

Ritual Leadership

Purpose

Rituals that are open to the public benefit from thoughtful planning and experienced leadership.

For many members of the Earth-Centered Spirituality Group, leading public (or private) rituals is a cornerstone of their spiritual identity and development. This policy provides an equitable method for managing natural competition for leadership, and gives deference to those with more group experience/longevity, while ensuring that all members who wish to lead a ritual will eventually be able to do so.

Policy/Procedure

Leading Public Ritual

Any member that has not previously led a Public ritual must first lead a Members Only ritual, before leading a Public ritual. (Effective 2/2/2012)

Signing Up to Lead Rituals

1. In September of each year, before Mabon (Fall Equinox), the Organizational Coordinator will invite members to sign up for ritual leadership for the upcoming calendar year (January through December).
2. Members will be given two weeks from the date of notice to volunteer to lead rituals during the upcoming year.
3. If after the signup period any leadership vacancies still exist for the upcoming year, the Organizational Coordinator will conduct signups periodically until the vacancies are filled.
4. If more than one person volunteers for a particular ritual, the ritual leader will be chosen according to the following decision hierarchy:
 - a. The leader will be the member who has never led the specific holiday ritual in the past.
 - b. If more than one person has never led the ritual, the leader will be the member with greater seniority (longevity) in the group.
 - c. If there is more than one member with greatest seniority, the individuals will be asked to decide between/among them who will lead the ritual, or they may choose to co-lead.
 - d. If all have led the ritual in the past, the leader will be the member who has led it least recently.

Planning Meetings for Public Rituals

1. Planning meetings should be scheduled for no later than three (3) weeks prior to the ritual date.
2. At least one (1) week's notice should be given prior to the planning meeting so that individuals who want to participate may clear their schedules.
3. A *reasonably completed* draft of the ritual should be distributed to the participants no later than one (1) week prior to the event. (This does not prevent the ritual leader from revising or further refining the ritual, merely allows the participants time to give feedback and familiarize themselves with their parts in the ritual.)