) to play
- ☐ a funky costume for the farewell party (if you feel like it)
- ☐ your favourite song to dance to (we'll combine them for a farewell party dance playlist). Please [submit your song through this link](#), before the Gathering.
- ☐ a gift you'd like to share with us during the Gift Night – a poem, a song, a story, a melody, a short game, a piece of art... We'll each take a moment to share our gift with our community in a beautiful safe space.
- ☐ contribution for the magic hat (all cash goes towards covering the costs and financing future community events. Thank you for your generosity)

What about food?

Our wonderful team of volunteers will keep you well fed with vegan, gluten-free, and mostly local and organic food. It will be delicious.

What about other substances?

We'd like this Gathering to be substances-free in order to experiment with a different type of being together. Of course, we won't police you, but we'd be grateful if you could refrain from bringing weed, booze and other stuff of that sort to the space.

What about the weather?

Yeah, we know. The forecast doesn't look the best right now, but we're talking to the Weather Gods to make some improvements 🙏. If the weather gets crazy stormy, we'll be forced to cancel, postpone, or find a last-minute alternative solution. If it's just some rain, we'll be "go". We'll give the final green light (hopefully) on Thursday.

Green Light. The Gathering is happening, however, in case the weather gets miserable, we will activate PAGSWEEP.

What is PAGSWEEP?

Pico Autumn Gathering Severe Weather Evasion Emergency Plan.

If the rain becomes unbearable, we're opening a possibility for you to shelter outside of your tent for the night. We'll tell you your designated PAGSWEEP sleeping spot during the onboarding. The activities will happen in the ruin, which now has a roof (huge thanks to everyone who contributed their time and energy to build it)!

How can I help?

I'm glad you asked. This is a community event, and one of the pillars of community is mutual support. We kindly ask that you participate as much as you can in co-creating this event. Some opportunities include childcare, site prep, site cleanup, food prep etc. Thank you for contributing your energy, it means a lot ☀️.

We'll communicate specific opportunities to help during your onboarding.

What about the program?

Here's the rough idea of what's going to happen.

Please note that *Stepping Into Belonging* process is not suitable for kids to participate in. However, we'd love to have the kids with us for all the other activities.

Time	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
8 - 8.45	<i>*note that no food is provided on Friday</i>	Arrivals & Onboarding Deadline for arrival: 9am <i>We strongly</i>			

		<i>recommend you arrive no later than 8am to ensure enough time for onboarding and landing into the space.</i>			
9 - 10		Breakfast / Onboarding	Breakfast		
10.30 - 12	Site prep / Arrivals & Onboarding	Opening & setting intentions Connecting	Body Connection (Connecting with ourselves and each other through our bodies)	Stepping into Belonging part 3 <i>children with Amanda</i>	Clean up / Departures
13 - 14		Lunch			
15 - 17	Site prep / Arrivals & Onboarding	Stepping into Belonging part 1 <i>children with Amanda</i>	Stepping into Belonging part 2 <i>children with Antonio</i>	Closing & Wishing Well	Clean up / Departures
17:30 - 18:00		Home Pod Meeting (reflective meeting in a group of 3)	Home Pod Meeting	Home Pod Meeting	
19 - 20		Dinner			
20.30 - ...	Chillout	Gift Night (where we'll all bring a Gift to share with the community) then Fire, music, fun...	Sound Bath <i>*we'd love the kids to be involved here, but if it will be too intense, we'd like to ask the parents to step in.</i> then Fire, music...	Farewell Party <i>Community dance playlist, then live music and/or more dancing</i>	

Who to call?

It would help us a lot if you could ask your questions to the core organiser in charge of a specific area:

Michal - program | [\[contact details\]](#)

Daniel - site logistics | [\[contact details\]](#)

Bruno - food | [\[contact details\]](#)

Austeja | [\[contact details\]](#)

See you soon! ☀️