

# *Sacred Grove Academy*

*A Pagan Cover School Ministry of Sacred Grove Church*

**Summer 2017**

**Sacred Grove Academy  
P.O. Box 505  
Auburn, AL 36831-0505**

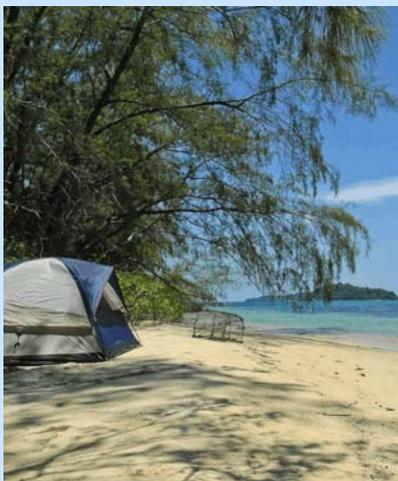
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*Sacred Grove Academy is a church school operated under legal code 16-28-1, 16-28-3, 16-28-7, and 16-46-3 (church school law) of the State of Alabama*



## **Pagan Homeschooling**

**by Terry Hurley**

*From:  
[http://home-school.lovetoknow.com/Pagan\\_Homeschooling](http://home-school.lovetoknow.com/Pagan_Homeschooling)*

Regardless of their chosen spiritual path, Pagan home-schooling families share common bonds in their love for nature, their strong commitment to living harmoniously with the earth & providing their children with an education that follows their specific spiritual beliefs.

### **Homeschooling & the Many Paths of Paganism**

For Pagans, teaching their children at home often comes with a unique set of problems. Because Paganism includes such a large & diverse group of people of different beliefs & religions, homeschooling families often have difficulty finding an appropriate curriculum or homeschool support group. In actuality, there are hundreds of Pagan religions. Several of the more well known ones include: Native American religions, Shamanism, Wicca, Neo-Paganism, Celtic, Buddhism, Hinduism, Druidism, Taoism, secularism, Shintoism, & Eclectic Paganism.

Since a majority of homeschool programs & material are Christian based, the majority of Pagan families are limited in their choices. There are, however, some Pagans that do follow certain Christian beliefs & those that do not follow any religion at all.

There are Pagan parents that choose not to incorporate any religious education into their homeschooling. These parents believe children should make up their own mind concerning their religious choice when they are older. Other Pagan parents teach their children their religious beliefs within their homeschool curriculum.

### **Putting Together Your Own Homeschooling Pagan Curricula**

Many Pagan parents find them-

selves putting together their own curriculum for their children. The Internet provides many wonderful resources that are helpful in creating a plan of study.

One of the most important things to remember when choosing instructional material is to think creatively. Once you let yourself be creative in your thoughts, you will find many ways to incorporate Paganism into your curriculum. If the subject is science, include lessons on the Druids & their understanding of astronomy, or read about Native Americans in history.

### **Pagan Homeschooling Resources**

Author Kristin Madden's book, [Pagan Homeschooling](#), is an excellent resource for Pagan homeschooling families. Addressing the many needs of parents that homeschool, the book includes: resources, exercises, checklists, questionnaires, experiments, arts, crafts, rituals, & spells.

Homeschool.com (<https://www.homeschool.com/forum/>) provides a list of other faith-based homeschooling resources. The links are not separated by a specific Pagan path.

Homeschooling email lists & support groups for Pagans include: Pagan Freedom Schoolers <<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/paganfreedomchoolers/info>> is for parents that homeschool regardless of the style of schooling. Styles range from unschooling to school at home.

A list of Pagan online homeschool & support groups, associations & educational networks, resources & newsletters from a2z Homeschool ([http://a2zhomeschooling.com/religion/pagan\\_homeschooling/](http://a2zhomeschooling.com/religion/pagan_homeschooling/)).

With the many resources & online support groups for Pagan homeschooling families, even solitary pagans should not feel alone in their homeschooling endeavors.

## **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 are due now, and must 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.

EASY! Submit your attendance through our website! <[www.sacredgroveacademy.org/forms/Attendance/form.html](http://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 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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](http://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.

# Kids' Activities for Lughnasadh/Lammas/Freyfaxi

By tressabelle

Posted on July 14, 2013  
<https://tressabelle.wordpress.com/2013/07/14/kids-activities-for-lughnasadh-lammas-freyfaxi/>

Here are some ideas and resources for celebrating Lughnasadh/Lammas/Freyfaxi with children. These three early- to mid- August holidays overlap and share some common themes; the grain (and berry) harvest, fertility of the land, and sporting events and fairs that include horse races.

I disagree with the notion that this was a time of honoring the waning sun. I think that idea comes from the Victorian-era notion that Lúgh is a sun god. The Celtic god Lúgh is most likely a lightning god; his name means “flashing light” and his epithet lonnbeimnech means “fierce striker”. In County Mayo thunderstorms were referred to as battles between Lúgh and Balor. Balor’s evil eye represents the scorching late-summer sun. Lúgh’s defeat of Balor represents August storms defeating the crop-threatening summer heat and drought. Lightning strikes help fertilize the soil with nitrogen, and of course, the rain that comes along with the thunder and lightning is essential for a good harvest.

Many of the (otherwise somewhat useful) books and stories suggested below have a few lines or words in them describing Lúgh as a sun god. Unfortunately, this is true of many, if not most, children’s mythology books. When I find some that are more accurate, I will happily (joyfully!) update this

list. So, as with anything, read to yourself before reading aloud to your kids to correct historical mistakes and inaccuracies.



## Explanation & Information

The Ancient Celtic Festivals and How We Celebrate Them Today (page 24) by Clare Walker Leslie and Frank E. Gerace (for ages 9-12). This book isn’t 100% accurate, but has a lot of good information and is nicely illustrated.

## Stories

The Tale of John Barleycorn by Mary Azarian (for ages 9-12).  
“The Coming of Lugh” from Celtic Wonder Tales by Ella Young (for ages 9-12): available to read online at sacred texts, “Moytura” from The Names Upon the Harp, Irish Myth and Legend by Marie Heaney (ages 9 and up), or “The Second Battle of Moytura” from Druids, Gods & Heroes from Celtic Mythology by Anne Ross (for ages 11 and up).

Stories of Llew from Tales from the Mabinogion by Gwyn Thomas (for ages 9-12).

“Sif’s Golden Hair” from D’Aulaires’ Book of Norse Myths by Ingrid & Edgar Parin d’Aulaire (for ages 5 and up).

“How Thor got his Hammer” from Gods & Heroes from Viking Mythology by Brian Branston or The Adventures of Thor the Thunder God by Lise Lunge-Larsen (for ages 9 and up).

“Saving Freyfaxi” by Christy Lenzi, a four-part story starting in the July/August 2010 issue of Cricket magazine. The story is about a Viking girl who is put in charge of a sacred horse, Freyfaxi, dedicated to the god Frey.

## Games

Games are of special significance for this holiday; the death of Lúgh’s foster-mother, Tailtiu, is commemorated by the Lughnasadh Games.

Traditional Gaelic sports include hurling, camogie, football, handball, road bowling, stick play, and wrestling.

More familiar games well suited to this holiday are horseshoes/ ring toss, footraces, tug-of-war, and sack races, etc. Idea for an indoor game: play the board game “Hi-ho Cherry-O” with real blueberries instead of the plastic cherries.

## Crafts/Activities

Go berry-picking.  
Visit a horse ranch. Horses are associated with both Lúgh, and with the Norse god Freyr.

**Continued on Page 6**

# Fall/Autumnal Equinox/Mabon Lesson Plan

By Bleu

From:

<http://the-little-red-homeschool.blogspot.com/2009/08/fall-equinox-autumnal-equinox-mabon.html>

Twice a year, between the solstices, the earth reaches a state of balance between day and night, signaling an official change of season. In the spring, we call this the vernal equinox. In September, it is known as the fall, or autumnal, equinox.

In many cultures, the fall equinox has been incorporated into other beliefs. This year, we're going to explore both the science and the celebration associated with this astronomical phenomenon.

First, the science. Thanks to National Geographic, I have little preparation to make. We'll start with this video

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/09/060922-equinox-video.html>, then take a peek at a celebration centered around an ancient Maya pyramid

<https://education.nationalgeographic.com/archive/xp/editions/activities/07/popup/autumn.html>. We'll try some of the suggested activities

<https://education.nationalgeographic.com/archive/xp/editions/activities/07/season.html> (note the lesson plan links in the left corner, too), and even do an eggs-periment

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/science/eggs-periments-balancing-egg/>.

Thank you, National Geographic. You're my kind of site.

Now, on to the celebration.

For centuries, people of every culture have set aside a time for expressing gratitude for the bounties the earth has provided. Celebrations, often including a feast, are known by many names, including Mabon, Harvest Home, Harvest End, and Thanksgiving. The fact that every culture does this is just one reason I enjoy celebrating the pagan holidays...it's a way to show my children that people around the world have always shared more similarities than one might think. Our modern-day religious holidays originated and were adapted from the old pagan celebrations.

I enjoy celebrating holidays, especially the pagan ones. We don't observe them from a place of worship, but we do acknowledge the cycle of life, celebrate nature, and learn about the mythologies, themes, and rituals associated with each one. In the

case of Mabon, the theme is balance.

Mabon, celebrated on the Autumnal equinox, is a time of balance: darkness and light, generosity and conservation, receiving and sharing, gathering the harvest and setting aside for the coming months.

Mabon is a season of celebration: many crops have been harvested, and there is abundance. We reap the fruits of our labor, not only in regard to food, but in life experience, as well. In keeping with the theme of balance, we reflect upon and celebrate that which is passing, and that which is ahead.

Colors associated with Mabon are the colors associated with autumn: green to red, gold, yellow, orange, and brown.

Our plans include:

## History and Mythology

We will read stories associated with harvest-time, including the Greek myth of Demeter and Persephone

<http://messagenetcommresearch.com/myths/bios/demeter.html>, and the British Isles myth of the Green Man

<http://www.mikeharding.co.uk/greenman/>.

## Altar/Display Table

We will decorate one of our tables with leaves, berries, acorns, fresh fruits and vegetables, seeds, and nuts.

## Decorations Around the House

Our home will be decorated with Indian corn, spice-scented candles, leaves and wreaths.

## Activities

Depending on the interests each child, any or all of these activities may take place:

- participate in food drive
- make scarecrow
- make Green Man masks
- make apple candles
- seed mosaics
- plant bulbs
- bonfire
- press leaves
- field trip to orchard, where we will pick apples and purchase produce

- talk about things we've done over the summer, make plans for winter
- finish up projects from summer, prepare house for winter (this is a good time to clear out items we no longer need/want)
- talk about ways to conserve resources: water, electricity; recycling
- prepare a feast, including: roasted chicken with sage, corn, squash, fresh berries, nuts, applesauce and applebutter, bread, fresh melon, grapes, baked apples (cored and filled with butter and cinnamon)

### Reading Materials

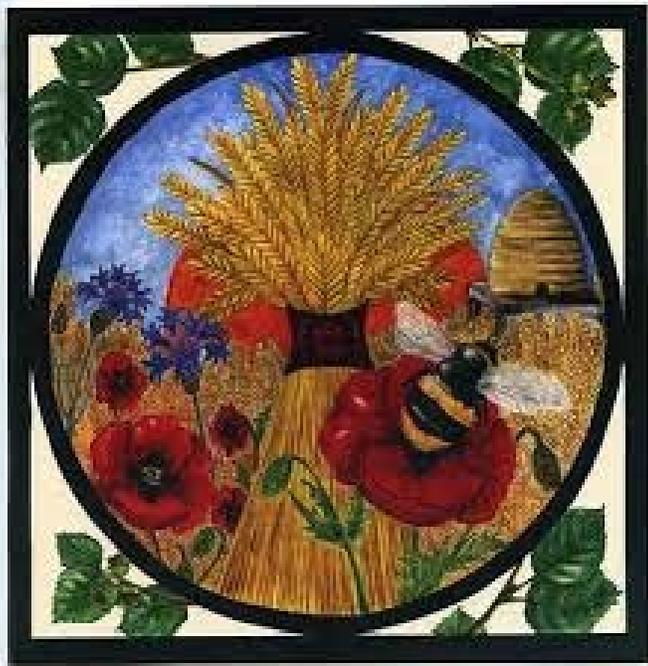
We Gather Together by Wendy Pfeffer for the younger two.

"The Story of Mabon, Son of Modron," retold by Starhawk, from the book Circle Round.

"Persephone and Demeter" from D'aulaire's Book of Greek Myths.

### Art Project

Using fresh leaves, the children will create their own versions of The Green Man.



### Kids' Activities, continued from page 4

Help a grown-up with bread-baking; practice kneading and shaping dough into harvest knots and other shapes.

Make deity coloring pages to decorate your altar; use an internet image search to find one you like, save it, and go to a photo editing website like ScrapColoring to convert your image.

Try wheat weaving. Braided wheat straw decorations are symbols of good luck and prosperity. They are part of the harvest celebrations of many cultures. They are often called "corn dollies," but this kind of corn dolly is not shaped like a person. (Also, corn dollies are not made with corn husks. In Europe, corn means a grain like wheat, barley, or rye.) For a simple first wheat weaving project, take three wheat stalks of equal length and soak the stems in warm water until they bend easily. Line them up beside each other. Starting at the wheat heads, braid the stalks all the way to the end, loop it around and tie to just above the wheat heads with a red ribbon. Find a book at the library on wheat weaving and work your way up to making more difficult wheat weaving designs.

## 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 Record**

**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?** \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 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

