

**HALLOWED  
HOMECOMING  
A SAMHAIN RETREAT**

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*From Ashes, We Rise*



**2021 PROGRAM**

## A LETTER FROM THE STAFF

Welcome to Hallowed Homecoming: A Samhain Retreat 2021!

After a year away, we are back on the land and back with our community. This year, there are a few changes that we want to inform you about.

1. ***Everyone is required to wear a face mask in the Feast Hall and Craft Cabins.*** This is a park rule and one that we are taking seriously, given the current times.

2. Craft Cabin D is a Ritual Chapel space for 2021! This is separate from the Ancestor Shrine, which remains in the Feast Hall. Please feel free to use the Ritual Chapel as a space for meditation, prayer, and personal work.

3. Everyone has “stoplight” stickers on their badges this year. This is to indicate the level of physical interaction/touch they are comfortable with:



**Red**

Please maintain social distancing



**Yellow**

Ask before you engage



**Green**

Accepting hugs and close contact

Additionally, this year’s event has a Northern European focus, a path commonly known as “Heathenism” or “Heathenry.” Our Welcome Ritual will have a blót format, and main ritual will take the form of a symbol.

As always, if you have any questions, please grab a Staff member. All Staff member cabins are marked on the map later in this program, should you need assistance at night.

# 2021 SPECIAL GUEST

## Scott Mohnkern

Scott Mohnkern, founder of the Modern Heathen and founding member of Potomac Seidr Guild Ondvegisulur was raised as a Methodist. Since that time he has migrated through various philosophies which ultimately brought him to heathenism, where he has been active for the last 20 years. He currently teaches courses about Heathenism online



and in person, and helps run Oracular Seidr rituals. He's written several books on Northern European topics including the runes, and rituals. He most recently served as coordinator for Free Spirit Gathering Online 2021. His current projects include a book on Northern European philosophy and composing music for an operatic singer to be performed in England in 2022.

Scott received his B.A. from Beloit College in both International Relations and Music, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Denver College of Law. He currently resides with his wife and her partner, in Germantown, MD. He holds multiple certifications in various technical topics, as well as both in person and online education.

Outside of his spiritual pursuits, Scott has served as a network security and courseware developer for the last 11 years.

For more information, visit:  
<http://www.modernheathen.com>

# GUEST WORKSHOPS

## Friday, October 29 @ 3:30pm

### Introduction to Heathenism

Modern Heathenism was born in the 1970s as part of a recreationist movement developed by the Odinic Rite. It is an attempt to historically recreate the religion of the people's known as the "vikings" from the 10th and 11th centuries. It is not just a Magical practice, but a full religion, including ethics and philosophy, and those who profess to be Heathen find that it permeates every part of their life.

In this workshop we will discuss the beliefs, gods and goddesses (and other beings), rituals, and magical practices of modern Heathenism. We'll also discuss the various different "factions" of modern Heathenism and how they related to each other.

## Saturday, October 30 @ 9am

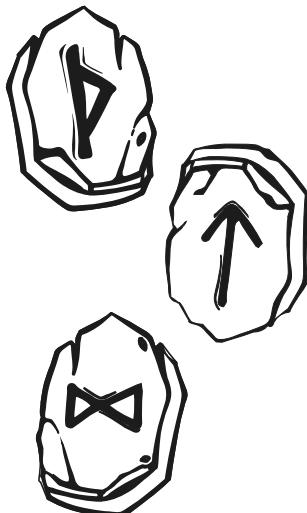
### Scribe, Philosopher, Mystic: Approaches to Religion

Have you ever considered why you believe what you believe? In this workshop we'll discuss three different paths that people follow to come to their beliefs, and how those paths impact how we approach our faith, and how people of the same faith that take different paths to their faith relate to each other.



# Saturday, October 30 @ 1:30pm

## Creating Bind Runes



Most people, when they think of the runes, think of their divinatory aspect, or casting the runes; however, the runes are not just about seeing our path: it's about shaping it as well. "Galdrastafir" (i.e., rune staves, or bind runes) were inscribed or painted in order to create magic, to bring about a desired effect or outcome. In this workshop, we will talk about the magic surrounding bind runes, how to create them, and the moral and ethical implications of use of this type of magic.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to create their own bind rune for their own purpose!

# Sunday, October 31 @ 9am

## Developing a Relationship with Northern European Deities

Find yourself drawn to the gods of the north? Wearing a hammer instead of a pentagram? Considering a valknut tattoo? Developing relationships with any of the gods of the north is different from other gods and goddesses.

In this workshop, we will discuss developing a relationship with the various northern European deities, as well as share our personal experiences with the gods and goddesses of the north. We will talk about the familial aspects of the northern deities, and also, things to watch out for.

# 2021 SCHEDULE

## Friday, October 29

11:00 AM -  
9:30 PM

### REGISTRATION OPEN

*If Registration table is unattended, please proceed to Dining Hall.*

11:30 AM -  
12:30 PM

### LUNCH

*Dining Hall*

12:30 PM -  
1:30 PM

### MEDITATION ON GRIEF AND LOSS

*Craft Cabin C*

*Adrienne Anderson*

2:00 PM -  
3:00 PM

### NOT A PEACEFUL WARRIOR

*Craft Cabin B*

*Frank Stormcatcher*

3:30 PM -  
5:00 PM

### INTRODUCTION TO HEATHENISM

*Dining Hall*

*Scott Mohnkern*

5:00 PM -  
6:30 PM

### WELCOMING RITUAL & DRUMMING

*Dining Hall*

7:00 PM -  
8:30 PM

### DINNER

*Dining Hall*

9:00 PM -  
11:00 PM

### ORACULAR SEÐR

*Dining Hall*

11:00 PM -  
12:00 AM

### YOGA NIDRA

*Ritual Chapel/Craft Cabin D*

*Illara Silverbreeze*

## Saturday, October 30

7:30 AM - 12:00 PM	<b>REGISTRATION OPEN</b> <i>If Registration table is unattended, please proceed to Dining Hall.</i>	8:30 PM	<b>MAIN RITUAL</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	<b>BREAKFAST</b> <i>Morning announcements at 8:15 AM</i>	After Ritual	<b>SOCIAL BONFIRE (FIRE CIRCLE)</b> <b>SNACKS &amp; SOCIALIZING (DINING HALL)</b>
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	<b>SCRIBE, PHILOSOPHER, MYSTIC: APPROACHES TO RELIGION</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>	11:00 PM - 12:00 AM	<b>YOGA NIDRA</b> <i>Ritual Chapel/Craft Cabin D</i>
	<i>Scott Mohnkern</i>		<i>Illara Silverbreeze</i>
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	<b>DEATH &amp; CAKE</b> <i>Craft Cabin C</i>	7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	<b>BREAKFAST</b> <i>Morning announcements at 8:30 AM</i>
	<i>Crystal RedBirdRising &amp; Cat Yimet</i>	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	<b>DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP WITH NORTHERN EUROPEAN DEITIES</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	<b>LUNCH</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>		<i>Scott Mohnkern</i>
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	<b>CREATING BIND RUNES</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>	11:00 AM - 11:30 PM	<b>FAREWELL BLESSING</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	<b>DIFFERENT KINDS OF DEVOTION: TAKING SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OUTSIDE THE BOX</b> <i>Craft Cabin B</i>	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	<b>LUNCH</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>
	<i>Cora Procyon</i>	1:00 PM	<b>DEPARTURES &amp; POST-EVENT CLEAN UP</b>
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>A LAVENDER PATH: HONORING QUEER ANCESTORS</b> <i>Craft Cabin C</i>		
	<i>Ron Padron</i>		
6:15 PM - 6:30 PM	<b>PRE-DINNER BRIEFING</b> <i>Outside Dining Hall</i>		
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>FORMAL DINNER</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>		
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>PREPARATION FOR MAIN RITUAL</b> <i>Dining Hall off-limits at this time</i>		

## Sunday, October 31

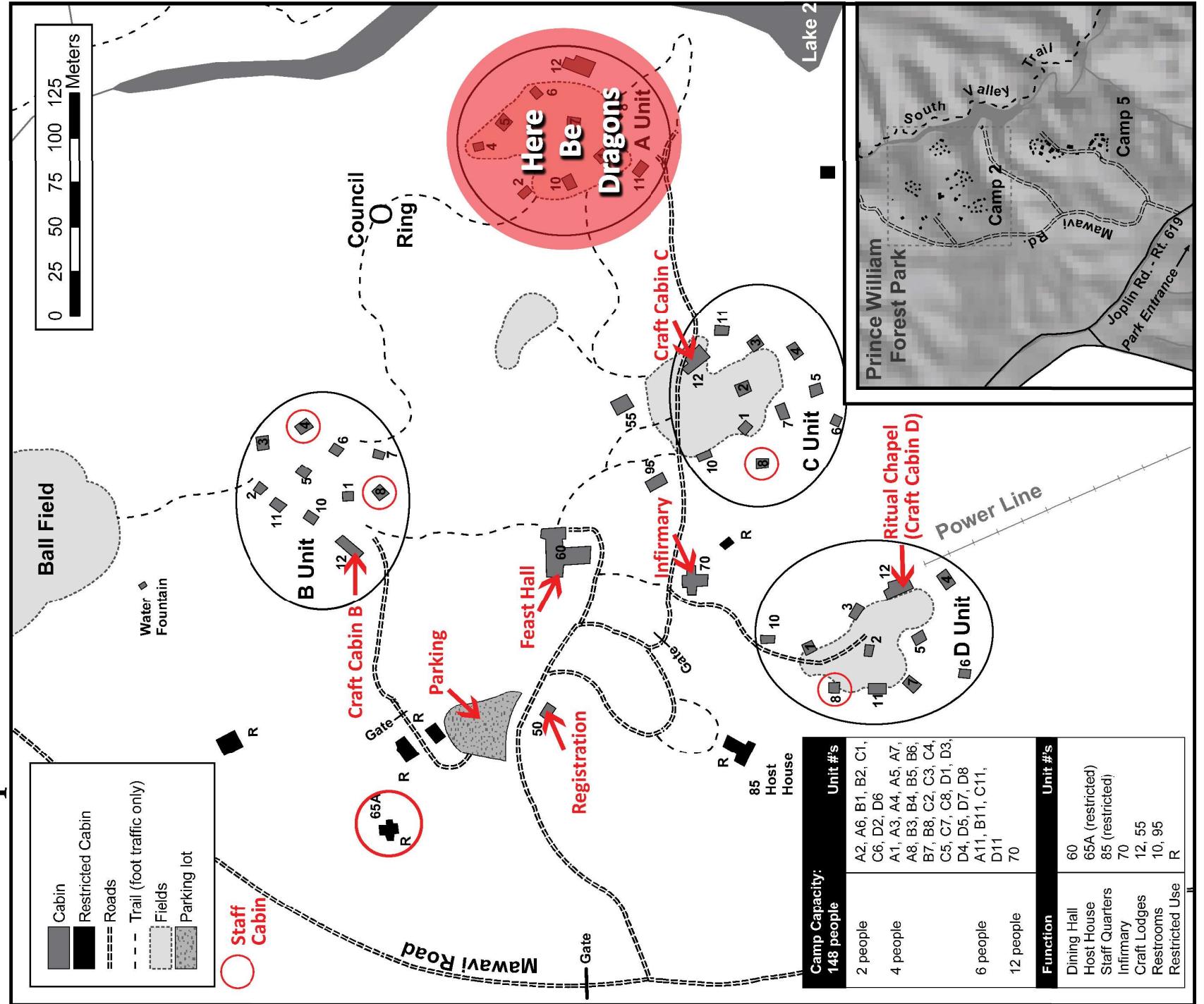
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9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	<b>DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP WITH NORTHERN EUROPEAN DEITIES</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>
11:00 AM - 11:30 PM	<b>FAREWELL BLESSING</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	<b>LUNCH</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>
1:00 PM	<b>DEPARTURES &amp; POST-EVENT CLEAN UP</b>

## Notes

Saturday dinner is a more formal event. Please be outside the Feast Hall by 6:15pm for pre-dinner briefing and announcements.

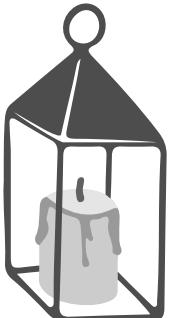
Craft Cabin D is a designated ritual space for our 2021 event. Please feel free to use this space for prayer, meditation, and personal work.

## Cabin Camp 2 - Mawavi



## FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

### Meditation on Grief and Loss



12:30 PM – 1:30 PM  
Craft Cabin C

A meditational project focusing on the grief and loss experienced by everyone at some point. We will be creating votive lanterns that can be used even after the retreat as a reflection point on the journey of closure.

**Adrienne Anderson**

Adrienne Anderson (she/her) is a priestess of Crooked River Circle in Akron Ohio, and a Guardian in good standing under Frank Stormcatcher. With years of mixed media styled arts and teaching different crafting skills, she shares cost-efficient projects for pagan lifestyles.

### Not A Peaceful Warrior: The Place of Martial Philosophy, Aesthetic, & Practice in Modern Paganism

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
Craft Cabin B

Much of modern Pagan spiritual practice was heavily influenced by Eastern spiritual traditions, which provided a rich diversity from which to pull inspiration, and in some cases direct practice. While this has been very successful for a significant part of the Pagan population over the last few decades, it by no means has been a universal success. For some, just the concept of a still mind seems alien, unattainable, and at best a quick way to catch a nap. The visualizations of quiet places abounding with serenity leave these folks wanting at best, and discouraged at worst. But there is another way. For centuries, the means and ways of combat have served many people and nations not just as a way of defending their homes and lives, but as a way to bond, a shared language between generations, and a means of understanding the world, their comrades, and themselves. In this class we will discuss various ways

that martial practices can be utilized today to achieve for some what the more peaceful, serene-based methods achieve for others. While the ideas discussed will be applicable to martial practices from any culture, emphasis will be placed upon Western traditions.

### **Frank Stormcatcher**

Frank Stormcatcher (he/him) watches and learns. He then applies what he learns in doing his part to keep the Pagan and Magical communities safe and free to follow their stars, with a firm resolve that sometimes it takes more than a lullaby to keep the nightmares away. Having practiced for the better part of 30 years, Frank has a degree in Anthropology of Religion (specializing in ritual studies) and the History and Philosophy of Science from the University of Pittsburgh. When not teaching, Frank's practice centers on metaphysical protection and exorcism, investigating new methods concurrently with refining existing ones. He also oversees physical security for several regional events, and in his spare time enjoys reading, leatherworking, and historical swordsmanship.

### Yoga Nidra

11:00 PM – 12:00 AM  
Craft Cabin D (Ritual Chapel)



Yoga Nidra is the yoga of sleep. It is guided meditation practice that guides the participants to connect with physical body, breath body, emotional body through progressive body relaxation and breathing. It then incorporates imagery for thematic content and pradipaksibhavana (the comparison of opposites) for the purpose of integrating what the participant needs to learn from their higher self.

**Please note that this workshop occurs both Friday and Saturday night!**

## *Illara Silverbreeze*

Illara is an Board Certified Family Physician, dual boarded in Integrative Medicine, and a 500hour Registered Yoga Teacher through Yoga Alliance. Illara has been consciously pagan from the teenage years, trained through Third Degree through Sisters of the Burning Branch. Ordained as a Deacon through Sacred Well International, Illara serves as Secretary on the Board of Deacons and is actively pursuing a Masters in Divinity, Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling through Cherry Hill Seminary.

## *Crystal RedbirdRising*

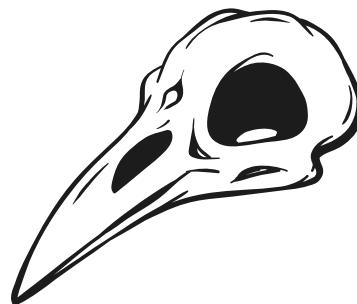
Crystal RedBirdRising (she/her) is a nearly 20-year veteran of the greater NoVA Pagan community. She has been an integral part of planning and coordinating local Pagan events for the last 14 years, including Fertile Ground Gathering and Hallowed Homecoming. A former ordained minister with ShadowGrove Spiritual Ministries, she currently serves as chaplain for the Guardians of the Caomhnoiri Fian, and is a qualified death doula through both the International End of Life Doula Association and the University of Vermont's Larner College of Medicine.

## **SATURDAY WORKSHOPS**

### **Death & Cake**

**11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**  
*Craft Cabin C*

Let's talk about death. Over the last two years, we have spent each day regularly reminded of our own mortality. In this group discussion, we will discuss death and dying, both in general and from a Pagan perspective. We will provide a few questions to guide the conversation and avoid lulls, but this is intended to be a freeform discussion led by the group. Depending on the number of attendees, we may break off into smaller groups to facilitate more intimate discussion.



**Please note that this is not intended to be a grief counseling or grief support group. While grief is certainly a welcome topic given the overall theme, neither facilitator is a licensed grief counselor, so we cannot provide that environment, nor can we ask all attendees to consent to that emotional labor.**

## *Cat Yimet*

Cat Yimet (xe/xem and she/her) a historically informed polytheist and Pagan, animist, and witch. Her path focuses on folklore and mythology, and she is developing a path based on these old tales for the modern world. Cat also studies both hedgewitchery and traditional witchcraft. She is the co-founder and president of the Fellowship Beyond the Star. She lives in Alexandria with her long-time partner and their two dogs.

## Different Kinds of Devotion: Taking Spiritual Practice Outside the Box

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM  
Craft Cabin B



In Modern Witchcraft and Pagan practice, much discussion is given to a daily practice to strengthen one's connections with the spiritual world. We often limit our thinking about what defines practice – meditation, divination, craft work, etc. – which can lead some to erroneously believe that they do not have a daily practice. This workshop seeks to expand the definition and discussion of daily practice to include a wide variety of different types of activities and to suggest that most do have a daily practice. This examination of ritual and devotion will help to build a practice that moves us all with purpose into the dark time of the year.

*Cora Procyon*

Cora Procyon (she/they) is an animist and polytheist who identifies as a traditional hedgewitch. She has been practicing folk magic for most of her life, but began to identify as a witch and study witchcraft over 20 years ago. Her focus in witchcraft has been on hedgewitchery, traditional witchcraft, root work, and folk magic. In addition, she finds spiritual fulfillment in pulling large stones up big hills to create lasting monuments to the people and the land she loves.

## A Lavender Path: Honoring Queer Ancestors

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Craft Cabin B

Pilgrimages have often played significant roles in the exploration of faith and spirituality, but what do you do when those you want to connect with have been obscured in the retelling of history? This workshop will explore the creation of a Queer Pilgrimage that can deepen your connection with Queer Ancestors. We will discuss personal queer stories, finding queer spaces and characters in history, tools and resources that can be used in developing your personal “pilgrim’s way”, the role public/private and permanent/temporary memorials can play in this design, and leveraging technology to make a more accessible experience. Participants will also engage in a guided journey to receive direction from Queer Ancestors on getting started with designing their own personal pilgrimage.



*Ron Padron*

Ron Padrón (he/him/his) is a gay Cuban-American folk witch from the swamps of Florida now living in the mid-Atlantic with his husband and their small cryptid dog. He has been a member the pagan community for nearly two decades with specific interests in divination, Queer Ancestor veneration and necromancy, hedge witchery, and social justice activism. He is the creator of White Rose Witching through which he manages a blog sharing Queer Ancestor Spotlights and rituals, and hosts workshops across a variety of topics. He has presented at the Salem Witchcraft and Folklore Festival on spiritual activism, locally at Hallowed Homecoming discussing working with Queer Ancestors, and as a guest speaker for local pagan groups, historic sites, and small museums discussing colonial witchcraft politics and queer history.

# EVENT RULES

In order to ensure we have a safe gathering and also abide by the rules set by our host, the National Park Service we ask all to be aware of and follow these basic rules:

<b>ALCOHOL</b>	Alcohol is only permitted during ritual. Alcohol is not permitted elsewhere on park grounds.
<b>WEAPONS</b>	Weaponry is not permitted. Blades may be used during ritual by those with designated roles.
<b>DRUGS</b>	Illegal drugs are not permitted in compliance with national and Virginia laws.
<b>CLOTHING</b>	Clothing is required. Please wear comfortable, climate-appropriate clothing and/or ritual attire throughout the event.
<b>SMOKING</b>	Limit smoking to the designated area and dispose of butts in the designated cans.
<b>PETS</b>	Only registered service animals are permitted.
<b>WILDLIFE</b>	Please avoid the local wildlife. If you feel uncomfortable or in danger, please contact a member of staff.
<b>VIOLENCE/ CONFLICT</b>	Violent, rude, and inappropriate behavior will be addressed by staff as necessary. Especially heinous behavior will result in ejection from the event without a refund.
<b>FIRES</b>	Fires are only permitted in the Feast Hall, Craft Cabins and Fire Circle. Staff and designated fire tenders are responsible for lighting, maintaining, and extinguishing fires, for the safety of the participants and the park.

## SACRED FIRES

Do not burn anything in the Feast Hall or Bonfire Circle without approval by Fire Coordinator. NO TRASH.

## KITCHEN

Please do not enter the kitchen without permission, unless it is your volunteer shift. This is for your safety and that of the kitchen witches.

## VOLUNTEERS

Please arrive for your volunteer shift on time. If you will not be able to perform the duty you volunteered for, please check in with a staff member.

## TRASH/ RECYCLING

Please ensure all trash is deposited in designated receptacles. When you depart, please ensure all trash is deposited in the dumpsters near the Feast Hall.

## RADIOS

Non-staff should only use odd channels. Even channels are reserved for staff.

## LANYARDS

Please have your lanyard on you and visible at all times. Staff can be identified by their lanyards and badges.

**Please see a member of Staff or a Guardian  
if you have any questions.**

# A Prayer for the Dead

Byron Ballard

You have come to the end of this pathway  
In a journey to which we bear witness.  
You have come to the end of a pathway  
That is barred with a gate and a door.  
May this door open swiftly and silently.  
May this gate give you a moment's grace  
In which to rest your spirit before you venture through.  
We stand here with you, as your companions,  
As your family, for you are beloved.  
But, for now, we must remain here.  
We can not go with you to this old land.  
Not yet.

For you will see the Ancestors.  
You will see the Beloved Dead.  
You will walk among the Divine Beings  
That guide and nurture us all.  
You go to dwell in the lands  
Of summer and of apples  
where we dance  
forever youthful, forever free.

We can hear the music in the mist  
The drums that echo our sad hearts.  
We can see your bright eyes and your smile.  
And so we open the gate.  
We push back the door.  
We hold the gate open.  
We glance through the doorway,  
And with love and grief and wonder  
We watch you walk through.

Hail the Traveler!  
All those remembered in love, in honor,  
Live on.  
Farewell, o best loved.  
O fairest,  
Farewell.

