

Fire Etiquette:

We are gathered here to celebrate and enjoy.

We should all leave this place after the ceremony
happy and healthy.

My job, as Fire Tender, is to help make sure that happens; and that especially means, that
no one gets burned.

Remember that the fire is powerful and dangerous. It can, and will, burn.

Extreme caution and care must be vigilant at all times.

Bring out your drums and dance! but...

Do not put anything into the fire,

Do not take anything out of the fire,

(unless the FireTenders say okay to it).

The fire needs to stay inside the FirePit.

Please, move around the fire and dance, make space for others to flow with you.

Do not block the FireTender access lane.

Always allow a fire escape path for those in the innermost circle, they frequently need it. Be conscious that there are many people here and there is a path around the fire that should not be blocked.

If you are inside the inner circle, you will get wet, you will get hot. Water and fire belong together. If you are too hot, move away from the fire. If you are too cold, come closer.

Yes, it is okay to cook food on the fire.

The best time for this is later in the evening, when the fire must become quiet.

Yes, it is okay to ask the FireTenders to burn something special for you.

Be careful not to accidentally inhale the fire or too much smoke. Remember to breathe fresh air: turn your back, step away, bend down below the heat and smoke, then inhale deep and slow.

Don't get burned.

Don't let anyone else get burned.

Celebrate the annual celestial Winter Solstice with joyous drumming and dancing around the sacred ceremonial fire.

This is a Sacred Ceromonial Fire built in the ancient traditions and style.

From the Hindu Veda texts we know that Augni is the fire itself.

Celtic history tells the story of Bridgid, goddess of the British isles, the Lady of the Lake. (Best known for having forged the sword Excalibur given to Merlin and used by both Uther PenDragon and his son King Arthur of the Round Table.) It was she who first tamed the fire and controlled it in a fireplace and hearth.

The Greeks say that it was Zeus himself who created the fire when he tossed a lightning bolt at the earth. They also say that it was Hephaestus Vulcan who learned to forge on fires so hot they could melt rocks. Furthermore, Prometheus stole fire from the gods and gave it to mortal humans. (For which crime, he was punished to suffer chained to a rock, having his liver eaten from him each day by an eagle, only to heal each night, in immortal pain; until eventually freed by Hercules.)

The Seminole Miccosukee told me that it was rabbit who first caught the wildfire sent by the lightning; and swimming across the river with flames on his head and back, brought it to our people. I know that coyote (that trickster!) tries to steal credit for this, and many people out west in the deserts believe it was him who first caught the fire.

Extracted and combined from the wise teachings of all these sources (plus the study of building camp fires with the African Bantu and American Scouts) I have come to be blessed with the skill and talent to build this Sacred Festival Fire today. Please Drum and Dance with Vitality and Joy!

FireMaster "Rebel" says

Welcome to the Fire Circle!

December 21st 2011

Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

(954) 655-7182

3109 East Sunrise Blvd

Fort Lauderdale, FL

6pm until midnight

gates close at 10pm / quieting at 11pm

\$10/person; 18 & under requires adult supervision

Open to entire Drumming& Spiritual Community

Celebrating the annual celestial event of the
Winter Solstice

Which marks the changing of the seasons on the longest night and shortest day when autumn ends and winter begins.

This is the time for lighting the Yule Log , when people around the world share gifts to help each other survive the coming cold.

Come celebrate this time with drumming and singing and dancing around our Sacred Fire!

Sponsored by:

Tequesta Drum Circle

<http://TequestaDrum.com>

<http://MoonPathCircle.org>

If you acquire digital photographs of the fire that you wish to share, please send e-mail attachments or hyperlinks to:

FireMaster@MojoZone.org

If you want to look at this archive of various festival fires:

<http://www.MojoZone.org/fire>

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your humble FireMaster

