

Sacred Grove Academy

A Pagan Cover School Ministry of Sacred Grove Church

Winter 2016-2017

**Sacred Grove Academy
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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



Proof of Enrollment

When you first enrolled, you were mailed a copy of your Church School Enrollment Form (CSEF), and emailed (or mailed) a Certificate of Enrollment. Either of these should suffice for proof of enrollment. Keep in mind that these, along with your ID card, are sent out only ONCE, when you first enroll—I do not send out fresh ones each school year. So please hang on to these forms! A copy of your original CSEF is \$10.

Likewise for the school boards—as per Alabama law, they are mailed the enrollment form the first time you enroll, and they don't get new ones each year. Also, these forms are sent to the superintendent's office, and not to the individual schools or to truant officers. So if you ever get a call from a teacher, principal, or truant officer demanding proof of enrollment, in addition to asking them to call me for verification, you can tell them that the original CSEF is on file in the superintendent's office.



Learners' Permits/Drivers' Licenses

Is your teenager ready to drive? There are different ways to prove a student is enrolled in order to qualify for a license; the simplest is probably the Enrollment/Exclusion Form. Go to our website, and click on Forms (<http://www.sacredgroveacademy.org/forms.shtml>). Scroll down about halfway until you see "Form for Learners' or Drivers' Permit." Click on the link, print the form, fill out Section I, mail to me (or scan and email it). I will fill out my part and sign it, and then will mail it back to you.



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 2016-2017 will be due at the end of the school year, and must be received by August 1, 2017. 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.

ON-LINE: 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 re-enrolling is AUGUST 1. All enrollments will officially end on July 1; however, you can re-enroll for the 2017-2018 school year beginning anytime after June 1. The tuition is \$75 for the first child, and \$25 for each child thereafter. In order to re-enroll, you must send the tuition, and your previous years' attendance forms. You do not have to fill out a new Church School Enrollment Form, unless you have recently moved to a new school district.

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, 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, and fill out both the Church School Enrollment Form 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, 2016-2016 forms sent in by August 1, 2018), 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.

Homemade Snow Globe

By Jane Lake

<http://www.allfreecrafts.com/recycling/household/homemade-snow-globe/>

My grandmother kept a row of snow globes on a high shelf in her drawing room. When we went to visit, I'd stare at her collection, longing to shake each of the glass globes and watch the snow falling on the miniature scenes inside. Nan would take each one down with great care and reverence, polishing each globe with her apron before letting me shake it. I've loved snow globes ever since.

This year, I made a Christmas snow globe of my own. I chose a small church scene for inside, and experimented with glitter to get the right falling-snow effect. You can reuse all sorts of glass jars for this craft, from baby food jars to pickle jars. This one was a small jam jar, providing a wide enough base for my chosen ornament.

Snow Globe Craft Supplies:

- glass jar with tight fitting lid
- distilled water, or boil some water and use when cool
- glycerin (helps slow the falling snow; buy in most drug stores and some craft stores)
- white or silver glitter, or fake snow crystals (avoid ultra-fine glitters; they float rather than fall!)
- clear silicone sealant (aquarium sealant is great)
- small waterproof ornament or figurine
- plastic jar lid, to fit inside the jar as a base to elevate the ornament (or try florists



- clay)
- another plastic jar lid, or wooden circle, a bit larger than your jar lid, for a stand (optional)
- acrylic paint for the ornament
- coiled Christmas rope or ribbon
- craft glue to attach the decorative rope
- little snow globe

Craft Instructions:

Check to make sure your ornament will fit inside your jar.

You will likely find that the ornament needs to be elevated somewhat to be seen nicely inside the globe. Use a small plastic bottle lid to create a base; the white plastic lid that I used to do this is visible in the photo, showing as a white area just below the ornament.

Make a trial run. Invert your globe jar and remove the glass part, leaving only the lid. Place the plastic base in the center of the lid, then position the ornament on top of this. Place jar over the ornament and check the fit. If the ornament is high enough to view clearly, use

silicone or aquarium sealant to glue the ornament firmly to its plastic base, then glue the base lid to the center of the inverted globe lid. Allow to set, following sealant manufacturer recommendations.

Use another small jar to test the snow fall. Fill the test jar with distilled water, or cool, boiled water, then add a scant teaspoon of glitter. Put the lid on and shake

to see if you like the effect. If the snow is too sparse, add a little more glitter. Add a few drops of glycerin and test it again. The glycerin should slow the rate of the snow fall quite nicely.

I have read that you can use mineral oil instead of water and glycerin, but I haven't tried it.

Working over a sink, pour water and glitter into the globe jar, filling to the top. Invert the ornament assembly into the water and screw lid into place. Some water will spill over the top of the jar. Wipe the jar dry and shake it up! I enjoyed this part the most, because the little church looked so pretty in the midst of a glittery snow storm.

If desired, use sealant to glue the jar to a wooden base or another plastic lid for extra stability. I did use a wooden base for my snow globe, but didn't glue the two together—this way, I can just pick up the jar to shake it.

Paint base and jar lid in your colors. I used terra cotta brown.

Once paint is dry, glue on any added embellishments such as a coiled Christmas rope or Christmas lace.

10 Earth Day Challenges for Your Homeschool

<http://ihomeschoolnetwork.com/earth-day-challenges/>

Earth Day is a fantastic way to include important reminders in your homeschool about taking care of our environment. All subject areas can be addressed as you look at what Earth Day is and how to celebrate it. Along with educational lessons, you can spread the vital message to your children about taking steps to help the world we live in.

Earth Day is April 22. How will you recognize this national holiday? Here are some ideas that you may want to include in your homeschool Earthy Day celebration.

10 Earth Day Challenges For Your Homeschool

1. Learn more about Earth Day: Check out Earth Day to find out more about the history of this special day:
<<http://www.earthday.org/about/the-history-of-earth-day/>>

2. Write an Earth Day Poem: Work with your kids to create poems dedicated to Earth Day. Need some inspiration? Read these poems together and discuss their major themes.

Poems About Earth and the Environment:
<www.familyfriendpoems.com/poems/nature/earth/>

Famous Earth Poems:
<www.poetrysoup.com/famous/poems/earth>

3. Create Earth Day Slogans or Posters: Use phrases like "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle". Brainstorm with your kids about different slogans or commercials that they could create to teach about Earth Day. Make Earth Day posters with these slogans and

hang around your home, neighborhood, and town (with permission and remember to clean up!).

4. Read Earth Day books: One of our favorite Earth Day books is Earth Day-Hooray! by Stuart J. Murphy. The book's message of cleaning up our local areas and recycling aluminum cans is both educational and inspirational. Another iconic book about saving the Earth is The Lorax by Dr. Seuss. My boys love this story and movie!

5. Write or listen to an Earth Day song: Encourage your kids to write and sing their own songs about Earth Day. Listen to songs about the Earth, environment, and nature, like on *Earth Day: Music For Saving The Planet* or *Earth Day Songs*.

6. Plant a tree: Connect with an organization like Arbor Day Foundation to find out how you can help take care of trees in your area. If you have a yard and have room, consider planting a tree or two. Consider contacting your local government and companies to see if they have programs dedicated to preserving and planting trees.

7. Start a garden: Work with your kids to plan a garden. Talk about your climate and soil. Determine if you have an outdoor area to plant in or if you would rather start a garden indoors. Discuss what type of garden you will start: flower, fruit, vegetable, or butterfly? Research what type of plants thrive in your area and select accordingly.

8. Make Earth Day crafts: Pick an Earth Day craft or two to create. Younger children may

enjoy using blue and green playdough or clay to create their own mini-Earths. A simple yet fun craft is using white coffee filters, blue and green markers, and a spray bottle full of water. Allow your kids to scribble on the filter and lightly mist with water. Watch the colors spread and smiles light up! For more Earth Day craft ideas, follow my Pinterest board dedicated to Earth Day: Follow busyboysbrigade's board Earth Day on Pinterest.

9. Have fun with Earth Day activities: Add some games with Earth Day themes! Create DIY Earth Day MadLibs. Play BrainBox for Kids-Nature Card Game. Play "Save the Earth," a balloon volleyball type of game with the objective of keeping the "Earth" in the air. Blow up green and blue balloons. Use markers to add continents and oceans (optional).

10. Clean up your neighborhood/park/special area: Take a walk around your neighborhood or local park. Wear protective gloves and bring bags for garbage. Designate specific bags for recyclables and dispose of all appropriately.

Take advantage of this opportunity to teach your children the valuable lesson of respecting our world. What are your favorite resources and ways to incorporate Earth Day into your homeschool?

Recycling Plastics 101

By Paige Hudson

<http://elementalblogging.com/homeschool-science-corner-recycling-plastics/>

Recycling is the act of reusing or re-purposing materials once considered to be waste.

We can recycle all kinds of items, such as batteries, glass, metal, paper, and plastics.

In today's homeschool science corner, I want to share with you the basics about recycling plastics.

Why Recycle Plastics?

One of the most common materials to recycle is plastic. Many items, such as soda bottles, medicine bottles, baggies, PVC pipe, and Styrofoam containers, are made from this material.

It is prized for its durability and strength, but these strengths also mean that most plastics are not biodegradable. In other words, when plastics are buried in a landfill, they won't break down in same way that paper and other organic material would.

So, it makes sense for us to try to re-purpose and reuse our plastic materials.



What Happens When You Recycle Plastics?

Plastics are made from a variety of raw resin materials. These different types of resins don't mix well together, so the first step in recycling is to sort the various types of plastic products into categories.

Once the items are sorted some plastics, such as bottles, are shredded. These shredded bits then undergo a process of extrusion to form plastic pellets that can be reused as raw materials in the formation of new plastic products.

Other plastics can undergo chemical processes that turn them into a light crude oil or into a carbon source that is used in the recycling of steel.

What Types of Plastics Can You Recycle?

The government has developed a coding system, called the SPI Resin ID Code, to identify the different types of plastics. The following chart shows how this coding system works:*

SPI Resin ID Code	Type of Resin	Examples	Recyclable
1	PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)	soda & water bottles, medicine containers	Widely Accepted
2	HDPE (High-density Polyethylene)	Heavy plastic contains, like those for oil and detergent	Widely Accepted
3	Vinyl	Plastic pipes, shower curtains, medical tubing	Accepted at Some Centers
4	LDPE (Low-density Polyethylene)	Wrapping films, grocery bags, plastic baggies	Accepted at Some Centers
5	PP (Polypropylene)	Microwaveable plastic containers, like Tupperware	Accepted at Some Centers
6	PS (Polystyrene)	Disposable utensils, coffee cups, meat trays, packing peanuts	Widely Accepted
7	Other (Mixed Plastics)	Compostable plastics often labeled as PLA containers	Rarely Accepted

*See this article on About.com for more information on the SPI Resin coding system:
<<http://environment.about.com/od/earthtalkcolumns/a/recycleplastics.htm>>

So products like plastic bottles and the Styrofoam used in packaging can generally be easily recycled. For other items, like plastic bags and shower curtains, you will need to check with your local recycling center first.

Recycling Vocabulary

Here are a few vocabulary words to go over as you study recycling plastics.

- Recycling — The act of reusing or re-purposing materials once considered to be waste.
- Biodegradable — Capable of being broken down by natural means, such as through bacteria or by the sun.
- Raw materials — The basic materials used to make a product.
- Product — A substance that is made for use and/or sale.

Books to Learn about Recycling

The following books would be good to read for a mini-recycling unit.

- Recycle!: A Handbook for Kids by Gail Gibbons
- Michael Recycle by Ellie Bethel and Alexandra Colombo
- The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle: A Story About Recycling by Allison Inches



Activities for Recycling

Visit our Recycled Projects Pinterest board for activities and crafts that involve recycling.

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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 cover school in Alabama is accredited)

Join our Sacred Grove Facebook group!

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



Attendance Form - Version A

School Year: _____ - _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade Just Completed: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Do you intend to re-enroll for the upcoming school year? _____

Parent'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
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
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30	30	30	30	30	30	30		30	30	30	30
31	31		31		31	31		31		31	

MONTHLY TOTAL

Attendance Record - Version B

Student's Name: _____

Grade Just Completed: _____ **School Year:** _____ - _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Email: _____

Do you check this email regularly? _____

Address: _____

Do you intend to re-enroll for the upcoming school year? _____

	Month Total	Year Total
July	_____	_____
August	_____	_____
September	_____	_____
October	_____	_____
November	_____	_____
December	_____	_____
January	_____	_____
February	_____	_____
March	_____	_____
April	_____	_____
May	_____	_____
June	_____	_____

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

