

Agreement as Candidate

If you agree with this information in the pamphlet, and by signing below you are indicating you desire to be a candidate for initiation into the Salt Lake Pagan Coven and by signing below that you understand that your acceptance into the Coven is based on the successful completion of the candidacy.

The date listed is the first day of candidacy or your trial period of a year and a day study on the Earth Path.

If You Agree Please Sign

Signed Printed

Date: _____

Signature of High Priest or High Priestess of Approval into
the Salt Lake Pagan Society Coven

Signed Printed

Date: _____

Finished Training or Left Coven

Finished/Left Level

Date: _____



THE SALT LAKE PAGAN SOCIETY COVEN

A GUIDE FOR NEW CANDIDATES OF
THE NEW AMERICAN TRADITION



By Lightning Fax,

High Priest

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What Tradition is the Society?

The New American Tradition. This tradition was designed by President Daniel Cureton over the course of five years of study and meditation. It focuses on eclectic, syncretic combining of traditions. The teaching is built from various contemporary authors on the concepts of Wicca, Druidry, Shamanism, Norse, High Magic and cultural traditions to create a mix and balanced approach to Nature spirituality. With activities, rituals, and hands on training, each degree focuses on a different aspect of self and element, taking you through each of the elements from most dense to most ethereal.

What is the Coven?

Coven is magical family. The Society is a coven of people. When you join or become initiated in a coven you take sacred vows to abide by the rules of the coven, work to progress on a spiritual path, honor yourself, the deities, and each other. The bonds we build together as Coven, the energy we use and the links we join are intended to go beyond this life and into the next lives we may have. The Coven is here to provide a safe, inclusive atmosphere for your spiritual learning, growth and needs; to help you get experience in group practice of ritual, spirituality, and interacting on a group and one on one level with Deity.

How Do I Join the Coven?

The candidacy period allows you to start getting familiar with paganism, the workings of the Coven, the group, attending rituals, circle, activities and for us to get to know you better. Pay the \$50 fee. This covers the materials for your degrees (paper, ink, cords, amulet) and the work involved in producing them. Once you have successfully completed the candidacy, then you will be initiated into the Tradition and begin working on the first degree known as the Moon Path. If you cannot complete the candidacy, you may respectfully withdraw your application for membership. If you do not successfully finish the candidacy, you cannot join but will be dismissed.

What is my Responsibility as a Potential Initiate?

Your commitment as a potential Coven member (and when you join) is to honor each person, not intimidate them, intentionally offend or otherwise cause distress and harm to their wellbeing.

You agree to respect others, the High Priest and High Priestess (HP/HPS),

The Facebook Coven page is a good place to dialogue with each other, post ideas, events (as long as they don't conflict with other events), and ask questions. It is not the place for voting on issues (unless it is an emergency), disrespecting others, ganging up on others, and causing harm. If you disobey these rules you will have your privileges revoked.

Resolving Conflict

If you have issues, problems, concerns and suggestions, you should follow the proper channels to resolve them. If the concern is with an individual, you should first talk with that individual and see if you can resolve it that way. If you are unable to, then you may ask for mediation and help from the HP/HPS. The first step from the mediator will be to investigate the claims and talk to all parties. Then a face to face meeting will take place. People caught stirring the cauldron (i.e. intimidation, discomfort, threatening the members) in the group will be dealt with according to the severity of the stirring, which may involve a temporary or even permanent ban.

Leaving the Coven

If you feel that you are not progressing the way you had hoped, you may talk with the coven leader about your progression. If they cannot find a solution with you, you are free at any time to leave the Coven. This should be done by sending a letter to the HP/HPS about your reasons, when you'd like to be taken off the records, and informing them about any other business that pertains to your withdrawal. You may also include any feedback or suggestions for the Coven.

You may also be released from the Coven if you are not making satisfactory progression, there is too much resistance to the training, and if you are not informing the HP/HPS as to why you are not progressing. The whole intent of the Coven is for your training and edification and to one day graduate to the honor of High Priest or High Priestess. You may also be released for other reasons such as behavioral issues or being MIA (Missing in Action). If you are released this way, you forfeit your ordination(s). If you leave on good terms, you will retain any degrees earned.

If you ever return to the coven, your trial/training will start over including the candidacy year. You should think deeply on your time, availability and ability to commit to the studies and coven before committing to avoid an unnecessary or unforeseen interruption to your time in the coven.

Sample Outline

Here are some samples from the different paths. This should give you a good idea of the kind of projects you will be working on.

Earth Path-Candidacy (Year and a day study)

Talk and listen with the trees or animals

Moon Path-First Degree

Build and maintain your own apothecary

Sun Path-Second Degree, Priest/Priestess

Become an apprentice blacksmith

Do thirty tarot readings for yourself and others

Spirit Path-Third Degree, High Priest/High Priestess

Learn to Draw Down the Moon

Required Reading Book Sample

Earth Power: Techniques of Natural Magic by Scott Cunningham (Earth Path)

Required Activities Sample

Meditate and connect with the Element of Fire (Sun Path)

Food

We often have food at rituals. All sabbats have feasts. Please bring a substantial side dish (no platters, trays, chips or salsa). You may also bring cakes, ale or wine for esbats. Meat, fruit, greens, vegan, and vegetarian dishes are ok.

Submitting Work

You should email your papers to slpagansociety@gmail.com. If you prefer to do you projects by hand, talk to the HP/HPS to see if this is acceptable.

Social Media

The Salt Lake Pagan Society has a website where all events, rituals, stories, outlines and the newsletter are posted. Even though the Coven is a private group, we still record and take photos to be posted online for transparency, archives and records.

to come prepared and on time to activities and rituals, be silent, do your part to help set up, take down, contribute, and have a good time!

If you have any questions, problems, worries or concerns, you should use the proper channels of communication which means bringing up the issues to the HP/HPS. Using forums such as the Coven page on Facebook are not the appropriate place.

If you have a concern or problem with another covenantor, you are encouraged to first talk to that person and see if you can resolve your issue. If that does not work, you can then come to the HP/HPS and ask for assistance or mediation.

What are the responsibilities of the High Priest and Priestess?

The responsibilities of the High Priest and High Priestess are as being your spiritual leaders. They have accepted the vows to respect you, as a person, your identities (such as male/female, gay/straight/bi/trans, masculine/feminine), your experiences, background, intelligence and all else that you bring to the Coven in general.

As your leaders, they are responsible for overseeing your spiritual growth, giving you feedback, advice, training, hands on practice, and demonstrations.

Where appropriate, this may take the form of measuring your experiences, evaluating your progression, receiving spiritual messages, giving feedback on papers and ensuring your safety.

Attendance Requirements

We only offer in person training. During the candidacy, attendance is required at all functions. You are expected after initiation to attend the functions of SLPS regularly.

New moons are when the Coven comes with their studies to get instruction, updates, discuss materials and so on. Full moons are when the coven works powerful magic together. Sabbats are the days of honoring the deities and cycles of nature.

There are in between days like special holiday rituals (Kwanzaa for example) which usually fall around the full moon), crafting nights, book club, and game nights, but those are more flexible if you cannot attend.

Cost and Fees

Part of the exchange from teacher and initiate is in real world money. The annual dues are \$50.00 (your application fee counts as the first year's dues). This fee goes to cover materials as you progress through your training.

The other costs that are involved will be from your own budget in purchasing materials for projects, travel, time, books, robes, fabric, cards and so on that are part of what you will be doing as you go through the mysteries. Occasionally you will be asked to help cover other costs like printing, or booth fees.

Updates and Changes

As the tradition and Coven grows, it is inevitable that some changes will be made along the way to better suite the needs of the members. Sometimes you may be asked to participate in a dialogue or group discussion, sometimes you may not. This is up to the HP/HPS to decide what's best.

Sometimes the activities and reading list may be updated or changed. If you were on a path before the change then you may continue under the old outline. As your training progress, there may be changes to the degrees for what is best suited and

Rituals and Meetings

SLPS meets by appointment. All rituals are closed to the public. No guests are allowed.

You should come to activities sober and prepared. Our rituals are an eclectic mix of High Magic, Druidry, Witchcraft, Shamanism, Wicca, and require a sure mind and steadfast hand to Work the magic and ceremony.

What are the Degrees?

There are three degrees. The zero degree is the Earth Path Candidacy. This is the beginning period a year and a day study with the Coven where you demonstrate your desire to study and work, begin to explore the magical side of yourself. It gets you involved with the Living Earth, nature, natural magic, working with the element of earth, being embodied in yourself, present, as well as interacting with your surroundings.

The first degree is the Moon Path. This is the Goddess Path. You learn to work with a goddess of your choice, learn the inner mysterious of the tradition such as meditation, divination, moon magic, working with the element of water, fairies, astrology and phases of the moon.

The second degree is the Sun path. This is the God Path. You learn to work with a god of your choice, perform community service hours, learn what the outer mysteries are, solar rites, candle magic, working with the element of fire, high magic, non-leader ritual roles, and writing and designing rituals.

The third degree is the Spirit path. This path is the end of the training and teaches you to continue your studies in the inner and outer mysteries, ritual leadership, receiving spiritual messages for others, working with the element air, leading groups, guiding others on vision quests, starting your own circle, advanced magical practices, drawing down the moon, completing a community project, aspecting deities and taking on the mantle of HP/HPS. You have the option of getting ordained as a minster in the Society at this level.

Time Lengths and Expectations for Each Degree

When you are a candidate you start at the beginning, even if you have had prior training. You are here to learn the Tradition. Each degree in the Coven is designed to help you progress spiritually and to gain more experience in the respective areas. You will be submitting reports and papers to the HP/HPS so that they can monitor your progression and give you feedback and remarks. Even if you have done activities or read books before, you should be reviewing them, taking on new ones and gaining new experiences. It may be ok in some cases to substitute a previous experience for a degree requirement. Talk to the HP/HPS before assuming this is acceptable.

Since each degree builds upon the previous one, here are the appropriate lengths.

Earth Path Candidacy– 1 year and a day.

Moon Path– 1 year

Sun Path– 1 year

Spirit Path– 1-2 years.

For a total of 4-5 years maximum you should spend training in the Coven. After each degree you receive a colored cord and certificate. You may always complete your training under 4 years. As a third degree you may stay in the coven, hive off and form your own coven and train initiates in the Tradition.