

MONKEY STOPPED. OFF IN THE DISTANCE WAS A SOUND THAT MONKEY HAD NEVER HEARD BEFORE, NOISES THAT CALLED OUT. COMPELLED, MONKEY DREW CLOSER... MONKEY DANCED... MONKEY WAS HAPPY... MONKEY SAW WHAT WAS CAUSING ALL THIS AND MONKEY KNEW THAT MONKEY MUST BRING THIS OBJECT HOME SO OTHERS COULD FEEL THIS TOO...

WELCOME, MONKEY!

We prepare to gather our Clan and play together in the world between the worlds, as the seasons turn to the Dark of the year. We welcome you to Monkey Clan at this year's Twilight Covening.

Rhythm is a gateway to the world between worlds. As monkeys, we shall play with rhythmic music as a vehicle for both merriment and transformation, drumming in service to the community and ourselves. We shall journey together and return with our musical discoveries, sharing them with those around us.

We will gather at our Clan table for dinner on Friday evening at 6:30 pm. If it is at all possible, please plan to arrive at camp in time to get your personal sleeping area set up before dinner. After dinner and before Opening Circle, we will take a brief expedition as a Clan.

Opening Circle is at 9 pm Friday, followed by the Releasing Fire ritual.

The Clan will do a kitchen shift together and facilitate one of the attunements in service to the larger community. We will also drum though the night on Saturday until the rising of the sun, together or in shifts, holding the magical container as others work around us. This is a time for pushing yourself and going deep.

We'll share more details about the specific schedule and Clan activities on site. For now we ask that you shed your expectations and arrive ready to ride the rhythm.

Things to Bring (some are for Clan work, some for the gathering in general)

- * Drums and percussion instruments. If you don't have a drum, don't worry, there will be instruments to go around. Please email Morwen at morwen@earthdrum.com in response to this letter and let us know what drums and instruments you will bring, so we can plan what else we'll need.
- * Fabric, rugs, etc for making the clan space beautiful, comfy and warm
- * Folding chair or stool for drumming
- * Empty soda bottle, preferably glass.
- * Warm layers of clothes and extra blankets, including comfortable inner layers for moving
- * Slippers or indoor shoes for cabin space
- * Good sturdy (and warm!) outdoor shoes
- * Trail mix, protein bars, energy drinks, as well as a refillable water bottle
- * A vegetable for the community soup; bring it to Opening Circle
- * An offering for our Clan table in the dining hall: a small altar item connected with Monkeys, candles (can only be burned when we are present; we can't leave a candle burning), food or drink to share, etc.

More on the Releasing Fire. The purpose of this ritual is to release that which we no longer need, or which we have completed and are ready to let go. Please bring something to burn in the Releasing Fire, whether it's an actual (burnable) item or something symbolic, like a stick or drawing/words on paper. There will be materials to make something symbolic on site if you don't bring something with you. We invite you, though, to take this opportunity to prepare for this ritual in advance and come with an offering to the Releasing Fire.

Finally, while we've said it here and it will say it in your letter from EarthSpirit, let us say it again: Come prepared to be warm in any weather! You will not regret bringing extra layers of clothing and blankets. Long underwear, gloves and hats and winter coats or cloaks are all good things to bring to Twilight Covening. Bring an umbrella and/or rain poncho, too, and extra socks.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have. We are looking forward to our journey together!

Blessed Be,

Morwen and Mark