



OCTOBER 11-14, 2019

MENDOCINO WOODLANDS • CAMP THREE

DEEP MAGIC IN THE REDWOODS

Mysteries of Samhain is an immersive journey in the Reclaiming tradition. In our cauldron, we'll combine a majestic natural setting, a cozy number of campers, and powerful magic, brewing up connections within ourselves, with others, with the web of our ancestors, and with all of life. Each participant is encouraged to join in creating a vibrant magical community.

Our camp is creating its own culture and processes. Please read this camp information packet, and contact us if you have questions.

Mysteries of Samhain is committed to Reclaiming's Principles of Unity, which can be found at Reclaiming.org

Web – SamhainMysteries.org

Contact Information

Contacts for registration and logistics are Miriam & George, samhainmysteries@gmail.com, (510) 589-0897.

Organizers leave very early on Friday morning, and will not see emails that day – last TEXT check about 11am (number above).

Usually no cell reception at Woodlands or anywhere close.

There is an emergency landline in the kitchen – (707) 937-3023. To try to reach us at camp, call and let it ring, hoping someone will hear it. Please use only for emergencies.

Ride Share – Rides Needed!

We have some campers who are without wheels. Can you help by making space for a rider? We need rides from SF/Berkeley – please email us (see below) to help or with questions.

Contents of the Mysteries of Samhain Packet

- Camp Info & Community Guidelines
- What-To-Bring List
- Camp Theme: The Old House, by Hans Christian Andersen
- Camp Map and Directions to Camp
- Photo Release, Liability Waiver, Code of Ethics

Arrival / Opening Day Schedule

Registration is Friday 2pm. It takes four hours from the GG or Richmond Bridge – camp is inland about 40 minutes from Mendocino.

Please read the waivers in this packet. You don't need to bring copies - when you register, we'll have copies of the Photo Release, Liability Waiver, and Ethics Agreement for you to sign before heading to your cabin or camping spot. You will also choose your sacred service affinity group.

Drive time is four hours from GG/Richmond Bridges. Please allow time to arrive and get settled before the opening circle, which begins at 4:00pm. If you need to arrive late, please let us know.

Dinner is approximately 6:30pm – snacks available before then.

Departure – Monday 11am

We leave camp at 11am sharp on Monday. Unless you have made advance arrangements, please plan to be part of camp until we open the circle – we are going on a journey together, and you are an important part of our magic!

CAMP INFO & COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

Here are some camp agreements and guidelines that we've found helpful. Please read this entire page – we structure our camp differently than some others. Some agreements are mandated by Mendocino Woodlands, whose goodwill we value and rely on.

Cabins

Camp Three has A-frame canvas tent cabins. Beds are metal cots with foam mattresses. You may want to bring your own air mattress. Cabins have no electricity and can be cold at night. We cannot use heaters, candles, or gas lanterns in the cabins, per Woodlands rules. The dining hall and showers have electricity and hot water.

Tents

You can also bring a tent and camp if you like. Because much of the camp sits on an incline, camping space is mainly clustered near the cabins. You are welcome to look for a space further out – note that some spaces will be reserved for camp activities, and some temporarily off-limits by Woodlands staff (creek restoration underway).

Showers

There is only one shower block, to be shared by all genders and ages. The group shower is for all. There are also a few private showers.

Food

Our kitchen team serves omnivore, vegetarian, vegan, and/or gluten-free meals and snacks from Friday dinner through Monday breakfast. If you indicated food sensitivities on your registration, our amazing cooks will make every effort to serve things you can eat at every meal.

Our meals are cooked and served with love and acknowledge the bounty of our Mother Earth. Take what your body needs, being mindful of others' needs and avoiding food waste.

We'll have a special-needs liaison at camp to assist people with special dietary needs. Please see that person about food issues. Please don't take food issues directly to the cooks unless they ask you something.

Personal food – there is a shared frig where you can keep personal snacks in labelled containers. No food in cabins due to animals.

Substances

The time we spend together is a spiritual journey conducted without the use of alcohol and other drugs. What happens between the worlds changes all the worlds, and in that spirit we create a sacred container and perform acts of magic, in perfect love and perfect trust. The use of substances creates a barrier, a separation, and a vibrational break that ripples out into the spiritual practice of the retreat. Of course we know that some of us have prescriptions and we respect and understand the use of medications. In this spirit we welcome you to Mysteries of Samhain.

Smoking

There is one designated smoking table, usually near the road. Do not smoke or vape anything anywhere else due to high fire danger. We ask that campers not share tobacco or other medications during camp.

Candles and Fire

Fire dangers and camp rules dictate that no candles or lanterns be used anywhere, and no flames of any kind except in the two designated fire pit areas. We cannot use lanterns with wicks or flames (propane, etc) anywhere in camp – particularly in cabins or tents.

Electronics

Camp allows a respite from electronic devices. We ask that you refrain from using screens except to take personal photos. Please put your devices in airplane mode to avoid disturbing our retreat with electronic notifications. To facilitate a “no screen” experience, you may want to bring a conventional watch.

Sacred Silence

At times, we may ask participants to observe sacred silence to create more potent magic or deeper reflection and integration. In sacred silence, we refrain from unnecessary chatting but can still communicate about safety issues.

Sacred Service Affinity Groups

We seek to build our village community even as we do the joyful obligations that maintain it. Affinity groups will be selected at registration and will offer sacred service by performing camp chores such as washing dishes or stocking bathrooms. We encourage singing, storytelling, dancing, silliness, or other ways of adding fun to sacred service. Hestia, Huzzah!

Environmental Sensitivity

To support folks who are chemically sensitive and for everyone's health, please don't wear fragrances, including essential oils and citronella. Most shampoos and soaps are okay, if they aren't perfumed.

Bugs and Repellents

Please do not use citronella or scented sprays at camp. There will be odorless insect repellent available to share at camp. If you have concerns about DEET, eat garlic, brewers yeast, and vitamin B for one week before camp. Repellent patches work well for some – start 24 hours before camp. Bring long-sleeved, loose-fitting clothes and stay in around sunrise and sundown. Check carefully for ticks daily.

Physical Needs & Mobility

All of the camp is rustic dirt paths and wooden bridges, not wheelchair accessible. The bathroom blocks are up slopes. People have gotten around with walking sticks and crutches at previous camps. We will do our best to support your needs.

Glitter

Please do not bring or use glitter at camp. Glitter is fun but is not usually biodegradable.

Warm Clothes!

The Woodlands can be cold any time of the year. October temperatures will be in the 40s at night – bring thermals and extra blankets.

Costumery

Samhain Mystery attire can range from Goth to High Drag to Hippie to Formal to T-shirts and jeans. You may want to bring “dress up” clothes – whatever that means to you. Note: camp can be hard on costumes!

Feedback – at and after camp

For immediate concerns, please see “The Sash” or another facilitator. For reflections or feedback for future camps, we welcome feedback, and will provide an email feedback process following camp.

MYSTERIES OF SAMHAIN – BRING LIST

STUFF YOU'LL NEED

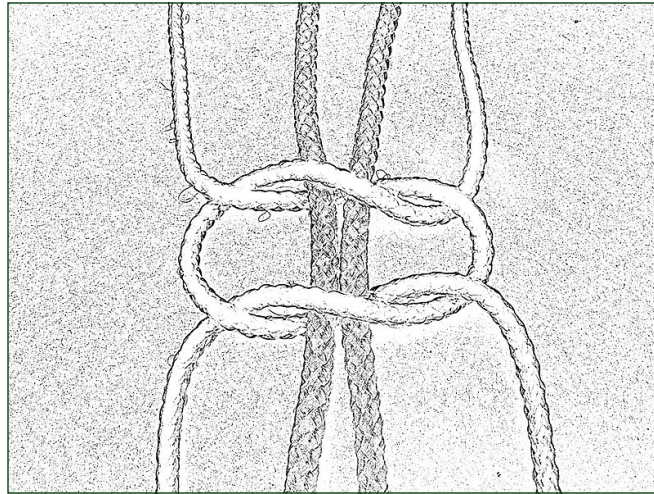
- Clothes for warm days, cold evenings
- Thermals for those cold nights!
- Clothes you can get messy in (for deep magic!)
- Comfy walking shoes
- Bathrobe/Sleepwear
- Journal if desired
- Alarm clock or watch
- Flashlight and batteries - it's really dark under the trees
- Bedding and pillow (Camp supplies cots & foam mattress. Bring warm bedding and clothing.)
- blanket, ground cloth, or camp chair for outdoor rituals
- Towel and personal toiletries
- Non-scented sunscreen and bug repellent
- Sunhat, walking shoes
- Water bottle, cup for beverages
- Donation items for silent auction and/or funk-trunk
- Ancestral object (or memory or representation of one) that represents a legacy from a person – a beloved, an ancestor, an unknown ancestor, an ancestor of the Craft, etc
- Songs, poems, or stories for or about your beloved dead

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Snacks or personal food in a labeled container (we'll also have food available during the day)
- Containers with lids to take delicious leftovers home!
- Tent and necessary items, if you are tenting
- Flip flops for the shower
- Battery lantern for cabin (no flame-types, even if enclosed)
- Electric/battery lanterns and string lights for rituals
- Personal comfort items (stuffed animals, iPod for use in your cabin, books, etc)
- Your witchiest, faeriest, fanciest finery!
- black veils if you have one or more
- Cushions, rugs, and tapestries for outdoor ritual spaces – contact masonsusannah@gmail.com
- Hand percussion, drums, musical instruments – contact tarintowers@mac.com

MAGICAL STUFF YOU MAY WANT

- Items for altars – especially pertaining to your ancestors of blood and spirit
- Decorations for altars, camp, dining hall, etc
- Drums and other instruments (but only leave them out if others can play them)
- Art/craft supplies to share
- Herbal remedies to share
- Outdoor lights (solar or battery)
- Divination tools to share (or for personal use)
- Open-throated Wide-Mouthed Courageous Heart of Willingness!



FUNKE TRUNKE & MAGICKAL AUCTION!

Back by popular demand – once again we are co-creating a Magickal Funke Trunke & Silent Auction. All proceeds support our Scholarship Fund.

You can help by bringing and donating fun stuff and/or services – and bringing along some cash (or plastic or paypal).

Please clean out your broom closet, unclutter your altar and bookshelf, etc. Any and all magical-type items are welcome. Jewelry and fancy costumery, books and music, etc.

Please no shoes or other one-size-only items. No big artworks, large appliances, car parts, or used water skis.

We ask that donors re-adopt unclaimed items – don't worry, there won't be many!

Magickal Silent Auction

We also need some fancier items - this could be services such as divination or massage, music or other lessons, valuable altar items, musical instruments, etc – we will silent-auction these.

Please help raise funds to support our scholarship fund by donating items – and bringing along some cash to take part! (We also take paypal, cards, or heartfelt promises!)

THE OLD HOUSE

Excerpt from The Old House, by Hans Christian Andersen (1848)

ONCE UPON A TIME, a very old house stood in a street with several that were quite new and clean. The date of its erection had been carved on one of the beams, and surrounded by scrolls formed of tulips and hop-tendrils. By this date it could be seen that the old house was nearly three hundred years old.

Verses too were written over the windows in old-fashioned letters, and grotesque faces, curiously carved, grinned at you from under the cornices.

One story projected a long way over the other, and under the roof ran a leaden gutter, with a dragon's head at the end. The rain was intended to pour out at the dragon's mouth, but it ran out of his body instead, for there was a hole in the gutter.

At the window of the house across the street sat a little child with fresh rosy cheeks, and clear sparkling eyes, who was very fond of the old house, in sunshine or in moonlight. They would sit and look and fancy all sorts of scenes which had been in former times. How the street must have looked when the houses all had gutters with dragons at the spout!

An old man lived in the house, He wore knee-breeches, a coat with large brass buttons, and a wig, which anyone could see was a real wig.

The little child one day heard their parents say, "The old man opposite is very well off, but is terribly lonely."

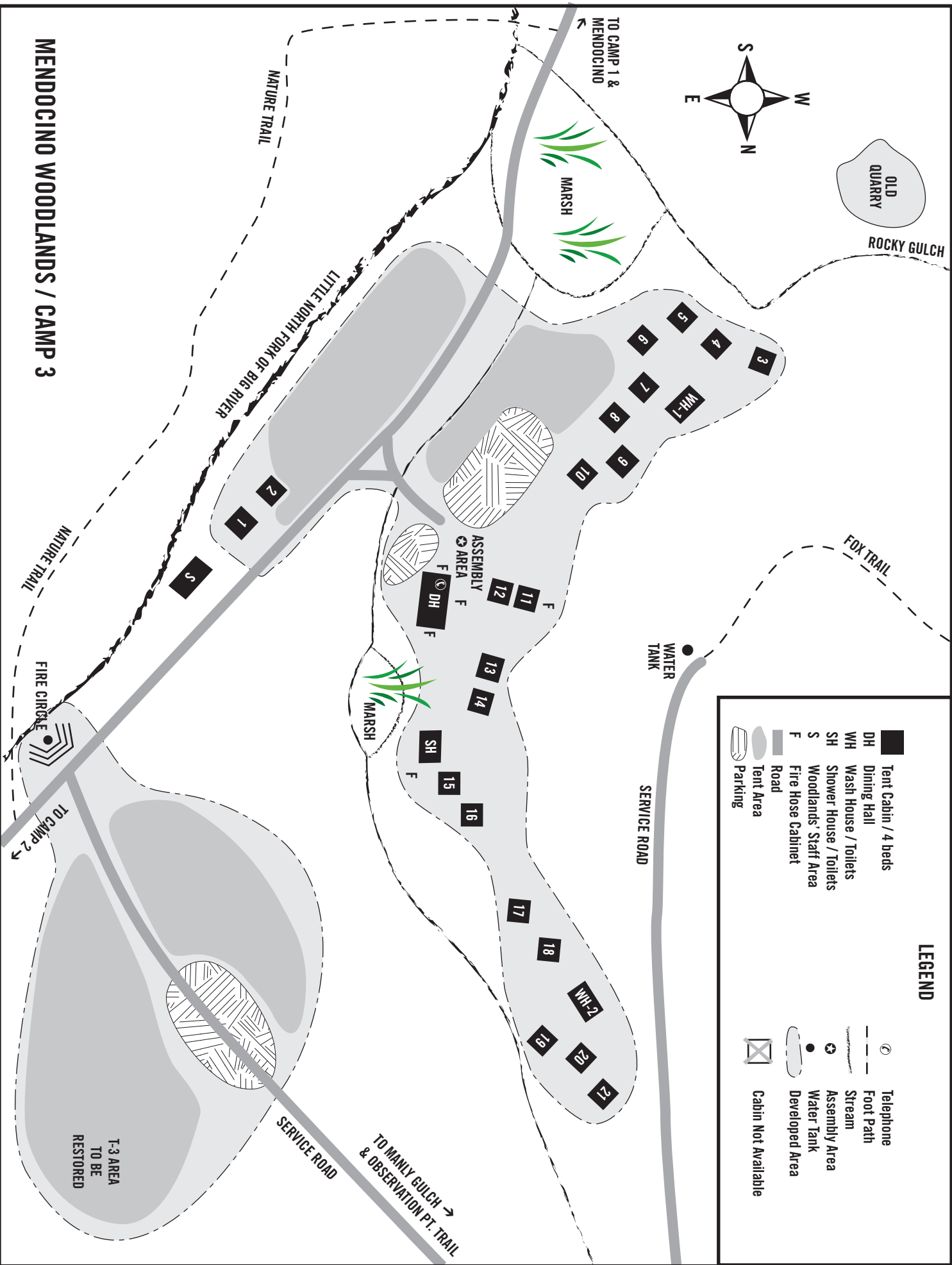
The child wondered at this, and decided that if the old man were so lonely, perhaps he would want a visitor. Their parents gave them permission, and so it was that they gained admission to the old house...

When the child enters the house, they are greeted by not only the old man, but by the railings and knobs, by the carpets and wall-paper, and by portraits of knights and ladies.

In our imagining of Andersen's story, the house, which is overgrown with vines and where flowers speak to one another, opens up onto the forest itself. The house holds many relics of former times, and in our workings this weekend, it is a gateway not only to our past but to our future, when we ourselves will be Old Ones living with our memories.



To read Andersen's original story, visit:
<hca.gilead.org.il/old_hous.html>



MENDOCINO WOODLANDS / CAMP 3

Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association

A National Historic Landmark
A Nonprofit Corporation since 1949

DIRECTIONS TO THE MENDOCINO WOODLANDS CAMP (map is not to scale): Approximate driving time from airports at either Sacramento, Oakland or San Francisco: 4 hours.

From Santa Rosa and the Bay Area:

Take Highway 101 North to Cloverdale. Turn left onto Highway 128 and stay on it until it merges with Highway 1 at the coast. Follow Highway 1 north to Mendocino. At the traffic light, turn right onto Little Lake Road and follow it out about 5-1/2 miles to the end of the pavement. Bear right (you'll see a sign for the Woodlands) and follow this gravel road out approximately another 3 miles to arrive at the camp.

OR

Take Highway 101 North to Highway 20 in Willits. Turn left (west) and follow 20 until it dead ends at Highway 1. Turn left on Highway 1 south until you get to Mendocino. At the traffic light, turn left onto Little Lake Road and follow it out about 5-1/2 miles to the end of the pavement. Bear right (you'll see a sign for the Woodlands) and follow this gravel road out approximately another 3 miles to arrive at the camp.

From Eureka area:

Take Highway 101 south to either Highway 1 or Highway 20. When you get to Fort Bragg, follow Highway 1 south to Mendocino. At the traffic light, turn left onto Little Lake Road and follow it out about 5-1/2 miles to the end of the pavement. Bear right (you'll see a sign for the Woodlands) and follow this gravel road out approximately another 3 miles to arrive at the camp.

From Clearlake and Williams area:

Take Highway 20 west to Highway 101. Go north on 101 to Willits, then left (west) on Highway 20 until it dead ends at Highway 1. Turn left on Highway 1 south until you get to Mendocino. At the traffic light, turn left onto Little Lake Road and follow it out about 5-1/2 miles to the end of the pavement. Bear right (you'll see a sign for the Woodlands) and follow this gravel road out approximately another 3 miles to arrive at the camp.

From Sacramento area:

Take I-5 north to Williams, then go west on Highway 20 to Highway 101. Go north on 101 to Willits, then left (west) on Highway 20 until it dead ends at Highway 1. Turn left on Highway 1 south until you get to Mendocino. At the traffic light, turn left onto Little Lake Road and follow it out about 5-1/2 miles to the end of the pavement. Bear right (you'll see a sign for the Woodlands) and follow this gravel road out approximately another 3 miles to arrive at the camp.



MYSTERIES OF SAMHAIN

PHOTO RELEASE

I, the undersigned, do hereby assign to Mysteries of Samhain and Reclaiming the copyright and/or right to copyright photographs taken during Mysteries of Samhain, and the right of reproduction thereof for use by Mysteries of Samhain and Reclaiming in whatever manner Mysteries of Samhain and Reclaiming think fit, including the right of compilation into a collection and the right of publication.

I understand that I have voluntarily allowed my photograph to be made, and that I will receive no payment for posing or for allowing my photographs to be reproduced. I also give the same permission for any minor children that are in my care during Mysteries of Samhain.

Your Signature: _____

Date: _____

Your Name (please print): _____

Names of Minor Children (please print): _____

Comments:

MYSTERIES OF SAMHAIN

Liability Waiver, Statement of Parental Responsibility, and Community Guidelines Agreement

To participate in the Mysteries of Samhain camp, all registrants 18 and older must sign this liability waiver. All campers age 17 and under must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian. Please complete and bring to camp with you, and we will also have copies at camp.

I, the undersigned, agree to hold harmless Reclaiming Collective; the Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association; and anyone associated with organizing Mysteries of Samhain from any responsibility or liability for personal injury or loss or damage to personal property incurred by me or my children during Mysteries of Samhain.

I understand and acknowledge that Mysteries of Samhain is being held on land that is in an unimproved natural state and that many hazardous conditions are present, including, but not limited to rough terrain, ponds, streams, sink-holes, mud, rock, old fences and other man-made structures, woods, thick vegetation, and areas prone to wildfire. I understand that many activities are held at night in the absence of any artificial light and that many inherently dangerous situations may exist at any time of day or night. I hereby acknowledge these risks and I nevertheless waive and release any and all claims for personal injury, bodily injury, property damage, losses, and/or death that may arise from my own or my children's participation in the gathering.

I acknowledge that I am solely responsible for the safety and supervision of my children, listed below, at all times during the camp. I agree to abide by any oral or written safety guidelines issued at the time of camp.

I have carefully read the above Release, understand it to be a binding contract covering the entirety of this year's Mysteries of Samhain including transportation to and from camp, and intend that it be interpreted as broadly and inclusively as the law of the State of California allows. If any part of this contract should be held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall continue in full force and effect.

I have also read the registration packet and agree to act in accordance with the community guidelines.

Signature: _____

Full Legal Name (printed, please): _____

Date: _____

I reside at: _____

The full names of the children I am responsible for at camp are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

MYSTERIES OF SAMHAIN

Code of Ethics & Agreements for Teachers, Mentors, & Onsite Adults

This Agreement was created by Teen Earth Magic, and has been adopted by Witchlets in the Woods and Redwood Magic.

Facilitators and Mentors in the Reclaiming Tradition are people who take on a sacred responsibility – the mantle of nurturing the spiritual development of individual youth and creating a healthy container for the youth community as a whole.

Whether we take on mentorship in active roles as teachers and facilitators, or whether we help “priestess from the sidelines” by providing one-on-one counseling or providing service with our hands and hearts to the camp, our position of being adults within the youth community carries with it a special energy that can help our younger friends develop a strong sense of self and a spirit of independence and pride. This special energy is power.

One of the most important areas of growth for young people is their sense of self-worth and the development of a healthy identity as a sexual being. In order to help cultivate these beautiful and important qualities in a young person, we must allow them to grow and develop in ways that are healthy for them in the long term.

The relationship between young people and the adults in their lives must be one of power-with and mutual respect if the positive potential of that relationship is to be realized. Facilitators, mentors, and adults who engage in inappropriate relationship dynamics with young people -- especially where sexuality is involved -- where that power is abused hurt not only the individuals involved, but the whole community.

Camp organizers understand, and expect that facilitators, mentors, and on-site staff understand:

- There are federal and state laws that prohibit sexual intimacy between people of some ages, and if those laws are broken, it puts the entirety of our camp at risk of permanent closure. California has some of the most strict laws about this in the nation: people under the age of 18 legally are not allowed to engage in sexual activity with one another or with anyone over the age of 18.
- Above and beyond what California state law requires of us, it is important that all facilitators, mentors, and on-site adults be in their integrity in regard to sexual behavior, physical and / or verbal abuse, the use of adulterating substances, and their power as a role model within the youth community. We expect strict adherence by all adults to our clean-and-sober agreements.

Our intention is to create a container that is sex-positive and healthy for everyone in our camp community -- one that is empowering for people of every age, sexual preference, and gender. We do not want to in any way bolster the sexual oppression that is so prevalent in our dominant culture, nor do we want anyone to feel repressed in expressing their healthy sexuality or the power that comes from deep within us all. As witches and

pagans, we embrace both sexuality and power as our sacred birthrights, in our magic and as a guiding force in our lives.

We challenge ourselves to take the good road as we examine issues of power, sexuality, and integrity. At times the good road is rocky, unclear, and requires slow and careful navigation. If at any point you have a question about what is the most positive and healthy action for yourself, for the camp, and for our younger comrades in a given circumstance, we strongly encourage you to trust this container and find an ally or group of allies to talk to. If for some reason you do not feel like you can talk to us about the situation you are in, that's a pretty good sign that there are issues of integrity involved and it's especially important that you find someone to talk to right away.

*

*

*

By signing below, I agree that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Code of Ethics & Agreements for Facilitators, Mentors, and On-Site Adults. I understand that if my behavior is such that my adherence to this Code of Ethics & Agreements is called into question, appropriate action will be taken. This may include mediation, being asked to leave, or legal recourse if necessary.

Legal Name: _____

Legal Signature: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Today's Date: _____

Driver's License or Social Security Number: _____

Magical Name or Camp Name: _____