

The Government Accepts The Wiccan Religion



A battle between many Pagan groups and the government ended with a win for the Pagans. This victory means that Wiccan's can now have a pentagram on their military headstone compliments of the U.S. government.

With the win of this battle many other Pagan religions are in hopes of the government accepting a symbol to represent their religion.

What would the symbol of your religion be? Draw it in the box below.



Portable Alter

August Field Trip

Lunch With Nature

Take a trip to the closest nature area and go for a small hike or walk through it. When you find a place that feels so comfortable take a seat and begin your lunch hour. During this time you will listen to what nature has to say, eat your lunch, observe everything around you. Drop a few crumbs to your nature friends and watch them take your offering. See if you can identify some of the trees and other forms of life around you. Be sure not to leave out anyone with your attention including the sky and the ground itself. Take note of how relaxed you feel and how satisfied you are with everything. Remember that it is a Pagan's job to become one with nature on a regular basis.



Put an X on the things you saw during your fieldtrip.



Ever been where there is no alter and you really need to use one? You may want to make a small portable one of your own that can be used anywhere. Take an Altoid tin and cut some cardstock or tissue paper a little smaller than it then draw or cut-n-paste your god & goddess' that you usually pray for on it. You can cut a piece of cloth the same way. Older kids can add a tealite candle and pack of matches with a folded up piece of foil to sit the candle on for safety. Younger kids can use a small flashlight with the top screwed off where the lightbulb makes a candle. Put all things in the Altoid tin and if you offer offering attach it to your belt loop or pocket by taping it. All items can make a alter in any situation; even the tin itself can be the well, offering plate, or other item you use.

Herb Focus: Yarrow



Go on a walk with an adult to locate & learn what *Yarrow* looks like

Color: green stem & leaves, yellow and/or white flowers and blooms

Location: found about anywhere in the U.S. and a lot of places overseas

Common Use: stop bleeding by rubbing two soft leaves together and apply the juice to the skin

** As with all natural medicinal items and purposes be sure to clear it with an adult before using.

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Nature - What Time Is It ?

Consider the sky a clock with the 12 at the very top or center. When the sun or moon is coming up it enters the clock and each hour it changes it moves like the hands of a clock. This method will need to be practiced before you are good at it. Once you get the hours down you can practice on the minutes. If you want to use nature more to tell the time watch the animals, plants, grass, and trees because they, too, do different things at different times of the day.

Soon you will be able to look at the nature around you and tell the time in any kind of weather!!



WORMY'S BOOK REVIEW: **Earth to Aubrey; by Susan Hughes**

Grade 1-3: This is a great book that follows a boy as he discovers a little about how to connect with nature as he learns about a girl he has labeled an alien. The book focuses on friendship, imagination, and how being a Pagan can be accepted. Easy reading and has lots of enjoyable pictures.

True Story: **The Ant's Farm**

In my backyard last year I decided to grow my own pumpkins.

They grew fast and soon they had vines with a lot of blooms that covered the whole flowerbed.

When the blooms turned into pumpkins I noticed that they didn't live long and seemed to have rotted.

I looked closely at the plant to see what was wrong. I saw a lot of ants crawling all over the vines, so many they covered them completely.

I had never seen so many and so busy ants before so I

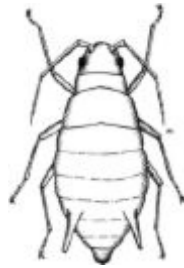
decided to watch them close for a few days.

The ants were taking eggs out of their nests and putting them on the bottoms of the pumpkin leaves.

The eggs were hatching and out of them were coming aphids. There were tons of them all over the pumpkin leaves.

As the aphids worked and ate the leaves of the pumpkins they left behind a whiteish powder. The ants were carrying the powder back to their nests as food.

So the ants were doing their own farming of aphids. I wonder if they will come back and farm on the pumpkin vines again this year?



3 main parts of the Ant: Draw a line from the word to that part of the ant.

Head

Body (thorax)

Stomach (Abdomen)



Cool Ant Facts:

Ants don't have lungs, they breathe through tiny holes in their skin.
Some ants have their heart in the thorax and some in their stomach.
Ants have been around since the dinosaurs roamed the earth.

Explore the Ant World on Your Own

Watch ants in your area and see if you can find the answers to these questions!

Do ants move more in the day or night?

Does the temperature effect ant activity?

Do ants like some foods more than others?

Do ants communicate with one another?

THE INTERVIEWER

PAGAN AND MILITARY

To find out what it is like for Pagans in the military the Interviewer has talked to an enlisted member of the U.S. Air Force.

THE INTERVIEW:

Was your family Pagan? In my family everyone seemed to be a different kind of religion. Most of the family was in a Christian based religion although there were a few that believed in a Pagan based religion.

When did you become a Pagan? I was already in the military when I became a Pagan. It is my belief that most Pagan's do not join the military because their agenda is different. This may not be true for everyone, however I think it is for most.

Does everyone know that you are a Pagan? In the military most people keep their religion a private matter. There are times among friends that it is discussed, however not many that would be Pagan safe. It isn't that I am afraid of what other's think or ashamed of my religion. Being in the military is very different because the people that are around you could easily be the same one's that could hold your life in their hands. Because of these high stakes religion, politics, and other matters which one could be prejudice, should be kept private.

Do you find it hard to practice your religion? I think it is equally hard

7 for all religion's to practice when your not on your own homeland. There are places where all religions are practiced in private and other places where some religions are acceptable. It does seem, however, that there aren't any place for a Pagan to practice his or her religion freely. This may change in the future though. I do get to practice my religion on a regular basis even though sometimes my alter may not resemble anything ideally. I guess it boils down to; if you want to worship, you will find a way.

7 *Do you think the military is Pagan friendly?* The military is as Pagan friendly as any other job or career today. The main focus of the military has nothing to do with religion, so it actually isn't tailored to any of them.

7 *What, as a Pagan, do you feel you have gained and loss because of your chosen job?* I have had opportunity to visit many different places since I have joined the military. It has allowed me to see, first hand, the many faces and places that nature has to offer. It also has opened my eyes to different ways of being totally happy with keeping my religion private as well as how to handle things when other's don't agree with my ways. If I had to choose something that I felt was lost within my religion because of me being in the military I would have to say that I don't get enough truly private time to worship as I would like. Because of this I feel that I didn't grow as quickly as I could have as a Pagan.

You TELL IT NOW:

What is it like being a Pagan kid?

Answer the following questions telling what it is like to be a kid that is growing up Pagan. Feel free to send in your answers and you may be the next *Interview* posted in Moonbeams!

How many people in your family are Pagan?

Do you think it is harder for a kid or an adult to be a Pagan? Why?

How long have you been a Pagan?

What part about being a Pagan do you find the hardest to understand?

Do you tell your friends about your religion? If not why? If you do then do they treat you any different?

Do you think you will always be a Pagan?

Word Search

Common Pagan Tools

Word List

P O S D R A C T O R A T
E P L A C A S Y R C U P A
N C E A C A T S Y R C U P A
D A O N P L L C A T N E P A
U U A G T C A H A B E S O M
L L T S A A H A P E S O M
U D R Y T A A H A P E S O M
M R R C F A U M P S L T G M S
H O N C A U R M P S L T G M S
A N E M A A R G A T N E P C E
T E R S A A N F A T N I C S
E R C H D A N F L U E A C I I N
L C A H A P L U E A C I I N
U A S T I H A P L U E A C I I N
M S T I S Y A C R M W H N S D C N
A T S Y R C R C R Y S T E I

- Altar
- Amulet
- Athame
- Bells
- Besom
- Cauldron
- Chalice
- Chaplet
- Charms
- Circle
- Incense
- Ogham
- Pendulum
- Pentacle
- Pentagram
- Runes
- Crystal
- Staff
- Tarot Cards
- Wand



This Month's Offer : My Neighbor

My neighbor is a printable book telling about a boy's experience with a nature ran Pagan in his neighborhood. This is a book that they will want to hear or read several times as well as a great addition to their own Pagan Library.

<http://paganmoonbeams.com/offerings/NeighborBook.pdf>

To enhance the story try as many of these suggestions as you can throughout the month with your child and/or add in some of your own.

- Go for a walk and do some collect eatible plants for a small stew when you get home. Do some searching on the internet if you aren't familiar with mixing them or need a good recipe.
- If there is someone in your area similar to Seanair Taghairm set up some time for your child to spend with him or her.
- For an added touch pick a day towards the end of the month and operate on a purely nature schedule as the man and boy do in the story. Your child could follow up with a story or journal entry of their own telling about the experience.

Educational Idea's to aid this month's Moonbeams

The Government Accepts The Wiccan Religion

- Go to a local cemetery and look at the tombstones in the military section. Look at the different symbols and talk about the religions they represent. Try and locate a tombstone with a pentagram on it. This can be something you do on a regular basis (on your special days) and keep up with the military Pagan's that are in your area.
- Get your child involved in the Pagan military that are overseas and the Pagan care packages that are being sent from many different organizations.
- Have your child join in on the battle to add a symbol for their religion.
- If you are a Wiccan aid them in following how many Wiccan symbol tombstones are being issued. This might be a good chance for them to use a map and follow where they are being used and see how long it takes for the tombstones to be placed in all the states.

August Field Trip

- Use this trip to review or teach your child the different kinds of plants, trees, and wildlife in your area. You can also point out and discuss the homes and signs that wildlife has been there. Discuss the young plant life and it's probability of growing due to it's position and the things around.
- For an older kid show them aerial maps or allow them to do extra research online to find local important geographical (hills, valleys, lakes, etc...) and manmade forms (watershed, wildlife preserves, etc...). Teach them how to use these findings to locate the ideal place for the field trip where they will connect most with nature.

Portable Alter

- Help your child assemble their own portable alter and show them how to use it. Discuss when and where it would appropriate and/or right for them to use it. Try to allow them to add in their own personal touch by picking colors and/or a routine of it's use. Let them know that although a portable alter can come in handy sometimes that it shouldn't be the only form of alter they use.
- Tie making portable alters with the Pagan military packages that are being sent overseas in support of U.S. soldiers now or add them to any cause they would be needed or used.
- Have them brainstorm on other ways to make a portable alter and find an opportunity for them to set up a booth or demonstration showing them (Pagan Pride, Public Rituals, etc...) for the general public.

Nature – What Time Is It?

- Enforce this activity throughout the month to teach or perfect their ability to do this.
- Go more in depth with the time teaching them to watch sunset and sunrise times,

changes in the seasons and how the natural time changes (this could tie into the wheel of the year), and other factors.

Wormy's Book Review

- Discuss with your child how each of the characters in the book felt and why they would have felt this way. Have your child explain how the things in this book relates to them and/or their friends. Do some role and instance playing with your child to aid them in handling situations that make them uncomfortable expressing their own religious actions.
- Tell them of at least one instance where you or someone else had to face the same situation as an adult. Let them know that this may be an issue they will have to face throughout their life.
- Be sure to point out that everyone has these same problems but for different reasons; race, color, religion, intelligence, etc...

The Ant's Farm

- Have them look around until they find a dead ant that is still in tact and observe it under a looking glass or microscope. See if they can find more detail than the simple diagram that was in the newsletter. Allow them to draw their findings and do some research online or at the library to label and find the purposes of the items in their detail drawings.
- Allow them to come up with their own experiment with free ants, conduct the experiment, and give you a presentation of their findings (be sure they don't hurt or interrupt the ants they experiment with).
- Use diagrams or other comfortable form to compare the life of an ant and the action within the city or town you live in. Let them decide how much in common the ant colony and their world really is.

The Interviewer

- They can answer the questions posted in the newsletter and email it to paganmoonbeams@yahoo.com to be posted in next month's issue.
- Have them find someone they feel important within the Pagan religion and interview them. Allow them to watch a few interviews on TV or Utube and prepare their own questions. Have them arrange an appointment for the interview in person or on the phone. Go over proper interview edicate for phone or person, whichever they are doing. Have them submit their interview to be posted in a future issue of Moonbeams.

Drop Your Thoughts

Want to see something in the Moonbeams or have idea's to aid in it's content feel free to drop them in my email box:

paganmoonbeams@yahoo.com !!