Announcing the 2027 ALDO AND ESTELLA LEOPOLD RESIDENCY

An inspiring retreat for environmental writers and thinkers interested in reshaping the cultural story about the relationship between humans and Nature. The Residency, an initiative of the Leopold Writing Program since 2012, includes a stay of up to one month at the Leopolds' historic Mi Casita in northern New Mexico or a casita in the Galisteo Basin, a stipend, and a community presentation in Taos or Santa Fe.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPRESSION

Each year the steering committee invites two to three residents selected from a pool of applicants for a stay of one month at Mi Casita in Tres Piedras during the months of July or November or Casita del Norte in Galisteo for the month of July. Each receives a stipend of $1,000 to help defray travel and living expenses. In exchange, each resident commits to offering a public presentation during or immediately after their stay and contributing a short piece in the Leopold Writing Program newsletter, *El Piñón*.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants may submit a maximum two-page resume along with a maximum 500-word statement of interest describing how their work at the Residency will extend the legacy of Aldo and Estella Leopold and aligns with the Leopold Writing Program's mission. Please also indicate how you heard about the Residency Program and list which months/locations you are able to commit to (July or November) in order of preference. Emerging and mid-career professional writers from around the country and abroad are invited to apply. The deadline for the 2026 season is February 16, with decisions made in late March. Please send application materials and any questions you may have to Executive Director Nina Simon at nina@leopoldwritingprogram.org. An application processing fee of $20 is required to qualify for review. Please submit fee via PayPal or by check. Payment Instructions and additional details can be found on our website.

ALDO AND ESTELLA LEOPOLD

In the fall of 1912, Aldo Leopold, the newly appointed supervisor of the Carson National Forest, married Estella Luna Otero Bergere, a prominent daughter of Santa Fe, and together they moved into their new house, "Mi Casita," in the remote village of Tres Piedras, New Mexico. One hundred years later, in the summer of 2012, the doors to Mi Casita opened to a new generation of writers, thinkers, and artists interested in exploring connections in our communities and cultures, and in our lives and landscapes.

Mi Casita. Carson National Forest, NM

Mi Casita

Tres Piedras sits on the high west side of the wide basin of the Upper Rio Grande, about eighty miles north of Santa Fe. To the east, one looks out across the Rio Grande Gorge to the culturally diverse artistic community of Taos (thirty miles away) and the alpine peaks of northern New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains. To the west lies the expansive backcountry of the Carson's Tres Piedras Ranger District. Just outside Mi Casita's door, one can hike the ponderosa forests and wander the long ridges rising to the San Juan Mountains that Leopold himself patrolled as a young ranger with the U.S. Forest Service. WiFi is not available. Photos, rules, and additional information can be found on the rec.gov. website.

Casita del Norte

Located on a horse sanctuary overlooking the Galisteo Basin, Casita del Norte offers residents a quiet retreat with access to forty-one miles of hiking trails right outside the front door. Northeast of Galisteo rise the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and to the southwest lie the Sandia Mountains. Santa Fe is a twenty minute drive away. Residents at Casita del Norte will be expected to assist with thirty minutes of daily light farm chores, such as mucking and weeding. Casita del Norte has all amenities needed for a monthlong stay and WiFi is available. Residents must be comfortable with dogs.

Casita del Norte, Galisteo, NM

For more information, please visit www.leopoldwritingprogram.org