

# Autumn Equinox 2025

BLACK BEAR GROVE DIC: Koronis

The Black Bear Grove Core Order of Ritual is arranged for what our grove feels is the best fit for us.

- Each step has a short definition. For further explanation of the COoR, go to <https://www.adf.org/rituals/explanations/index.html>. For ADF members who wish more detail, the ADF step number is at the end of each line in parentheses. Click the link to go to the ADF description for the step.
- Optional Steps\* have an asterisk
- Two asterisks\*\* is our added step to honor our totem animal. Click the link and scroll down for our song to honor the black bear.

## Helpful links

- [About ADF and ADF Rituals](#)
- [ADF COoR Tutorial](#)
- [Fire, Well, and Tree](#)

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## Briefing

A quick review of the order of steps within the ritual and assigning any open roles.

# The Ritual

## 1. Individual grounding & centering (1)

Preparing the mind for ritual.

## 2. Processional (1)

Walking in a mindful manner to the ritual area.

## 3. Purification (2)

To cleanse ourselves with smoke, oils, etc.

## 4. Outsiders Offering\*

Offering to those beings whose intent does not match ours and asking them to let us be.

**Offering will be made by \_\_\_\_\_.**

## 5. Group Attunement (1)

Building the group mind. For example, dancing to build energy, chanting, holding hands, guided meditation, toning, primal screaming!

**Group Attunement will be led by hillary.**

## 6. Invite the Bardic Inspiration\_

Asking a deity to help us to say and sing what is needed.

**Hermes will be asked to be our Bard by \_\_Kelly.**

## 7. Honor the Earth Mother (3)

Usually placing hands on the earth.

**The Earth Mother will be honored by \_\_\_\_\_.**

## 8. Honor the Black Bear\*\*\_

Click the link and scroll down for our song to honor the black bear.

**\_kelly will lead the Black Bear Song.**

## 9. Reason for Gathering (4)

An explanation **by the DIC** of what we are celebrating and why.

## 10. Recreating the Cosmos & Opening the Gates (5 & 6)

Connecting to the Cosmos in its triadic structure through the Fire, Well, and Tree and placing us at the Center point.

### a. Invite the Gatekeeper (6)

A deity to guide us to and facilitate communication with the other worlds, and protect us during the journey.

**Hekate as Gatekeeper will be invited by Hillary.**

### b. Create the Sacred Center (5)

Making the Fire, Well, and Tree sacred so they can be made gateways to the other worlds. Sometimes done by singing the Portal Song ([Song Lyrics](#))

**The Sacred Center will be created by the Portal Song.**

### c. Open the gates (6)

Words and gestures that mark the opening of the gates, such as saying “Open the gates!” three times then clapping once.

**Opening the Gates will be led by \_\_\_\_\_.**

## 11. Invites and Offerings (7 & 8)

We choose to invite (invoke) rather than command (evoke) our Kindreds and guest deities (Patrons) to join us.

### a. Invite Kindreds (7)

Ancestors, Nature Spirits, and Deities are honored as three general groups. Roles left open to any ritual attendee.

### b. Invite Patrons (8)

The guest(s) of honor, the main deities we will honor.

**Demeter as Patron will be invited by Kelly .**

**Persephone as Patron will be invited by Hillary.**

c. Individual and Offerings ([8](#))

Each person may make offerings to whomever they wish.

d. Piacular Offering/Prayer of Sacrifice ([9](#))

Final offering to those beings we missed who wish to be recognized.

**Piacular Offering will be given by Koronis.**

12. Omen ([10](#))

Asking for a message from the Kindreds using a divination tool such as Tarot, Runes, fire scrying, etc. Often done by each person who invited a kindred drawing a card or stone.

**The Omen will be Greek Alphabet Oracle read by Koronis.**

13. Waters of Life ([11](#), [12](#), & [13](#))

According to the laws of hospitality a gift in return for our offerings is proper. The Blessings (called the Waters of Life) balance the guest/host relationship, for the Kindreds as guests are bound to give back to the host. The Waters (alcohol and non-alcoholic versions available) are passed among the participants.

**The Waters of Life will be consecrated by Koronis.**

14. Working ([14](#))

An activity that emphasizes the spirit of the ritual. ADF Optional, but we do this each time.

**The Working will be pausing our intentions.**

We enter the fallow time when energy is lower and we must rest. During this time we ask Persephone to keep our intentions and goals with her to bring them back to us in the Spring.

Think of a long term goal or intention that you know you can't work on right now and place that intention/goal into the candle. Carving this goal into the candle is optional.

We will light the candle from the ritual fire to set the intention/goal into the candle.

Ask for Persephone (or any other deity you wish) to keep and nurture your intention/goal until the Spring (or when you know you can get to it again). Then we will extinguish the candles. Keep this candle on your altar and don't light it again until Spring or when it feels right to begin again on this intention/goal.

## 15. Closing the Rite (15-18)

- a. Thank Patrons ([15](#))
- b. Thank Kindreds ([15](#))
- c. Closing the Gate(s) ([16](#))
- d. Thank the Gatekeeper ([15](#))
- e. Thank the Earth Mother ([17](#))
- f. Thank the Black Bear\*\*
- g. Thank the Bard ([15](#))
- h. Parting words ([18](#))

We usually say, "This rite is ended!"

## 16. Revels

Sharing of food and fellowship.

# Ritual Prep

DIC (Druid in charge), writes up the liturgy.

Asks tasks and roles to be taken by Grove members.

Creates event on Facebook.

Kindreds are public roles.