

Sacred Grove Academy

A Pagan Cover School Ministry of Sacred Grove Church

Winter 2018-2019

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

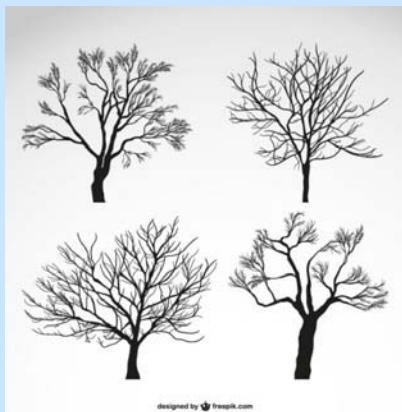
Linda Kerr, Director

**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



Digitized!

In an effort to speed up enrollment times and just make things easier and more convenient, I have created two fillable PDF forms—the Church School Enrollment Form (CSEF) and the Registration form—that can be digitally signed using Adobe’s digital ID system. You will need to save each form to your computer, type to fill it out, save it, and email to me. **IMPORTANT:** I cannot guarantee that the school systems will accept forms with digital signatures (although I’ve already mailed a couple of digitally signed forms to school boards with no issue), so you may still need to print, sign, and mail (or scan and email) the form to me, if I get complaints from the school system. You will be officially enrolled with Sacred Grove as soon as I receive both your properly digitally signed CSEF and your fees, even if we have to submit a traditionally signed form to the school board later. If you are willing to be a "guinea pig" for something new, you can help move us into the 21st century!

I’ve also created a fillable Enrollment/Exclusion Form, which is used for obtaining driver’s and learner’s permits. This one doesn’t require the parent to sign the form, just type to fill it out. Then save on your computer, and email to me. I will then fill out my section, sign, and email back to you, saving at least a week of mailing back-and-forth time. To find the form, go to www.sacredgroveacademy.org/for_ms.shtml, and scroll down about halfway until you see “Form for Learners’ or Drivers’ Permit.”



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.

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 2018-2019 will be due at the end of the school year, and must be received by August 1, 2019. 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 2019-2020 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, 2017-2018 forms sent in by August 1, 2019), 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.

How To Identify Trees in Winter

<https://www.wikihow.com/Identify-Trees-in-Winter>

Winter is a great time to identify trees. The forest is open, there are no insects, and instead of a blur of vegetation, many trees stand out strongly and have a characteristic winter look. Some are evergreen, some have old pods, old leaves, leftover fruit, spines or giant buds—and a tree's silhouette is far more visible without the cloak of leaves.

Note: Most of the examples in this article are specific to the U.S., but the guidelines apply anywhere.



Steps

1. Get field guides to your local trees. It's good to have both a general regional guide, as well as a more specific guide for your area. You can never have enough field guides—the more images you have the easier it will be to identify a particular tree. Field guides can be obtained for free at your local library. Used bookstores can be another good source, where guides can be bought at about half the price. Another great resource is a plant identification terminology book. This will help you understand the language in the guide. If you're just starting out, focus on using mostly photos of leaves and bark and flowers and fruit to identify trees. Then move on to using keys and drawings, which are more technical and precise.

Various guides can also provide fascinating anecdotal information about different trees.

2. Avoid ornamentals, if you're a novice. Anything planted in a garden, lawn, roadside, park, is often an ornamental. Ornamentals are garden varieties of native species that are dissimilar enough to throw you off, and make pinpointing an exact species very difficult. If you want to learn your area ornamentals, there are many guides for the horticulturist about planting and growing trees that will have enough images that you might just find your tree. There are not that many different native trees in a specific area, and they are easy to learn. But if you include the city ornamentals, you're talking up to a thousand trees planted from all over the world.

3. Go for a walk, and take some guides with you. If you have the time to sit at the base of a tree you want to learn, and pore over field guides—great. Identification takes a lot of patience and concentration. It may take at least 30 minutes of studying various guides before you've found it. If you cannot sit with the tree, take some photos and samples home with you.

4. Focus on trees that stand out, rather than going methodically from tree to tree. Pick a tree that has at least one, if not two easily identifiable characteristics—such as a leaf or flower or fruit. Bark is not so easy to go by, nor buds, or scars, or growth habit. Leaves are the easiest to use. Start with an evergreen. There are very few native evergreen broad-leaved trees in the U.S. This magnolia [magnolia grandiflora] with its large glossy evergreen leaves in the

South is a dead giveaway:



5. Look for leftover growth up in the branches. The tulip tree with its huge vertical trunk and papery upright flowers, that remain all through the winter, is very common and easy to identify (the 'flowers' are the remains of the fruit axis, not actually blooms). It gives the tree a candelabra effect.



6. Look for short spiny spur branches, the sure mark of a plum, pear or apple—a fruiting tree in the rose family:



7. Learn your families, rather than isolating trees by species. A peach, a cherry, a plum, a hawthorn, a juneberry, a pear, are all in the same family, with edible fruit—the rose. Trees with pods are in the legume, (or bean) family, such as silk tree, mesquite and locust. There are not that many different tree families in any temperate region of the world—if you can group your trees in their respective families you'll be better able to understand them, and know their characteristics. Beech and oak and chestnut are all in the same family (the beech), and produce edible nuts. Cottonwood is really a gigantic member of the willow family, growing beside water and having deeply fissured bark, just like other willows. And the tulip tree is in the magnolia family—it has large showy flowers, just like magnolia, and look at a comparison of the fruit:



8. Look for very peculiar bark, such as the warty trunk of this hackberry, common along river bottoms (though different varieties can also be found on mountain-tops). Hackberries are in the elm family, and both the seed and flesh of the prolific berries is edible - they're much like candy, and can persist on the tree deep into winter in some varieties and locales:



Or the flaky peeling bark of this river birch:



9. Look for anything flowering, even in the dead of winter (especially in the American South), such as this silverberry, with its silver-speckled foliage, flowers, and immature fruit:



Red maple (*acer rubrum*) is usually the first tree to flower in the spring—in the American South

that's in February. The scarlet flowers stand out beautifully against the smooth gray bark. Red maple's twigs are also red. Its red keys typically don't last that far into winter:



10. Look for leftover fruit, as it can sometimes remain far into the winter, like on this ornamental crabapple:



11. Search for trees with giant buds, such as the upright rack of huge velvety buds on this Princess-tree, a common weed tree . . . there are also old woody capsules from the previous year's fruit:



12. Look for trees still holding on to their dead leaves throughout the winter, a common habit of beech:



13. Don't forget the conifers, almost always evergreen, with easily identifiable needles . . . and often holding on to their cones, such as the tiny 1/2" cones on this hemlock:



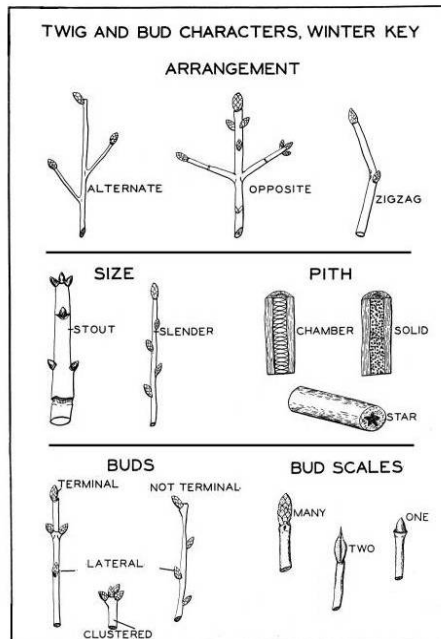
14. Use the internet, where possible, to finish the identification process. There's an incredible amount of information about various tree species online, as well as lots of images—you should arrive at a dead certainty about the identification of your tree at this point. You will also find a wealth of anecdotal information, as well as what possible uses the tree has and any toxic or edible parts. Always cross-reference and verify from multiple sources the edibility of a certain tree—don't go by one

opinion alone. That having been said, there are very few trees in the U.S. that are actually poisonous, such as buckeye and yew:



15. Take photos, and save them in a file with both the label of the tree and time of year the picture was taken. Ultimately you'll create your own database of area trees, and become an expert. It will become an excellent reference source for you year after year, and you will come to know your trees from all angles, in all habitats, in all seasons.

16. Collect samples, and put them in a scrapbook. This is a great project for kids, and it spurs their interest in trees.



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/>



Ostara

<http://www.earthwitchery.com/ostara.html>

Ostara, or the Spring Equinox, is an enchanted borderland time outside of time where a magickal seam joins dark and light. From this moment on, the Sun God begins his seminal journey across the sky. His light and warmth overtake the darkness of Winter until his power peaks at Summer Solstice in June.

Ostara is a time of new fire. The light and dark are in perfect balance, but the light is growing and the Sun is about to burst forth with new energy. It is a season of fertility and growth.

Eostre or Ostara is the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring to whom offerings of cakes and colored eggs were made at the Vernal Equinox. Rabbits were sacred to her, especially white rabbits, and she was believed to take the form of a rabbit.

Altar:

For the Ostara altar: Candles should be light green; incense may be jasmine; decorate the circle with spring wildflowers; place an earthenware or wooden bowl containing soil or a large seed of some kind on the altar.

Herbs to use in your magic at Ostara: lily of the valley, tansy, lavender, marjoram, thyme, tarragon, lovage, lilac, violets, lemon balm, dogwood, honeysuckle, oakmoss, orrisroot, sunflower seeds, rose hips, oak, elder, willow, crocus, daffodil, jonquil, tulip, broom (Scotch or Iris), meadowsweet, acorn, trefoil (purple clover), vervain.

Stones: Clear quartz crystal, rose quartz, agate, lapis lazuli,

amazonite, garnet.

Activities:

- Perform a seed blessing and indoor planting ritual.
- Have a traditional breakfast of buns, ham, and eggs.
- Make natural egg dyes from herbs.
- Color hard boiled eggs and add symbols for the Fertility God, the Goddess, the Sun God, unity, fire, water, agriculture, prosperity and growth, strength and wisdom, spring, love and affection, and protection.



- Consecrate the eggs: "In the name of the Goddess of Spring, (name); and the ever-returning God of the Sun, (name); By the powers of the four elements -- earth, air, fire, and water; I do consecrate these eggs of Ostara."

Point the athame at the eggs, make the sign of the pentagram, and see the energy flow through the blade into the eggs, and say: "New life lies within as new life shall enter the soil. Let those who seek this life find it and consume it, for all life feeds on life."

The eggs may be hidden and an Ostara Egg Hunt commences.

- Make pysanky and krashanky, magickal amulets of fertility, protection, and prosperity.
- Make hot cross buns to honor the union of the earth and the sun

for Spring. Slash the "X" with the bolline and bless the cakes.

- Toss crushed eggshells into the garden and say: "For fairy, for flowers, for herbs in the bowers, The shells pass fertility with springtime flowers."
- Wear green clothing.
- Eat an egg you have empowered with a quality you desire.
- On Ostara Eve, light a purple or violet candle and burn patchouli incense. Carry them both through the house, and say: "Farewell to wintry spirits and friends; On morrow we greet the spirits of spring. Our blessings to thee as your way we wend; And merry we'll meet next winter again. Blow out the candle and say: Merry meet, merry part, and merry meet again."
- At this time, witches cast spells for careers, relationships, and love. It's a time for planting new ideas. Seek harmony and balance in the incredible energy of the season, and project good health, good fortune, and confidence in achieving goals.

Food:

Eggs! Spring lamb, cream and milk, bake bread with a decorated egg inside, spring salad, hot cross buns.



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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28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30	30	30	30		30	30	30	30
31	31		31		31	31		31		31	

MONTHLY TOTAL

Circle days designated as educational.

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

