

The Heathen Kinship, the Houston Area Asatruar

Heathen kinship

Curriculum for Novices

This is the study guidelines for a member of the Heathen Kinship known as a “Novice” to progress to a full membership, generally referred to as one of the “folk”. To BECOME a novice, simply let the kindred know you are interested and a simple majority vote from the council of Gothar will start you on your one year apprenticeship.

Novices who wish to progress from Novice to Folk (full member) are encouraged to watch and participate for a year before deciding if they wish to oath their loyalty to our group. We welcome you to our clan, but experience has proven that this path is NOT for everyone, and we do not want to put you into a position of having to break your oath of troth to our group. **While a Novice, you MUST attend at least 50% of the blessings of the kindred.**

When you complete your year observance as a Novice, and have completed the requirements listed below, we hope you will apply for full membership to the Heathen Kinship. As a full member, a trú man or woman, you will have right to vote at our local things, to call moots if needed, and to receive all of the additional training and teaching that we can supply. You will have the satisfaction of learning the Lore of the Elder Faith, understanding the basic rituals, known as the Great Blessings, used to honor the Gods and Goddesses of the Folk, and an understanding of the Elder Futhark, including a proper formulation of the Hammer Rite! You will also have the responsibility and honor of helping the Heathen Kinship promote Asatru locally. Upon acceptance as a full member of the Heathen Kinship, you may wish to pursue further training as a shaman, a vitki, a craftsman, a thane, a godhi, or an eldar. You may wish to hold an office, or act as a Heathen Kinship official representative to another organization.

The “oath” of membership is NOT required of a Novice, but is a requirement of a Folk member. Upon your oath you join a larger family or clan, and enter into a “contract” of sorts whereby you pledge to stand behind the group in all things, and the group pledges to stand by you in all things. You become immediate family. Here at the Heathen Kinship we have built a true Clan, or family unit, that functions in a tribal way. We support and encourage one another, because the success of any one of us, reflects positively on the clan, and the failure of any one of us damages the clan. It is for this reason that we take the time to get to know our Novices before admitting them to our clan. Once you are in we are all pledged to support you, and vice versa.

Complete these steps

Step 1. Reading: ANY ONE book from EACH category for a total of two books over your year's term as a Novice. Alternative books may be accepted so feel free to ask about specific substitutions.

Category A: Prose or Poetic Eddas

Category B: A book about the religious practices / traditions.

Some Suggestions are: A Book of Troth by Edred Thorsson, Teutonic Religion by Kveldulf Gundarsson, Our Troth published by the Ring of Troth, The Viking Gods by Clive Barrett, Living True By the Heathen Kinship

Step 2. Rune Class: Attend at least one rune class sponsored by the Heathen Kinship

Step 3. Rituals: To become a full member, the novice must be able to perform the Hammer Signing and Hammer Rite. Explain your personal insights to the Godhi observing.

Step 4. Knowledge of the Gods: The novice must be able to recite by memory at least 6 gods and 6 goddesses along with an area or symbol that they are associated with. (ie Frigga- Goddess of family)

Step 5. Knowledge of the Blessings: The novice must explain the Greatest Blessing of Yule. What are some of the ancient symbols that are still used today?

Step 6. Reason for Joining: The Novice is almost ready to join the kindred at this point. We would like the novice to write or verbally express why he or she is interested in joining this kindred. How can you benefit the kindred?

Step 7. Prepare for the Oathing: Read over the Oathing to the Heathen Kinship. Explain to a godhi exactly what that oath will mean for you personally. Can you commit to the 8 blessings a year? Can you afford to dedicate your life to this clan and this path? Do you dare to stand out as different from the mainstream, even if this creates socially awkward situations for you? In short, do you really mean each line of the Oath? You can make a "profession" instead of taking an oath if that is preferable for you.

* The vote. The Godhi(s)/Gydhja will confirm that the prerequisites have been met, and the members in good standing will vote. An 80% vote of a quorum is required to become a full member.