

Welcome to the Albatross Clan. This weekend we will be immersing ourselves in the stories, poems, and magic of the ancient Northern European peoples. Together with the larger community that is Twilight Covening, we will progress through the elements of the created world, air, fire, water, and earth, preparing ourselves to enter the dark time of the year. Part of the immersion into the old ways includes creating our living and working space- a place apart where we will learn, journey, and share our stories.

In keeping with our work, be prepared to be cold or wet. Autumn in the Berkshire Mountains is very unpredictable, so be prepared for any weather! While we encourage wearing garb to help shift yourself into a different reality, we encourage warmth and comfort even more! Dressing in layers is a good idea, as is having along a rain poncho or umbrella. Sturdy waterproof shoes are also recommended. Since we will be spending some time journeying with the drum, a lap blanket, cloak, or other warm wrap-around garment is necessary, as long journeys can induce “astral chill.” Note that cloaks are not appropriate for the visioning ritual, so please be sure to have a warm coat that is not long or loose. Please bring a folding chair so you will have something to sit on; floor and stone are hard and cold! Since our work includes the creation of our personal stories and poems, please also bring writing implements and journals or notebooks. If you have colored pencils to share with the group, that would also be appreciated.

We will have a Clan table in the dining hall, and it will be decorated in a Norse motif. Please bring candles (tapers, pillars, or 7-days) to help make our table and the dining hall a bright, cheerful, warm place to share meals and stories. Any other décor you wish to contribute is appreciated, keeping in mind that we must leave room for food and plates. Please be sure to bring a drinking vessel that you can use for hot or cold beverages, and a cloth napkin or two to decrease our production of waste. Snack foods (crackers, hard cheeses, chocolate, nuts, dried fruit) are a good thing to bring along for recovering from journey work during clan time. We will have a cooler to secure such things from the wee creatures that run all around the site.

The cabins are equipped with bunks, and bathrooms are fairly local. Space is very limited, so please limit what you bring along so that everyone has enough space to live and sleep, and stumble through your cabin in the dead of night... Since cold and damp are the norm in the autumn hills, please bring towels that are light and dry easily since a cold damp towel is no fun in the morning. Be sure to bring a flashlight and extra batteries.

For community rituals, please bring the following:

- A harvest vegetable for the soup—note that this includes fresh herbs, garlic, etc. for extra flavor
- A candle in a jar (a votive in a mayonnaise jar works well)
- A token to place into the Releasing Fire (if you have something that needs releasing)