

PTARMIGAN CLAN 2007 - TWILIGHT COVENING

Greetings and welcome to Ptarmigan Clan! We will be doing some pretty intensive work; we will be focusing on sacred fire, ritual and practical forgecraft, and the role of the smith in magic. There are a few things which you should bring; see also the below note from Thorgrim (Kevin Hall, co-Clan leader). Don't forget your veggie for the ritual soup, and remember that it gets darn cold at Hi-Rock in October. That means bring *warm* bedding! Also warm clothing!

Be prepared for rain; that can be pretty miserable if you're out in it. We are also looking for folks to bring taper candles for our Clan table (any extra candlesticks would be welcome, too). Be sure to pack a (folding) chair; you will need it for not only work near the forge, but also in the Clan cabin. The dining hall is really not equipped with many loose chairs. I already have the table cloths and decorations for the Clan table. You may also want to bring your own tankard/drinking horn for the Clan table.

This year, we are planning on having 2 forges and 3 anvils onsite, since you will each be making something simple for yourselves (a drinking horn holder? A smallish blade?) under Thorgrim's supervision. We will also be doing intensive Voyaging (guided meditation), fire work (we supply the sacred fire, which we will ritually kindle) for the community, and suchlike. Since you will also be doing a kitchen shift, it might be a good idea to bring your own apron and maybe a nice sharp knife (the kitchen has some, but I've found that the supply is really limited).

When you arrive, please check in at Registration (in the dining hall), and then claim your place at the Ptarmigan table. It should be easy to find. After dinner, we will begin our Work, and then get a good night's sleep. If you have problems with snorers, please bring your own ear plugs.

Both Thorgrim and I plan to be on site Thursday and, when you arrive, we may already be at work at the forge. As this is being written, I'm not sure where it will be located (am hoping for in back of the kitchen). I will have my 20 x 12 pavilion there, partly as shelter, and partly (in case it rains) to keep us dry.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in October!
Jane

Hello

As the Smith of Ptarmigan Clan, I welcome you. If you haven't figured it out yet, we're a fire clan. So along with the fire comes a few rules with the forge. Some may be common sense, but still need to be said

Clothing should be of natural fibers. Natural fibers will smolder. Synthetic fibers like nylon or polyester will melt, becoming the equivalent of wearable napalm. Having molten polyester fuse to your skin is not pleasant.

Please wear sensible clothing while we are at the forge. While robes may be great for ritual, they aren't so good for working with hot metal. Loose sleeves catch fire easily. Also forging in shorts/skirts and sandals is also not a wise idea. Jeans and closed toe shoes are the minimum.

Leather boots would be better. Hot metal in one's shoe is not a pleasant experience. Your eyes are valuable, please protect them. I will have some safety goggles and glasses available. If you have your own, please bring them.

No metal in the forge area should be picked up with bare hands!! Always use tongs or be wearing heavy/work gloves at a minimum. I will have several pairs of gloves available for people to use.

Metal that "looks" cold may not be. Black hot is still 500 degrees and quite painful. No Blood Magic to be performed in the forge or on the anvils. I do not care if your <friend/brother/clansman/high priestess> lets you do so at their forge. I have bound my equipment to me. No offense, but I do not wish to have that bond extend to you, nor do I think you want yours to extend to me.

It will be necessary to chip in \$15 - 20 to help cover the cost of fuel (coal) and materials (metal and incidentals). We will be going through quite a bit of coal and materials, since this is a materials intensive clan in which you will create a ritual item to take home with you.

See you soon,
Thorgrim