# Sacred Grove Academy

A Pagan Cover School Ministry of Sacred Grove Church

#### Summer 2016

P.O. Box 505 Auburn, AL 36831-0505

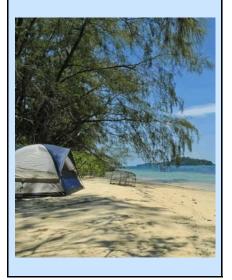
Linda Kerr, Director

Phone: (334) 408-7372

Email: sacredgroveacademy@ gmail.com

Website: www.sacredgroveacademy. org

Sacred Grove Academy is a church school operated under legal code 16-28-1, 16-28-3, 16-28-7, and 16-46-3 (church school law) of the State of Alabama



# Re-Enrollment Fees For 2016-2017

IMPORTANT: Effective now, tuition for new and re-enrolling families is \$75 for the first child, plus \$25 for each additional child.

# Sacred Grove Updates

Sacred Grove Academy is now a ministry of Sacred Grove Church, rather than of Church of the Spiral Tree (CST). The administration, website, fees, enrollment procedures, etc., are all still the same. The only real difference is that there is no longer a discount offered on tuition for members of CST. We wanted to establish Sacred Grove as its own entity, separate from CST, and so a new church was incorporated.

As a result, Sacred Grove Academy has a new mailing address:

P.O. Box 505, Auburn, AL, 36831-0505. However, if you send mail to the other address, we will still get it.

### **Email Addresses**

Do you have email? If you are receiving this newsletter via snail-mail, that means we either don't have a working email address for you, or no response was sent back when we emailed this newsletter to you. As we send a lot of communications to families via email, including changes to policies and fees, newsletters, and reminders about deadlines, we just want to make sure that everyone who has an email address listed is actually receiving our emails. So if vou do have a working email address that you check on a regular basis, please email it to us. And if at any point in the future your email address changes or if you no longer have access to your email, please let us know as soon as possible.



#### If You Move:

If you move to a new residence within the state of Alabama, and you move into a different public school district, you MUST send in a new Enrollment Form for the new school district. immediately (don't wait for re-enrollment time!). You do not have to inform the previous school district that you have moved, but you do need to let the new one know that you are enrolled in a church school: otherwise you will be subject to truancy laws.



### **Attendance Forms Due by August 1**

Attendance forms for 2015-2016 are due now, and <u>must</u> be received by August 1. Your completed attendance forms are essential to fulfilling the letter of the law, and without them, you will not be able to re-enroll for the following year, even if you have sent your tuition fees.

NEW: Submit your attendance through our website! < www.sacredgroveacademy.org/forms/Attendance/form.html>

You can also email your attendance forms; either by scanning and emailing your handwritten copies, or by emailing your Word or Excel document.

### **Re-Enrollment Deadline: August 1**

The deadline for sending in your attendance forms and for reenrolling is AUGUST 1. All enrollments will officially end on July 1; however, you can re-enroll for the 2016-2017 school year beginning anytime after June 1. The tuition is \$75 for the first child, and \$25 for each additional child. In order to re-enroll, you must send the tuition fees and your previous years' attendance forms. You do not have to fill out a new Enrollment Form, unless you have recently moved.

## Late Re-Enrollments With Notice:

If you contact us PRIOR TO AUGUST 1 to tell us you will be late: You will have a grace period of 30 days, until August 31, to send in your re-enrollment tuition for the upcoming school year. There will be a late fee of \$25 per family, which must be paid, in addition to the tuition fees, before you will be considered to be re-enrolled. Please note that if your late re-enrollment is not received by August 31, we will begin un-enrollment procedures.

### If You Miss the August 1 Deadline:

If you have not re-enrolled by August 1 and have not contacted us to let us know you will be late, you'll be considered withdrawn, and we will send the obligatory letter to the school board stating such. You can re-enroll after that time, but you will need to pay the \$25 admission fee per child in addition to the tuition fees, and fill out both the Enrollment Form (CSEF) and the Admission Form again.

# How to Pay for Your Re-Enrollment:

We accept re-enrollment tuition payments either via check or money order sent regular mail, or over the web using PayPal. You can use this free service to pay for your renewal each summer.

The link to pay via PayPal is < www.sacredgroveacademy.org /Paypal.html>.

### **Transcripts Policy**

You may prepare your own transcript using the blank forms provided on our website. However, if you'd like Sacred Grove Academy to prepare an official transcript for you, with the director's signature, there is a \$25 transcript fee. You will need to fill out the Transcript Request Form (available on our website), and send it in with your check or money order (or pay via PayPal). If you'd like the records faxed, there is a \$5 fax fee, and there is also a \$15 rush fee for faster than two-week service (fax fee is extra).

The parent/teacher must supply the subjects and grades for the student, using the Transcript Request Form. Sacred Grove does not know what your child studied nor what his/her grades were. Parents must turn in attendance forms BEFORE an official transcript will be made. If the student has not turned in an attendance form, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified. Official transcripts will not be made for non-graduating students withdrawing before the end of the school year. If a student withdraws during the school year to transfer to another school, parents will need to negotiate admission to another school on that school's terms, without a transcript from Sacred Grove Academy. Official transcripts will not be made for partial years of less than three months. For any partial year of the student's enrollment, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified. Official transcripts can only be made for the period of time your child was enrolled with Sacred Grove. We can not create transcripts for any school years, full or partial, prior to or after your child's enrollment in Sacred Grove. All fees must be paid before a transcript is sent to the parent, school, or college. All transcripts will be mailed, unless a fax is requested and the extra fee (\$5) paid.

#### Withdrawal Policies:

All enrollments end on July 1. If you do not re-enroll by August 1, you will be considered withdrawn, but may re-enroll at any point in the future, as long as all other policies have been adhered to. After August 1, an official letter to your local school superintendent will be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy (as required by state law).

You can also officially withdraw from Sacred Grove at any time during the school year. \*\*No refunds will be given at any time.\*\* Families withdraw for various reasons, including sending their children back to public school, or moving out-of-state. To officially withdraw during the school year, just send a notice to Sacred Grove by mail or by email, stating that you are withdrawing. An official letter to your local school superintendent will then be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy.

### Removals & Improper Withdrawals:

NOTE: After \*any\* official or improper withdrawal or removal, an official letter to your local school superintendent will be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy, and we will send a letter to your last known address stating the same. If you are not enrolled anywhere else, you will be subject to truancy laws.

You will be removed from enrollment with Sacred Grove if:

- You do not send your child's previous years' attendance forms in by August 1;
- If you write a worthless check, and restitution is not made within 30 days (civil charges may apply); or if any other fees are in arrears and are not paid within 30 days.

In the above cases, until your fees or forms are mailed in to us, no records or information will be

released about your child to you or to subsequent schools that may request such, nor will we provide diplomas, transcripts, letters giving date of withdrawal for purposes of GED, driver's license, or other reason, or any other information requested about that child. Furthermore, if attendance forms are not received within 12 months of your withdrawal (for example, 2015-2016 forms sent in by August 1, 2017), all of the above will apply, and no one in your family will be allowed to enroll or re- enroll in Sacred Grove Academy at any point in the future for any reason.

## You will be considered to be improperly withdrawn if:

- If your summer or winter newsletter is returned undeliverable because you have moved and not sent in a change of address, and we cannot then get in touch with you by phone or email; as we will have no way of knowing whether you are still in your original school district or even in the state (Note: if your newsletter comes back, we make a reasonable attempt to contact you before removing you from the rolls);
- We discover that you have enrolled your child in a different school when that school sends us a request for your child's records, and you have not officially withdrawn (NOTE: We will NOT send any information without receiving an official withdrawal from you!)

In the above cases, no one in your family will be allowed to enroll or re-enroll at any point in the future for any reason, and no records or information will be released to you or to subsequent schools that may request such, nor will we provide diplomas, transcripts, letters giving date of withdrawal for purposes of GED, driver's license, or other reason, or any other information requested, AT ALL for that child.

## Build Your Own Stonehenge Activity

By Dennis Randall

http://fun.familyeducation.com/outdoor-games/ancient-world/35028.html

Age: 8 and up Time: 1 to 2 hours Type of Activity: Science

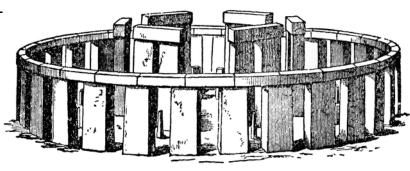
#### **Materials Needed:**

- Center stake for reference point
- 50 feet of rope
- 20 to 30 marker stones or small stakes
- A compass

Here's a unique way to celebrate the solstice: Build your own Stonehenge. As you might know, Stonehenge is one of the oldest (4,000+ years) and best known astronomical calendar sites in the world. You can recreate it without going through the bother of lugging 25 to 50 ton slabs of rock around the neighborhood. All you'll need is a bit of ambition, and a location offering an unobstructed view of the eastern or western horizon. Locations offering a 360° horizon view are ideal (and rare).

#### What to Do

The first thing you'll need to do is create a viewing circle. Anchor a reference stake at the center point of the circle and place your compass on top of it. Find due north and place a marker at 50 feet north of the center. Repeat the process for east, west and south. (The rope is used as a guide to insure that all markers are equidistant from the center stake.) Again, using the rope as a guide, place a small marker stone every few feet around the perimeter of your circle. The center of the circle



now becomes your fixed reference point and the westward facing perimeter is where you'll be placing the sunset markers.

The calendar can be started at any time, but the solstice sunsets are the most fun. Mark the point of sunset with a pole, stake or other (not easily moved) marker. Tag the marker with the date of sunset.

Repeat the process every seven days or so. Over the weeks and months you'll note that the sun appears to "walk" faster at some times of the year than others. When you've finished (in a year's time) you'll have a working astronomical calendar and an excuse to invite friends and classmates over to the house to check the date.

#### **Non-Construction Alternatives**

**Photo-op:** Take a snapshot of the western skyline and tape it to the wall by a western facing window. With a felt tip marker draw an arrow on the photo corresponding to the point of sunset and note the date. Repeat the process.

Window marks: (This takes two people.) Standing at the same point in the room of a western facing window, have the other person make a small mark on the glass where the sun sets. Note the date and repeat the process on a weekly basis.

#### **How it Works**

The principle behind an astronomical calendar is simple. The apparent rising and setting horizon point of the sun changes with each passing day.

The different points correspond to different days of the year.

At minimum, an astronomical calendar only requires a fixed reference point for viewing and another fixed reference point marking the position of the rising and/or setting sun on the horizon.

In the Northern Hemisphere, if you were to watch a time-lapse movie of a year's worth of sunsets, you would notice that the sun appears to "walk" back and forth across the western horizon. The winter solstice marks the southern limit of the sun's journey and the summer solstice is the northern boundary. Closer examination would reveal that, with the exception of the two solstice extremes, every other point on the horizon is crossed twice during the course of the year. Once on the southern march and again on the northern return.

At the time of the winter and summer solstices, (around December 22 and June 22) the sun is directly overhead at either the Tropic of Cancer (summer) or the Tropic of Capricorn (winter). In the Northern Hemisphere these dates mark the beginnings of summer and winter and the days of the longest and shortest hours of daylight.

### Five Home Schooling Tips for Teens By April

http://www.makeandtakes.com/5-home-schooling-tips-for-teens

April, from Sweet Life in the Valley, shares some of her favorite "Sweet" things on her blog. As well as being a photographer, she's also a Mom of 3 and home schools her tweens! Today she's guest posting with 5 great tips to home schooling older kids.

With home school you have the option to tailor your child's education to their needs. There is a lot of information available to parents who home school their younger children, but when kids reach the tween/teen years, blog posts, literature and information becomes a bit hard to find. I am a home schooling parent of three tween/teens. I have a few tips for parents who are or are thinking about homeschooling an older child.

1 – Keep your kids engaged with hands on activities. Science, Home Economics, History, Music, Art and more can all be very interactive and fun. Making cookies can incorporate measurements, home economics skills and even cultural education. Now that they are older you can help them with more advanced recipes.

Remember we all love to be actively engaged in a project at any age.

2 – Keep them on track with planning. Allow them to create a schedule and goals. Go with them to pick out a planner or make one. Have them create a schedule that fits their

educational needs as well as their wants. They will learn life skills as well as feel more in control therefore will own their work and take pride in it.

3 – Celebrate their successes. Just because you home school doesn't mean you can't have a Jr High graduation party, end of year party or other school centered party. Create awards for achieving a certain level in their work. Think of how you can celebrate success at every level.

4 – Make it social. These are the social years. Interacting and creating relationships with others helps them prepare for

adult relationships. Being social can take place at church actives, or extra curricular events like soccer, dance, boy scouts. Pretty much anywhere else where they spend time with kids their age is a



great social environment. Being social can also include people older and younger than them. Being active in your community creates many opportunities for social interactions.

5 – For some things you have to do the book work. Algebra is one of those things. Our favorite books for Algebra is the Key to Work books. They are simple and thoroughly explain each step of Algebra. These two things keep frustration at bay which means good learning experiences. Look for books that make it simple. Best wishes to each of you as you strive to create a world of active learning for your tween-teens. Thanks, April. My oldest is 6, so these are some great tips for when he does get to those teen years.



# How to Keep Your Kids Included in Pagan Practice

# By Patti Wigington Paganism/Wicca Expert

http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/familyandparenting/a/PaganKidsPractice.htm

As the modern Pagan movement progresses and evolves, the Pagan community has grown to encompass people of all age levels. Those who discovered Paganism as teens or college students two or three decades ago are now raising their own children, and so the demographic within the Pagan community is constantly changing. It's not uncommon at all to meet families in which one or both parents are Pagans or Wiccans, and they may have kids who follow a variety of religious paths.

One of the questions that arises, though, is that of how to include children in Pagan practice. After all, it's not as though there's a Pagan version of Sunday school for us to send our kids off to. Don't worry, though -there are a number of different ways you can include your kids in your Pagan beliefs, and get them involved. Although the type of activity you do with them may vary based upon age levels, you can always find some way to incorporate Pagan values and beliefs into your kids' lives.

Activity: Do a hands-on nature project. Take a hike in the woods, gather found objects like pinecones and fallen twigs. Bring them home and put them together in a glass vase or some other centerpiece.

Teaching moment: Talk about the cycles of the season, and how all of nature is tied together. Depending on the time

of year, discuss the phases of life, death, and rebirth in the natural world.

**Activity:** Make a wand. Even a small child can decorate a stick with glitter.

**Teaching moment:** Use this opportunity to help your child learn about directing energy. Help him or her visualize energy as something they can control using the wand to direct it.

Activity: Create a felt board. Cut out shapes of Pagan symbols, gods and goddesses of your tradition, or magical tools out of scraps of craft felt, and help your child place them on the board.

#### **Teaching moment:**

Encourage imagination -- your child can use the felt board and pieces to illustrate a story of her own about the deities, magic, or the world in general.

Activity: Let your kids have an altar. Allow your child to create an altar space of his own, with the gods and goddesses of your family's tradition. If you don't follow a specific path, let him put things on their altar such as found items, natural goodies, and items of comfort.

Teaching moment: Letting your child have his own altar shows them that their needs are valued as much as anyone else's in the family. It gives them a space that is private and sacred of their very own.

Activity: School-age children can often participate in rituals, if they have a decent attention span. You know your child better than anyone, and if you think she is capable of taking a ritual role, then encourage that.

Teaching moment: This helps your child develop a feel for ritual procedure, as well as proper behavior in a ritual setting. Equally important, it lets her know that her participation in family activities is valued.

Activity: Encourage your child to learn about the deities of your family's tradition. There are countless books about the mythology and legends of the Greeks, the Celts, the Romans, the Egyptians, and others. Keep a good library of Pagan-friendly books on hand, and spend some time reading together as well.

Teaching moment: You're never too young to do a little research. Giving kids the tools to read and grow can't hurt at all, and it allows them to take some ownership of their spiritual education.

Activity: If your teen is up to the task, ask him to write a ritual of his own, with only as much help as he needs. Teenagers are surprisingly inventive, and can come up with some amazing ideas. Pick a Sabbat or other event, and have your teen create a ceremony that the whole family can participate in.

**Teaching moment:** Not only does this encourage creative

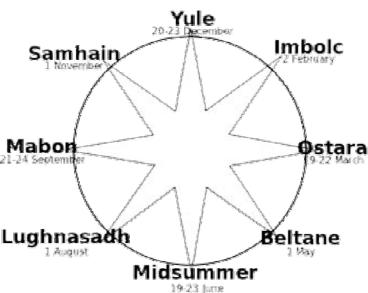
thinking, it helps develop leadership skills. It's never too soon to get a chance at being in charge.

Activity: Kids of any age can get involved with Sabbat-themed craft ideas. Try some of our different Sabbat crafts to celebrate the ever-changing Wheel of the Year, and use these to decorate your home and altar.

**Teaching moment:** By doing hands-on projects related to the

various Sabbats, kids can get a better feel for what the Pagan celebration s really mean. Depending on your tradition, incorporate craft projects into stories. legends,

and mythology.



Finally, remember that the best way to set a good example of Pagan practice for your kids is to show them yourself. If you want to stress values such as being kind to others, respecting the earth, and living a magical life each day, then do so. Your kids will see your behavior and emulate it themselves.

# Recommended Reading for Pagan Parents

Madden, Kristin: Pagan Parenting. Madden's book focuses looks at the development of kids from birth onward. She includes tips on how to encourage your children's psychic and Serith, Ceisiwr: *The Pagan Family*. Serith looks at raising a family in non-mainstream religions, and offers dozens of excellent suggestions on how to incorporate Pagan beliefs into day-to-day living. This book is presently out of print, but it pops up a lot on

magickal abilities, as well as

teaching them rituals and

meditation skills.

living. This book is presently out print, but it pops up a lot on used-book lists, so keep an eye out for it.

Starhawk: Circle Round - Raising Children in Goddess Traditions. Starhawk and fellow authors Anne Hill and Diane Baker include numerous ideas for each Sabbat, life milestones, and craft and recipe ideas. This book offers some excellent suggestions for families trying to instill Pagan beliefs into their children.

Be sure to read our extensive list of Pagan-friendly Books for Kids (http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/familyandparenting/a/Kids\_Book\_L ist.htm), and Activities for Pagan Kids

(http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/familyandparenting/tp/Kids\_Activities-.htm)!

### REMINDERS

Please do not mail any school work to our office!
Also, please do not have your former school(s) mail any previous school records to us. We do not need any of these items. You, the parent, are the teacher, and as such, are fully responsible for grading, and keeping and maintaining school work and records.

#### What We Do NOT Provide:

- Curriculum (books, etc.)
- Teachers to come to your home
- Teachers at our office to check work or give grades
- An accredited school or program (no church cover school in Alabama is accredited)

## Join our Sacred Grove Facebook group!

https://www.facebook.com/ groups/ 190035067717206/



### Attendance Form - Version A

School Year:	<del>-</del>
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Student's Name: Grade Just Completed:											
Parent's Name: Do you intend to re-enroll for the upcoming school year?											
'arent's	Email:				Do you check this email regularly?						
Address:											
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
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31	31		31		31	31		31		31	

Circle days designated as educational.

#### Attendance Record - Version B

Student's	Name:		_							
Grade Just Cor	npleted:	School Year:								
Parent's Nam	e:									
Parent's Email:										
Do you check this email regularly?										
Address:										
		ng school year?								
	<b>Month Total</b>	Year Total								
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August										
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December										
January	<del></del>									
February										
March April										
May										
June										

Sacred Grove Academy Linda Kerr, Director PO Box 505 Auburn, AL 36831-0505

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Email: sacredgroveacademy@gmail.com

Website: www.sacredgroveacademy.org

# Have You Moved? If so, have you notified us?

If you move to a new residence within the state of Alabama, and you move into a different public school district, you MUST send in a new Enrollment Form for the new school district, immediately (don't wait for re-enrollment time!). You do not have to inform the previous school district that you have moved, but you do need to let the new one know that you are enrolled in a church school; otherwise you will be subject to truancy laws.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED