

## Broad Outline for Ritual Studies and Cosmology weekends

### Ritual Studies Weekend – Summary

Ritual Studies is more than knowing what the Order of Ritual is: it is about understanding how to do ritual and how to be a part of the rites that occur, while also building a toolkit designed to enhance the work we already do and provide building blocks for further experimentation and study.

#### Goals

Students will have an understanding of the types of ritual we may perform, as well as develop the tools (both physical and mental) to do full rituals on their own and within a group.

#### Workshops

##### *Modes of Ritual*

What types of ritual are there, and what are their hallmarks? We will discuss ritual, liturgy, ceremony, decorum, celebration, and magic, delving into their relative voices and expectations.

##### *Core Order Tutorial*

The steps of the ADF Core Order of Ritual for High Days explained, and described in detail.

##### *The Tools of Our Druidry*

Students will build and bless the tools they can use in their personal spaces or in Grove rituals. A focus will be on tools that have value to the beginning student, with some work on tools for Initiate work.

##### *Fire Lighting, Fire Tending*

The ritual fire is the center of ADF ritual. This workshop discusses how to lay, light, and tend a fire, as well as how to respect it. The focus on this course is heavily on fires in ritual, rather than campfires, bonfires, and cooking fires, though we will touch on each of these as well.

##### *Divination Set Crafting*

With an attention to detail and guidance from individuals who have worked with these tools for some time, each student will create and bless their own set of working divination tools, and be given simple guidance on how to use them.

##### *Creating Personal Devotional Schedules*

The process of building a personal devotional schedule is vital to living the flame of Our Druidry.

##### *Magical Work in the Core Order*

Building magical workings for use within the Core Order of Ritual.

##### *Training the Voice*

Focusing on how we speak in ritual, ways we address the Kindreds and each other, and how we

##### *Apple Branch Trance*

Working the trancework that forms the basis for ADF's Initiatory work

##### *Ritual Configurations and Using Space*

Examination of three kinds of ritual space

## Cosmology Weekend – Summary

Cosmology is the reasoning behind our actions in ritual, the orientation of ourselves to our worldview. It covers the concepts of creation, sacrifice, and mythological motifs and themes that are important to our ritual work.

### Goals

We seek to build an understanding regarding the symbols used in our rituals, as well as provide a connection between the myths and rites that Our Druidry celebrates and builds on.

### Workshops

#### *Cosmogony and Theogony*

An overview of the generation of the cosmos and the generation of the gods, and how these relate to what we do in ritual. Also covered: the divisions of the cosmos and how those divisions are reflected in our ritual space.

#### *Exemplification and the Sacred Center*

The Fire, Well, and Tree stand at the center of our ritual space, but they also stand at the center of the cosmos. What is the connection between our well, fire, and tree and their cosmic counterparts?

#### *Gatekeepers*

The Gatekeeper is an essential part of ADF Druidry, but how does the Gatekeeper figure into myth and ritual? What is their role in our liturgy, and who is an ideal Gatekeeper?

#### *From Whence do the Waters Flow?*

There are many of sacred waters available that we could be calling for: what are the Waters we ask for? Where do they come from? Why do we have rights to them? What blessings do they bring to us?

#### *I Approach Pure of Heart and Body: Purification in ADF Ritual*

Purity and danger are two sides of the same coin: what does it mean to be purified, and what are common ways to purify yourself before and during ritual? How do we avoid the danger associated with notions of impurity?

#### *\*Ghosti – The Guest-Host Relationship*

How does \*ghosti play out in both myth and ritual? What are its mythic precedents, and what does it mean to show \*ghosti in ritual?

#### *Sacrifice and Blessing*

What is the relationship between sacrifice and blessing? What, truly, is the "sacrifice" we are doing? When is it appropriate to ask for the acceptance of "sacrifice" versus "offering?"

#### *Children of Earth and Starry Heaven: The Relationship of Earth and Sky in ADF Ritual*

What is the relationship between the Earth Mother and the Sky Father? How do these two entities play a part in our rituals, and what do they mean to us directly?

#### *Caring for the Ritual Fire*

How should we treat, feed, and care for a ritual fire? Why are these things important, and what is the fire in our rituals?