

*Fertile Ground Gathering*

*Dragonfire*



**May 2 - 5, 2024**

# Welcome to Fertile Ground Gathering 2024!

**We're so glad you're here, and we're looking forward to sharing this magical experience with you!**

Our volunteer team has spent months putting together this rich, powerful, rejuvenating celebration. There are many activities you can take part in including rituals, workshops, entertainment, nightly bonfires featuring bardic and drum circles, and meals both in the Feast Hall as well as a cook-out on the Commons in C Unit.

The rituals are designed as parts of an arc that spans the entire weekend. Each ritual builds on the experience of the one before it, so you will get the most out of them when you take part in them all. You can find out where they are taking place as well as when they're scheduled on the daily schedule pages in this program.

In this program, you will also find other helpful information from our park map, to our policies, rules, and best practices.

To best help you feel at home during the Gathering, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with the information we've provided.



## *If you need help*

Staff members will be wearing special-colored wristbands during the day and glow lights after dark (Red for medical staff, and Green for all other staff members). In addition, all staff members will be wearing badges clearly indicating their status. Overnight, you can find our staff by locating cabins with a green porch light. If you need assistance or find someone else who does, please locate one of us so that we can assist you or them as needed. All staff members will have radios, so they can contact other members of the team if necessary.

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# Fertile Ground Gathering Cabin Camp 2



⊗ Black buildings are off limits.

⊗ The **restroom** closest to the Feast Hall has separate areas for men and women. All other **restrooms** are shared.

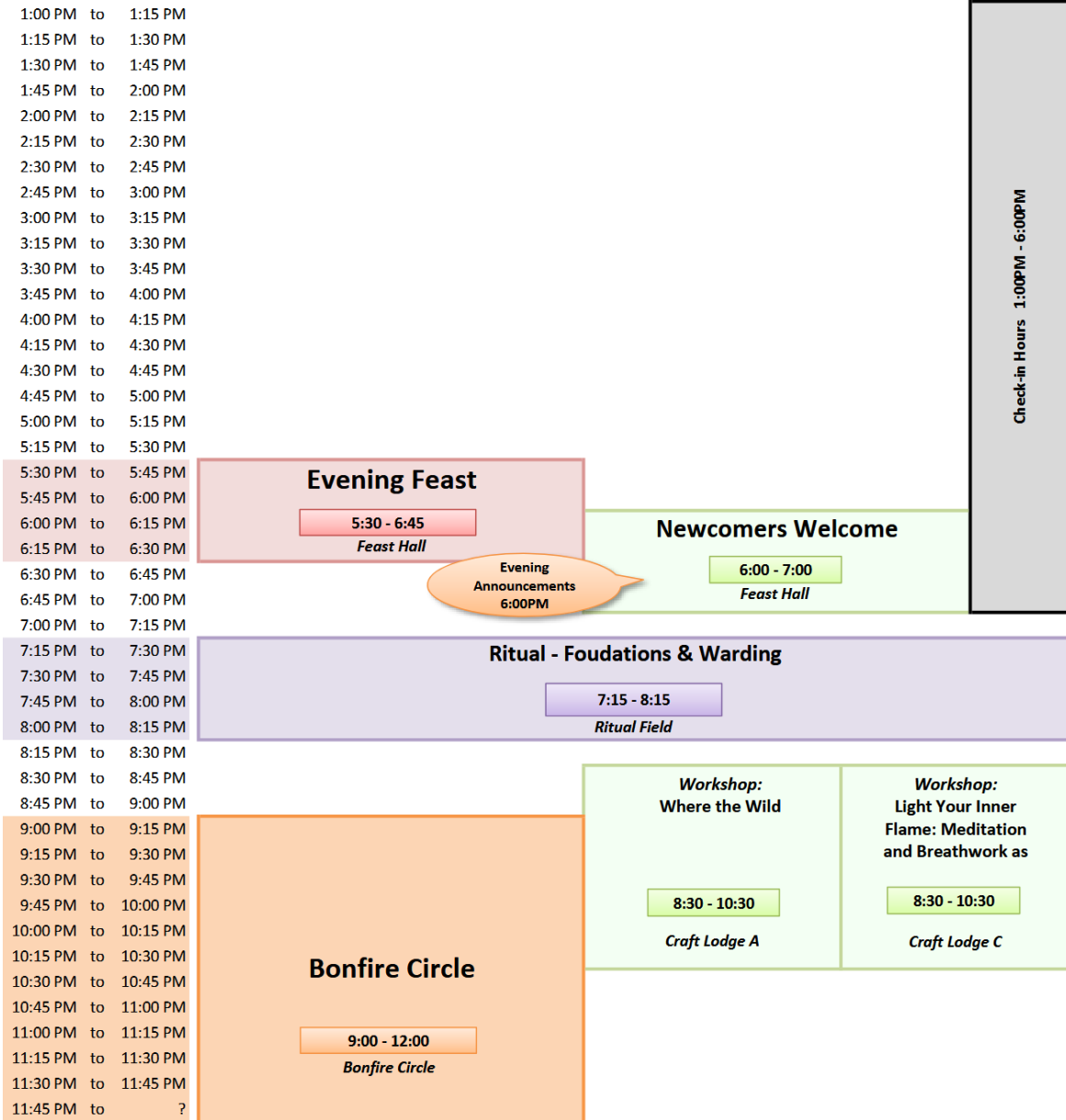
All **restrooms** contain showers.

⊗ Buildings with a **green** porch light indicate cabins inhabited by FGG Staff. If you require assistance overnight, please knock on one of those doors.

⊗ If you find a building that's not on this map, you haven't discovered a mysterious, ancient structure, lost to the sands of time. You've probably found the Ranger's house, or a similar dwelling. Please leave it (and its occupants) alone.

⊗ Yes, you read right. Snapping turtles. If you value all of your toes, please avoid the pond.

## Fertile Ground Gathering Schedule - Thursday, May 2, 2024



**Please note:**

**There may be changes in the schedule during the event. If that happens, we will update the daily schedule posted in the Feast Hall for your information.**

**We will also make announcements about these changes during the breakfast and dinner announcements.**

# Fertile Ground Gathering Schedule - Friday, May 3, 2024

7:00 AM to 7:15 AM  
 7:15 AM to 7:30 AM  
 7:30 AM to 7:45 AM  
 7:45 AM to 8:00 AM  
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**Breakfast**

Morning  
Announcements  
8:30AM

7:30 - 9:00

*Feast Hall*

Check-in Hours 8:00AM - 12:00PM

<p><b>Workshop:</b> Intro to Personal Energy Work</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80%; height: 20px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center;">9:00 - 11:00</div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Craft Lodge B</i></p>	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Dragonfire Alchemy</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80%; height: 20px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center;">9:00 - 11:00</div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Craft Lodge C</i></p>	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Dragon Quilling</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80%; height: 20px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center;">9:00 - 11:00</div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Craft Lodge D</i></p>	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Fire in the Norse Tradition</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80%; height: 20px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center;">9:00 - 11:00</div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Feast Hall</i></p>
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**Maypole Ritual - Blood, Sweat, & Tears**

11:15 - 12:15

*Ritual Field*

**Cook-out Lunch**

12:30 - 1:45

*The Commons in C Unit*

Games in the  
Commons!

<p><b>Workshop:</b> Energy Work - Dragonfire</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80%; height: 20px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center;">2:00 - 4:00</div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Craft Lodge B</i></p>	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Ogham and Scottish Gaelic Chanting - Part 1</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80%; height: 20px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center;">2:00 - 3:00</div>	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Shedding and Sloughing and Shunting Away</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80%; height: 20px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center;">2:00 - 4:00</div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Craft Lodge D</i></p>	<p><b>Workshop:</b> La Vecchia Religione: Italian Witchcraft folk practices and traditions</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80%; height: 20px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center;">2:00 - 4:00</div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Feast Hall</i></p>
<p><b>Workshop:</b> Ogham Chanting: Let's Chant! Part 2</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80%; height: 20px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center;">3:00 - 5:00</div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Craft Lodge C</i></p>			

**Ritual - Breath & Becoming**

5:30 - 6:15

*Ritual Field*

**Evening Feast**

6:30 - 7:30

*Feast Hall*

Evening  
Announcements  
7:00PM

**Performance - Rhiannon's Lark**

7:45 - 8:30

*Feast Hall*

**Performance - Melanie Bresnan**

8:45 - 9:30

*Feast Hall*

**Bonfire & Drum Circle**

9:45 - 12:00

*Bonfire Circle*

## Fertile Ground Gathering Schedule - Saturday, May 4, 2024

7:00 AM to 7:15 AM  
 7:15 AM to 7:30 AM  
 7:30 AM to 7:45 AM  
 7:45 AM to 8:00 AM  
 8:00 AM to 8:15 AM  
 8:15 AM to 8:30 AM  
 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM  
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**Breakfast**

**Morning Announcements**  
8:30AM

7:30 - 9:00  
*Feast Hall*

<b>Workshop:</b> Do or Do Not  <div style="border: 1px solid #c6e0b4; padding: 2px; background-color: #d9ead3;"> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30 - 11:30 <i>Craft Lodge B</i></p> </div>	<b>Workshop:</b> Connecting & Communicating with Dragon Guides  <div style="border: 1px solid #c6e0b4; padding: 2px; background-color: #d9ead3;"> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30 - 11:30 <i>Craft Lodge C</i></p> </div>	<b>Workshop:</b> Fire from the Sky  <div style="border: 1px solid #c6e0b4; padding: 2px; background-color: #d9ead3;"> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30 - 11:30 <i>Feast Hall</i></p> </div>
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**Lunch**

12:00 - 1:00  
*Feast Hall*

**Warrior Blessing Ritual**

1:15 - 2:15  
*Ritual Field*

<b>Workshop:</b> The Shape of Your Dragon  <div style="border: 1px solid #c6e0b4; padding: 2px; background-color: #d9ead3;"> <p style="text-align: center;">2:30 - 4:30 <i>Craft Lodge B</i></p> </div>	<b>Workshop:</b> Access the Inner Fire  <div style="border: 1px solid #c6e0b4; padding: 2px; background-color: #d9ead3;"> <p style="text-align: center;">2:30 - 4:30 <i>Craft Lodge C</i></p> </div>	<b>Workshop:</b> A Tale of Two Dragons  <div style="border: 1px solid #c6e0b4; padding: 2px; background-color: #d9ead3;"> <p style="text-align: center;">2:30 - 3:30 <i>Craft Lodge D</i></p> </div>	<b>Workshop:</b> Cimaruta Charms  <div style="border: 1px solid #c6e0b4; padding: 2px; background-color: #d9ead3;"> <p style="text-align: center;">2:30 - 4:30 <i>Feast Hall</i></p> </div>
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**Evening Feast**

**Evening Announcements**  
6:00PM

5:00 - 6:30  
*Feast Hall*

**Performance - Jenna Greene**

6:45 - 7:30  
*Feast Hall*

**Ritual - Dragonfire**

8:30 - 9:30  
*The Glen*

**Featuring**  
Spiral Journeys  
Sound Immersion

**Bonfire and Drum Circle**

9:30 - 12:00  
*Bonfire Circle*

# Fertile Ground Gathering Schedule - Sunday, May 5, 2024

7:00 AM to 7:15 AM  
7:15 AM to 7:30 AM  
7:30 AM to 7:45 AM  
7:45 AM to 8:00 AM  
8:00 AM to 8:15 AM  
8:15 AM to 8:30 AM  
8:30 AM to 8:45 AM  
8:45 AM to 9:00 AM  
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4:30 PM to 4:45 PM  
4:45 PM to 5:00 PM

**Breakfast**

Morning Announcements 8:30AM

8:00 - 9:30  
Feast Hall

**Ritual - Reflection & Grounding**

11:00 - 12:00  
Feast Hall

**Lunch**

12:15 - 1:30  
Feast Hall

**Community Clean-Up**

Entire Campsite

**Fertile Ground Gathering 2024 Closes**

See you next year!

***Please note:***

**There may be changes in the schedule during the event. If that happens, we will update the daily schedule posted in the Feast Hall for your information.**

**We will also make announcements about these changes during the breakfast and dinner announcements.**



# *Event Rules*

## **Conduct**

The purpose of this event is to foster a sense of community, acceptance, and belonging. In order to support that goal, the staff of Fertile Ground Gathering reserves the right to remove people from the event if they are behaving in a way that is harmful to others, to the site, or to the smooth operation of the event itself. Guests who are asked to leave as a result of disruptive behavior will not be refunded.

## **Alcohol**

No alcohol is allowed anywhere at Fertile Ground Gathering. This includes cabins. This is a park regulation.

## **Drugs**

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated and will be grounds for removal from Fertile Ground Gathering. Even though cannabis products may be legal in Virginia, the event takes place at a National Park and is subject to Federal law, which still prohibits cannabis use of any kind. Please do not bring cannabis products of any kind to the Gathering.

## **Weapons**

Weapons are prohibited at Fertile Ground Gathering in accordance with National Park Service regulations and Federal law.

## **Clothing**

Clothing is not optional. Please keep your clothes on at all times. This is a family event being held on federal property and nudity is not permitted.

## **ID Wristbands**

Must be worn and visible at all times.

## **Trash and Recycling**

Containers are provided throughout the entire site. Please make use of them.

## **Children's Safety**

Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. Please do not leave your child unattended anywhere in the park. This includes all designated Family Activities.

Children ages 13 and up may attend the general workshops without a parent or guardian as long as they are capable of behaving in a mature manner.

## **Family Activities**

All Family Activities are intended for children and their guardians to participate in together. Fertile Ground Gathering does not offer child care, therefore any children participating in these activities must follow the Children's Safety rules as stated above.

## **Smoking and Vaping**

There are designated smoking/vaping sections at all main areas of the campsite, and we ask that smokers and vapers please use them. Smoking and vaping are prohibited inside all buildings at Fertile Ground Gathering. This is a park rule. Smoking/vaping immediately outside the entrance to lodges and halls is prohibited because it forces others to enter and leave through a cloud of smoke/vapor. Please be courteous. Smokers must field-strip their cigarette butts if no designated ash-cans are available. Butts being thrown on the ground are not only a fire hazard, but are a sign of disrespect to park staff and the Earth itself.

## *Event Rules continued:*

### **Fire**

No open flames are allowed, except as designated by Fertile Ground Staff. This includes, but is not limited to, candles, torches, kerosene flames. (We all love our candles, but this rule is non-negotiable.)

### **No Swimming**

Please no swimming in the lake! We do not have a lifeguard on staff, but the large population of snapping turtles guards the lake well and will not tolerate your presence in their home! (Plus, you really don't want that kind of injury.)

### **Kitchen**

The kitchen is off limits to everyone except kitchen staff and volunteers. The only exception is after mealtimes when guests are permitted to enter the kitchen to wash their feast gear in the designated area.

### **Respect the Forest**

The park prohibits the hanging and/or attaching of any items including lanterns, faerie lights, etc. from trees or other vegetation in any manner.

### **Your Cabin**

You are responsible for cleaning your cabin before you leave the park. Please be considerate and leave the area in the condition (or better than!) it was when you arrived. Each cabin must be swept at the end of your stay. Brooms are available in each cabin.

### **Noise Restrictions**

Please be respectful of your neighbors. We all want to have fun but we need to be mindful of the noise we make. With the exception of the nightly bonfire in the designated area, there is an official noise curfew of 12:00 midnight in and around the public areas of the campsite because sound carries throughout the park. So please don't sing, chant, yell, or play any instruments after this time. The noise curfew for the cabin areas is 10:00pm. Please remember that some folks like to go to sleep early; so be respectful and keep your noise level down in these areas.

### **No Pets**

Sorry... no critters, pets, familiars and the like will be permitted into the campsite. Only certified service animals will be permitted. This is a National Park Service regulation.

### **All Rights Reserved**

In order to ensure a safe and sacred space for all our guests, we reserve the right to deny entry to anyone for any reason.

### **Safety**

For your safety and the safety of other guests, all instructions from staff members regarding off-limits park areas and paths must be obeyed without exception.

**We reserve the right to revise these policies without notice.**



## *Festival Best Practices and Etiquette*

- Bring a positive attitude.
- Be responsible for the energy you bring into the space.
- Treat each other and the park with respect, and likewise respect all those paths that have led people to the Gathering.
- Respect all wildlife and avoid interacting with them at all costs. If you have a concern about your own safety, or the safety of others, please move away from the wildlife quietly and seek the help of one of our team members\*.
- Parents and guardians are expected to care for and remain with their children at all times. In case of an emergency, make sure your children know that if they need help, they can go to any person wearing green or red wristband (during the day), and a green or red glowstick (at night). Please also make sure your children are aware of the location of the Feast Hall in case they accidentally get separated. There will almost always be someone either on the porch at Registration, or in the kitchen.
- If you encounter an altar along your travels, please respect it. Do not set empty drink cans or cups, etc. on the altar. Never touch others' magical tools (wands, amulets, chalices, etc.) without their permission.
- If you are invited to visit in a cabin, please respect your host's belongings.
- Please don't enter a cabin without permission!
- Bring appropriate clothing/bedding for the weekend. Remember to bring cold and wet weather gear. Around here, the weather can be very unpredictable during this time of year. So extra blankets, layers, and dry socks are a great idea.
- If you are new to the Gathering, it's a good idea to go out during the day to familiarize yourself with the locations of things you're going to want to visit after dark, like the bonfire circle, as well as how to get back from those locations to your cabin.
- Bring a flashlight for getting around in the dark. Be sure to always aim your light down toward the ground to avoid blinding passersby. There will be a few glow sticks along the paths throughout the campsite. These mark spots where caution is warranted, such as dips, roots, rocks, etc. Be mindful of them, and please leave the glow sticks where they are set.
- Clean up after yourself after meals; please don't leave your dishes and so forth on the tables and expect someone else to pick them up for you. Even if your mother is here, she probably doesn't want to have to clean up after you.
- Clean up after yourself at the showers and bathrooms, too. Please remember that others will be using these facilities, too and that courtesy goes a long way.
- Smokers must field-strip their cigarette butts if no designated ash-can is available. Throwing butts on the ground is not only a fire hazard; it's disrespectful to the park staff, as well as the Earth itself.
- Please pick up any stray trash you find lying on the ground. If you attend activities at the bonfire circle, please do not leave your empty drink containers or trash behind. Pick them up and dispose of them properly when you leave the area each day.

**Note:** Staff members will be wearing special-colored wristbands during the day and glow sticks after dark (Red for medical staff, and Green for all other staff members). In addition, all staff members will be wearing badges clearly indicating their status. If you need assistance or find someone else who does, please locate one of us so that we can assist you or them as needed. All staff members will have radios, so they can contact other members of the team if necessary.

# *Thank you!*

*We, the volunteer team, are grateful to each and every one of you who joined this community and shared a part of yourself. You have all made Fertile Ground Gathering into a family.*

*Thank you for being a part of what makes this event so magical and inspiring each and every year. We look forward to seeing you again in 2025.*

*Until then,*

*Brightest Blessings and Farewell!*