

Greetings and Welcome to the Gryphon Clan:

My name is Cerillian, and I will be your clan leader during Twilight Covenings. I am thrilled to once again be offering this clan after several years' absence and wanted to take a few minutes to give you the information you will need to get the most out of the experience.

The Gryphon Clan will push you on a multitude of levels. I want to get that out there right up front. I don't want to frighten you, or make you think you've made a mistake, but if at any point after reading through this introductory letter you think you may have made a mistake, it's ok. Please just contact Earthspirit and ask to be relocated to another clan. It's not a sign of weakness to admit you're not ready to undertake this exploration, and better for the clan that you bow out before connections are made. I'm sure we'll see you at future gatherings. That said, let's get into it.

Gryphon focuses on Dark Eros work. This is the ritualistic modification of Sadomasochism and bondage/discipline techniques. The purpose of the clan is to take these techniques and incorporate them into using the power raised for ritualistic and magical work. The clan is designed for people with every level of experience in Dark Eros work, and we spend a great deal of time discussing correct and safe techniques, so you may find patience to be part of the magical work that you need to do this year. Due to the intense nature of the work that we do, I must advise you that during private clan time, mutually consensual touching, and nudity are permissible. This is not to say that you will be asked to do anything you are uncomfortable with, in fact, I focus on creating a very safe space, but be aware that everyone has their own way of expressing themselves, and getting to the root of their work. This is a non-negotiable, and at no point should anyone in my clan ever feel coerced, pushed, or embarrassed into doing anything they do not wish to participate in. On the other hand, I strongly encourage you to try to push open the doors of your comfort level. Try every technique we're discussing, and whether you choose to ever do them again or not, at least you will have experienced it. In my years of running these intensives, I have discovered that personal work takes on many guises. The person with touch issues who allows melted wax to be poured over their feet is doing no less work than the person who manages an astral projection while being flogged in the nude. This is a personal experience, and I am here to be the gate keeper who will guide you safely through the work. Finally, I want to make sure each of you understands that this work, while it is extremely sensual, will not be sexual during clan time. We will not share a clan cabin for sleep space, as I want you to have the freedom to go back to your own space each evening and do whatever you need to do to release the energy we build during the day. Additionally, the clan space will always be open as a safe haven for any clan member to use after hours for meditation, massage, or just sharing space with each other.

Let's talk a little about how the weekend will unfold. Twilight Covenings is a weekend long ritual that flows with nature throughout the 4 elements. Each clan session will focus on drawing out the energy of a particular element. Gryphon is no different from any other clan in that aspect. However, I differ from some clans in that from the moment you arrive on camp, and unpack, you are a Gryphon. Plan on meeting me at Dinner the night of arrival so I can discuss with you the work we will need to begin to do almost immediately. Based on the schedule, we will meet either before or after opening ritual and begin work to set up our clan space. I am adamant about creating a ritualistic safe and completely fortified space for us to do our work in, and each of you needs to bring your own energy into the creation of that space. Don't worry, you will not miss any pieces of the community rituals at any point throughout the weekend, but you will hit the ground running. Many of you know me by now, and in spite of the fact that I create a safe, nurturing and respectful environment to do

the work, I remain a major Top. I will call the shots where it comes to making the most out of this experience. You will be safe; We will be sane; This clan will be consensual. Combine that with practicing in ritual space, and well, you get the picture.

Finally let's talk about the clan specific things you will need to bring beside the items covered in your assignment letter. Please remember I am flying in from North Carolina for this gathering. Things I usually bring plentiful amounts of I will need to count on each of you to bring.

- A blanket or pillow to sit or lie on the floor with. Make sure it's old; it may get dirty, but not knowing where we will meet, plan on spending time sitting on hard surfaces.
- Any fetish wear, or clothing that you wish to wear that will help you get into the work.
- Comfortable loose fitting clothing for Saturday morning, we will be doing some guided meditation
- Cheap 10 day votive candles, or jar candles, no scent, no color. We will need lots of them, and they don't ship or pack well. We will use them for both heat and for wax work.
- Any tools such as floggers, rope, etc. that you like to use or would like to share with everyone.
- Bottled water, you must keep hydrated
- Plan on dressing in layers, we build up a lot of heat when we work, but the mornings tend to be cold.
- Any table decorations that you feel would enhance the appearance of our clan table and express who we are to the rest of the gathering. Just remember, many folks do not understand the work we do, and we really don't want to insult or freak anyone out. Let's try to maintain some decorum while in public space. The same goes for the way we dress outside of clan space.
- In past years I have brought one or 2 electric space heaters. They have been wonderful for taking off the morning chill. If anyone has one and an extension cord they can bring please email me and let me know. I will either respond with yes thanks, or thanks but we already have some.
- Any lights, scarves, sarongs, wall hangings, window coverings, etc that will help us make our clan space the most comfortable and private get a way we can.
- If you have music you want to share, I will be bringing my iPod boom box, or you can bring a portable CD player.
- I've never turned down sacred M & M's or other good munchies to share with the clan or ground us after our work.
- If anyone plans on bringing a French Press, let me know. I can't live without real coffee, and you just don't want to see me grumpy, but if I don't have to figure out how to pack mine, I'd be just as happy. I will bring good coffee.

Well, I think I have covered everything I need to. I am counting the days until Twilight. If you have any questions, or want clarification on anything I have mentioned here, please feel free to contact me at cerillian@aol.com, or by calling me at (704) 545-2560. Thank you for choosing Gryphon clan, and I look forward to a wonderful magical and enlightening time with each of you.

In ever changing light,

Cerillian

