

ESP Rituals - Public and Member-Only

Information for presenters

ESP Contact - rituals@earthspiritpagans.org

Thank you for your interest in presenting a ritual for ESP. This document explains the procedures and policies for presenting a ritual for ESP, its members and guests. Please read through this entire document before deciding to volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Policies and Procedures

Events sponsored by Earth Spirit Pagans are open to all interested people. An exception to this are the "member/guests only Sabbats" as described in the Public Ritual Guidelines (see enclosed).

While Earth Spirit Pagans acknowledges that certain Traditions and Paths observe the practices of banishment or outlawry, ESP events are to be considered neutral ground for any and all attendees.

Earth Spirit Pagans (E.S.P.) - Public Ritual Guidelines

Revised 4/2000

These guidelines are set up for those members who volunteer to serve the public and the Pagan community by organizing and/or participating in an E.S.P. sponsored ritual. The purpose of these guidelines is to assure a common foundation and framework within the community from which to work. Since Paganism is a diverse religion; not just one but many different paths may be represented in these public rituals. Remember also, that these public rituals will probably be the first exposure, for some, to Paganism. There will be a blend of experienced with the inexperienced. We ask that there be clarity throughout the ritual.

1. E.S.P. will help sponsor a ritual for the eight Solar Celebrations and the 13 Full Moons of the year and such other celebrations as may be requested by membership and approved by the Assembly of Stewards. (dates of rituals are usually on or before the actual day of the holiday. The Assembly sets the next calendar years' ritual dates each November):

Imbolc (February 2)

Spring Equinox (March 20-23)

Beltane (May1)

Summer Solstice (June 20-23)

Lughnasad (August 1)

Autumnal Equinox (September 20-23)

Samhain (October 31)

Winter Solstice (December 20-23)

2. At least one of the volunteers leading ritual must be a member of ESP and will report back to the Assembly of Stewards at the next business meeting with the details of attendance and any feedback received after the ritual.

3. For the consideration of others, ritual will not be done under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

4. A draft or outline of specific needs should be given to the Ritual Coordinator as soon as possible before a ritual to assure funding, site selection (esp. in winter) and time for publicity. A final copy of the ritual must be turned into the Ritual Coordinator or ESP Secretary before the ritual occurs. This is because ESP is a teaching entity and the rituals will be kept on file as a historical, reference and teaching tool. Individuals who are oath-bound to a coven or group not to reveal teachings and practices will be exempt from providing a copy of the ritual.

5. If the ritual volunteers prefer to create their own publicity for their ritual, it must be given to the publicity committee, for review and approval, no later than 6 weeks prior to the event. All public notifications will be coordinated through the Publicity committee. All publicity must include the statement "Sponsored by Earth Spirit Pagans, <http://www.earthspiritpagans.org/>"

6. We ask volunteers to be practical and use common sense when planning and performing large group ritual.

A. Arrive at the ritual location 30 minutes before your scheduled ritual to set up and stay after the ritual to answer questions. (note: some venues only allow for 15 mins. before and after contracted time.)

B. Poll attendees to find for whom it is the first time in ritual and make sure they are seated by someone with more experience. Make seating allowances for handicapped attendees.

C. Announce what types (if any) of food, drink, and incense are being used in case of allergies.

D. If you do an energy raising, you must be responsible to do a grounding. Many attendees of public ritual are not knowledgeable enough to ground themselves.

E. Clean the space after your ritual. Indoors this means grounding the space as well as vacuuming (we rent and must remain in the landlords good graces). Outdoors this means to bring garbage bags and clean the area.

7. You will need to select one of several signs ESP will post on the door or near the outside space to minimize disruption. We also advise you to have a guardian/outrider to either stop people from entering circle until after ritual or to cut them into circle.

Removing Disruptive attendees

Earth Spirit Pagans recognizes that, on occasion, it may be necessary to remove or ban an individual from ESP sponsored events. An individual found to be disruptive to an event, for whatever reason, should first be asked to stop the offending behavior. If they persist, then the person(s) should be escorted out or away from the event.

A. Removing individuals from Earth Spirit Pagans sponsored events

Earth Spirit Pagans has the authority to remove individuals from any ESP sponsored event.

1. Criteria for Removal Removing an individual from an event is based on the behavior of the individual. Types of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to: willful destruction of property, behavior which is detrimental to the welfare of others, any action that interrupts the event for other attendees.

2. Enforcement A person removed from an event will not be allowed back into that event. Enforcement of the removal will be the responsibility of the attending Stewards and/or the Ritual Coordinator. If necessary, the local authorities should be called.

The Ritual Coordinator will do the following:

1. Direct and synchronize volunteers performing rituals for ESP.
2. Coordinate specific ritual needs and room rentals. Relate pertinent need and contract information to the Treasurer for verification of available funding.
3. Receive, review and file a copy of each ritual with the Secretary.
4. Review the ritual using the following criteria:

Criteria for ritual review.

*Does the ritual pertain to the Celebration?

*No human or animal sacrifices.

*Non-discriminatory.

*Length - Public rituals should run no longer than 2 hours.

Synopsis

One of the presenters must be a member of ESP in good standing.

What you need to do

Contact the Ritual Coordinator about ritual you'd like to present.

Provide a draft or outline of specific needs for the ritual.

Provide a copy of the ritual to the ritual coordinator for review.

Provide a final copy of the ritual for the ESP archives.

If you are doing your own flyers, etc., contact the publicity comm. at least 6 weeks ahead of time.

Select a sign to have posted.

Report back or send a report to the Assembly of Stewards after the ritual. (How did the ritual go, how many attended, etc.).

What ESP will do

ESP will secure out of doors area or rent space (if needed).

Provide publicity for the event.

Reimburse ritual supplies (when requested with proper receipts).

Help in any way they can to help you present a ritual.

ESP Contact - rituals@earthspiritpagans.org