

# Stones Family Gathering 2023

## Transitions, the Fae, and a Trilithon



September 1<sup>st</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup>

Buffalo Gap Retreat Campground  
229 Cool Creek Rd, Capon Bridge, WV 26711

**Where we gather, we are Home.**  
**Where we go, we will raise Stones.**

## Welcome to Stones Family Gathering, 2023!

Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>

3 to 8pm **Welcome Home Registration** (Circus Tent) Come to the registration table to check in, see some familiar faces, and greet the new space!

6 to 6:30pm **Bylaws Chat with the Officers** (Circus Tent) Got questions about the new Bylaws? Join the officers for a quick chat and check in.

6 to 6:30pm **In-Person Tech Witch Training** (Circus Tent) In Camp Tech Witches, now is the time to gather and sort out weekend duties and learn how to use the equipment. Interested in helping out, or just want to learn more in case you are interested in helping out at another event? Please join us!

6 to 8pm **Dinner & Free Time** We are not offering a meal plan this year, so please enjoy dinner with your campmates, or get a delicious meal at the Lakeview Café.

7:15 to 8pm **Ceremony Rehearsal** (The Island)

8pm **Opening Ceremony** (The Island)

Post Ceremony to 10pm **Fire & Bardic Circle** (The Island) Join us for song, dance, fire and fellowship. Quiet hours are in affect at 10PM

Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>

8 to 9:30am **Breakfast & Free Time** We are not offering a meal plan this year, so please enjoy dinner with your campmates, or get a delicious meal at the Lakeview Café.

9:30am to 1pm **Main Pull** (Gymnasium) Gather at the Gym to see if the pixies and sprites of this land will allow us to raise their stones.

Post Pull to 1pm **Lunch & Free Time** We are not offering a meal plan this year, so please enjoy dinner with your campmates, or get a delicious meal at the Lakeview Café.

1 to 2pm **Town Hall Meeting** (Circus Tent) Join the Officers in the Circus Tent for our bi-annual meeting. Get updates, ask questions, participate in democracy.

3 to 5pm **Faerie High Tea & Wedding!** (Site #29, Big Oak) Come join us for the handfasting of Blinx & Dozer. After 20 years together, these two Faeries are tying the Knot and making honest men of one another, and you

are invited. A handfasting in the Stone Circle Wicca Tradition form, sparkling with Faerie Whim. Dress fabulously and bring your entire self.

5:30 to 6:30pm **Community Paint & Sip** (Circus Tent) Come play with us and watch Trolgar teach us mortals how to enjoy creating. If you don't want to paint, then bring your own craft project and hangout!

6:30 to 8pm **Dinner & Free Time** We are not offering a meal plan this year, so please enjoy dinner with your campmates, or get a delicious meal at the Lakeview Café.

7:15 to 8pm **Ceremony Rehearsal** (The Island)

8pm **Main Ceremony** (The Island)

Post Ceremony to 10pm **Fire & Bardic Circle** (The Island) Join us for song, dance, fire and fellowship. Quiet hours are in affect at 10pm.

Post Ceremony to Dawn **Stone Vigil** Come keep our stones company through the long night before the Rising. Sing them a quiet song, tell a tale, or leave an offering.

Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>

8 to 9:30am **Breakfast & Free Time** We are not offering a meal plan this year, so please enjoy dinner with your campmates, or get a delicious meal at the Lakeview Café.

10am **Breaking of the Bread** (The Trilithon) As we begin to prepare mentally and physically for the work ahead, we gather in community to nourish our bodies and hearts.

**Ceremony of Commitments** (The Trilithon) Gather your ribbons and make your commitments to your community.

**Blessing of the Tools**

**The Rising** (The Trilithon)

**Lunch with the Stones** (The Trilithon)

**Blessing our Transitions** (The Trilithon)

6:30 to 8pm **Dinner & Free Time**

7:15 to 8pm **Ceremony Rehearsal** (Trilithon Ridge)

8pm **Consecration & Closing Ceremony** (Trilithon Ridge)

Post Ceremony to 10pm **Fire & Bardic Circle** (The Island) Join us for song, dance, fire and fellowship. Quiet hours are in affect at 10PM.

Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>

8 to 9:30am **Breakfast & Free Time** We are not offering a meal plan this year, so please enjoy dinner with your campmates, or get a delicious meal at the Lakeview Café.

9:30 to 10am **Morning Coffee, Hugs, & Goodbyes**

11am **Pack Up & Pack Out** We have a lot to pack and little time to do so! Please help us pack up camp, break down tents, and clean up trash. All attendees must be off-site by 11am.

## **Rocks and Ramblings: Community Info**

### **Venue Reminders:**

\*Our new venue has quiet hours that are in effect from 10pm - 8am. This means that late night drumming or music isn't an option. Please enjoy quiet activities to keep our neighbors happy.

\*On Monday Morning we must be off site by 11am. This is a bit of an adjustment from previous years. Due to this timeline, we will be having closing ceremony Sunday evening to allow maximum time to pack up and out Monday morning. Please assist with taking down tents, gathering trash, and general cleanup as you can Monday.

\* We have such a beautiful property to explore this year, please take advantage of it and get to know the new space. However, do keep in mind that there is no lifeguard posted at the lake or any other waterway, so swim responsibly and keep an eye on children and your fellow community members.

\* Your registration includes use of the bathrooms and showers in the Slane's Knob and Sandy Ridge Cabins. If the door is locked, the access codes are: Slane's Knob (3752), Sandy Ridge (3726). Darla, the magic coffee machine, and the Community Cares Box will be located on the shared deck at the rear of these two adjoining cabins.

\* The hours for the Lakeview Cafe are as follows:

Friday: 8am-8pm  
 Saturday: 8am-8pm  
 Sunday: 8am-8pm  
 Monday- 8am-11am

## **Important Locations for SFG2023:**

The majority of our weekend events will center around The Island. This is the piece of land surrounded by the creek that is in between our creek-side camping and the cabins. Most ceremonies and meetings will take place here. Please note, meet here for the long pull Saturday Morning. The High Tea and wedding will take place at campsite #29, right next to The Island, around the big tree.



(View across one of two bridges to The Island)

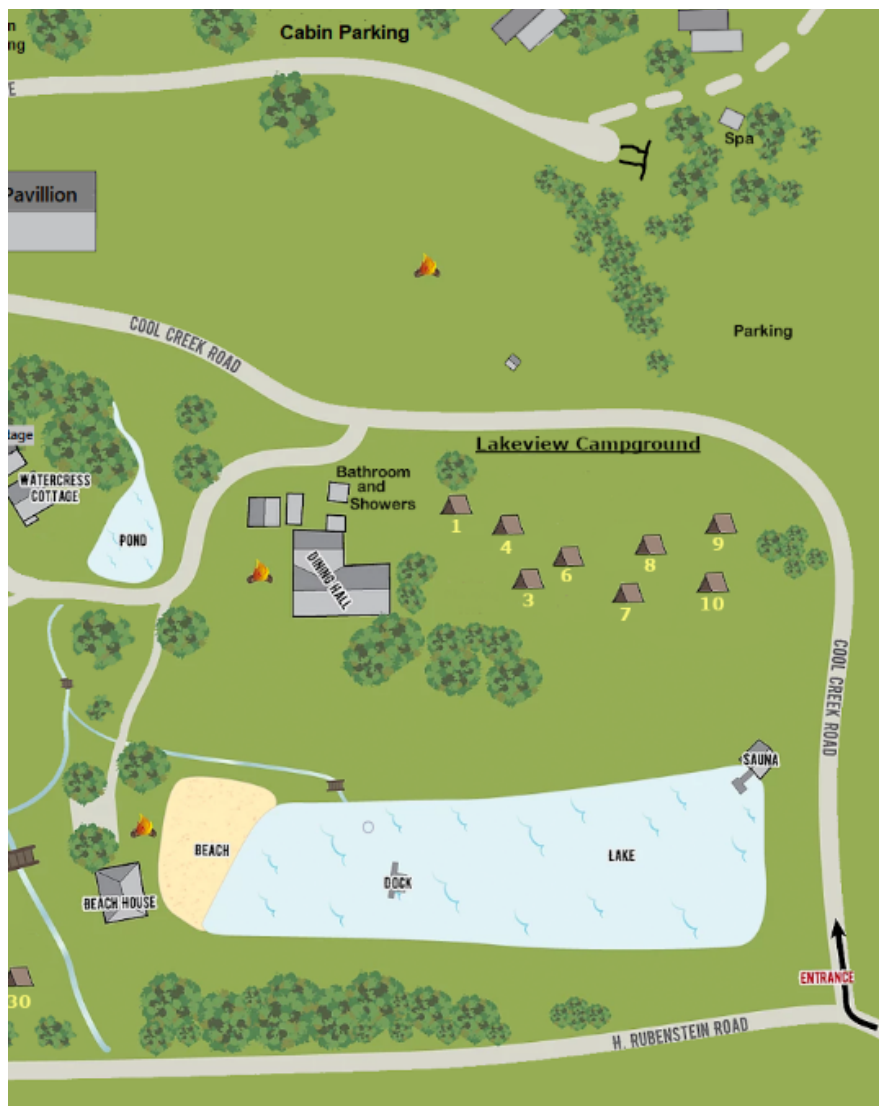
## **Community Cares Box**

This year we are introducing our Community Cares box. You'll find this box located on the shared deck of the Sandy Ridge/Slane's Knob building, near the SCC Bathrooms. This box contains support items like sunscreen, hot and cold wraps, band-aids, covid tests, bug spray, and much more! If you are in need of something please check it out and help yourself, you will not be judged, and we encourage you to utilize it.



**Welcome to the weekend of Stones Family Gathering.**

There are many people that have worked hard to make this weekend happen, including you! As we come together for our 3rd hybrid Stones Family Gathering, we continue to do so safely and look forward to being with our family of choice. We welcome you and hope you have a spectacular time.



## Donations

We thank you for all the donations that have made this event possible, and we thank you in advance for helping us as we continue to move forward! Please consider adding a monthly donation now that we are a registered 501(c) organization to help cover our yearly fixed and quarry expenses. We currently have \$240/ month in recurring donations. If we expand the definition of fixed expenses to include \$3K in stones a year, we need about \$400 in recurring donations. So ... we're only \$160/month short! Please consider a monthly donation!



## Code of Conduct

Stone Circle Council is dedicated to a harassment-free experience for everyone. Participation in Stone Circle Council LLC's leadership, membership, or events is subject to the observance of Stone Circle Council LLC's rules and procedures, including the community's Code of Conduct. Violation of this Code may result in consequences up to and including removal from membership in Stone Circle Council LLC and/or removal from events with no refund.

By participating in our event, you agree to the following:

I will follow the Code of Conduct of Stone Circle Council LLC.

I will respect the boundaries of other members/participants.

I will conduct myself in accordance with the above guidelines.

The Activities outlined below are strictly prohibited:

- ♦Abusive language towards a member, volunteer, or another participant.
- ♦Possession or use of illegal drugs during any stone Circle Council LLC activities.
- ♦Bringing to Stone Circle Council LLC activities dangerous or unauthorized materials such as explosives, firearms, weapons, or other similar items (A weapon shall be defined by how the item is used and the intent behind it.)
- ♦Verbal, physical, or visual harassment of another participant, member, or volunteer.
- ♦Actual or threatened violence toward any individual or group.
- ♦Conduct endangering the life, safety, health, or well-being of others.
- ♦Failure to follow any venue policy or procedure.
- ♦Bullying or taking unfair advantage of any participant, member, or volunteer.
- ♦Hate speech directed toward any group of people.

## Stone Circle Council Health Policies for In-Person Events

Updated 7/24/2023

SCC believes that a multi-layered and cautious approach to gathering remains necessary at this time, in order to protect the health of our community. Our policy is based on guidance from our Health Advisory Committee and the best information available to us at this time. This policy will be updated if circumstances change or we learn new information. In addition, while these are our general guidelines, certain circumstances may require more stringent requirements.

**Attendance:** Please do not attend any in-person events if you test positive for COVID-19 within 5 days before you attend. If you tested positive for



COVID-19 5-10 days before the event, make sure you wear a mask around others for 10 days after your onset of symptoms or positive test. If you have been exposed to COVID-19 prior to an in-person event, self-test and ensure you have a negative result before attending, and we recommend self-testing regularly throughout the event. As always, do not travel if you have any symptoms.

**Symptoms:** For the health of our community, please do not attend in-person events if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body ache
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

**Vaccination:** All attendees 5 and older are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and to provide proof of vaccination. You can upload your vaccination documents here, or you can bring them to the event. If you have already uploaded your documentation you don't have to provide it again. Booster shots are not required, but are strongly encouraged. If you have received a booster please upload or bring that documentation as well.

**Testing:** We strongly encourage every attendee to take an at-home rapid test prior to traveling. We also recommend bringing additional rapid tests for each day of your attendance, and encourage self-testing throughout the event. This is crucial to catching potential outbreaks before they happen.

- If you test positive before the event, we will be sorry to miss you! Please do not attend in-person if you test positive, but if the event has a hybrid component, we would love to have you join us virtually.
- If you test positive during the event, please begin wearing a high-quality mask in all outdoor spaces, isolating as much as possible, and contact [admin@stonecirclecouncil.org](mailto:admin@stonecirclecouncil.org) or your nearest Officer.
- If you test positive after an in-person event, please send an email to [admin@stonecirclecouncil.org](mailto:admin@stonecirclecouncil.org). This will help us communicate with attendees that they may have been exposed, but your information will not be shared.

**Masking:** Masks are required when indoors when we are at a venue with indoor spaces. Exceptions to the indoor mask policy will be made if you have indoor sleeping accommodations and are in your sleeping area, and

for activities in restrooms that require unmasking (bathing/tooth brushing/etc). We recommend masks be worn while in ceremony outdoors, but they are not required. Certain ceremonies or activities may require increased masking at the discretion of the ritual leader, and if so, this will be communicated ahead of time. Please be mindful that we all have different risk tolerance; always ask before approaching another individual, and try to maintain at least 6 feet distancing when indoors and 3 feet when out-of-doors.

**Venue:** Some SCC events will take place at venues that are simultaneously hosting non-SCC groups. Within such venues SCC attendees will be required to adhere to SCC's health policy, while non-SCC attendees will not be beholden to SCC health policies, and so may be unvaccinated or unmasked. Additionally, we will always follow venue-specific policies, which depending on the location may require increased vaccination and/or masking. We will communicate in advance when we will be sharing a venue with non-SCC folks.

### **Spiritual Care Team**

These members of the Stones family Gathering community will be available throughout the weekend to offer peer-to-peer support. If you are seeking a sounding board, a member of the Spiritual Care Team will be available to listen deeply and be with you in the moment. Spiritual Care Team Members will be wearing purple armbands throughout the weekend, reach out to them if you need to talk.

### **Pathways of Service:**

This event couldn't happen without you. Every single one of us is important, cherished. As we tend to each other on our weekend journey, I encourage you to look around and offer your help whenever you can.

Within our community we have many "clubs" that support different aspects of our needs. Sometimes these clubs need an extra helping hand and some new vigor to keep them going. Please consider extending a hand to any of the below groups. If you don't know how to get started but want to help, reach out to Rhiannon Linfeld or any of the officers and they will direct you to a point person for each activity.

\*When we're all exhausted at the end of the weekend, we really need our cleanup crew to ensure we are respectful to our venue and the land, and leave no trace when we leave.

\*The Stone Crew, the literal and figurative backbone to this weekend. Get a little sore and a little dirty for a good cause.

\*Perhaps you like to nourish your community and transform simple ingredients, then The Cup and Board might be a good fit for you.

\*Music keeps us going, when the going gets tough, our Drummers and Quire are there to keep us moving.

\*Fire Club tends the sacred flame that keeps us warm and together.



\*The Tech Witches are an invaluable link between the on-site event and our virtual community who can't be with at this moment. They ensure no one is left out. Very little tech experience is needed for this role. If you can use a smartphone, we can use your help!

\*The Sacred Witness. Please document this magic, this community, this moment in time that will never occur this exact way again. So often we get caught up in everything we forget to document for future generations. Take pictures, upload them to our virtual photo albums, be present and remember.

### **Sunshine Fundraiser Yard-sale**

Do you love a good treasure hunt? Do you love supporting your community? So do we! Come check out the Sunshine Fundraiser Table. Here, different items have been donated by our community to raise funds for event fees for those that need a little Sunshine in their life. All you need to do is find a treasure, pay for it in one of three ways, and be happy knowing you've made a difference and gotten a cool thing! If you donated items, please remember to take anything that does not sell back home.

### **Stones Eve Vigil:**

What is a Stones Eve vigil? This is a tradition we have where we hang out with or guard the stones from Saturday night to Sunday morning. At different times this has meant different things. Some years we have programing for the vigil and some we have a free-form flow where anyone that feels called to be with the Stones is welcome to sit with them. This year we have a free-form approach. Keeping quiet hours in mind, we invite you to softly read to, sing, share a snack, tell a story, or otherwise keep our

Trilithon company. If you are too tired or are not called to, please do not fret. Our virtual community does us a great service by watching the Stones all night. By utilizing different time zones, our virtual community ensures it is well guarded and kept company.

### **Blessing Our Transitions:**

Some change is for the better, some for the sadder - but all have a place to be recognized in the life you share with your Circle.

Would you like a recent transition in your life to be recognized at Stones Family Gathering? Degrees, divorces, (re)names, births, bindings, deaths, graduations, and retirements - let us make a joyful noise where requested, or let us hold you in community when needed. Recognition in transitional times is one way we connect & renew in presence of one another. See Heather D or an Officer if you'd like your transition included in this year's blessings.

### **Council Membership**

Stone Circle Council is a membership-based organization that believes in democracy! We hold elections twice each year. If you are not a member and would like to vote during the fall elections, please visit our website: [www.stonecirclecouncil.org](http://www.stonecirclecouncil.org) to sign up!



### **Upcoming Stone Circle Council Awesomeness:**

Sept. 16: **Frederick Pagan Pride**

Oct. 27 – 29: **Samhain @ Camp West Mar**

Dec 15 – 17: **Yule @ TBD**

REGISTER at [StoneCircleCouncil.org](http://StoneCircleCouncil.org)

ADD YOUR OWN!!! Remember, any Council Member can host their own event! Big, Small, Moon Service, in California! Whatever you dream, we can help you do! Just contact an officer via [Admin@stonecirclecouncil.org](mailto:Admin@stonecirclecouncil.org)