

Way of the Hawk & Boar Religious Award

ADULT COUNSELOR GUIDE



I. SPONSOR

The Way of the Hawk & Boar Award is sponsored by Awaken the North (AtN), an international organization of Norse Heathen Kindreds and solitaires of various traditions. AtN is chartered in the State of Missouri, and recognized as a tax-exempt religious organization by the federal government of the United States. Clergy certified by AtN have similar rights and responsibilities to those of other religious faiths. You can contact AtN at 5043 State Highway 248, Branson, Missouri 65616.

II. INTENT

The Way of the Hawk & Boar Award is intended for young people ages 11 to 17, whose families are active in Norse Heathenry or other nature-oriented faiths. Though it was originally designed for those in Scouting programs, it may be earned by youth who are not Scouts. The term "Norse Heathen" and Heathen terminology are used throughout the instruction booklet; however, the requirements may be adapted for other nature-oriented faiths.

III. YOUTH AWARD

The Way of the Hawk & Boar Award takes the form of a medallion suspended from a scroll bar by a ribbon. It may be worn on the upper left breast of ritual robes, formal clothing or uniforms.

IV. ADULT LEADER RECOGNITION

Adults who have performed outstanding service in the training and guidance of youth may be awarded the Way of the Hawk & Boar Distinguished Youth Service Award, which consists of a similar medallion suspended from a long ribbon, to be worn around the neck. Candidates should be nominated by the Chieftain or Goðar of their Kindred or other appropriate spiritual advisor or colleague. The nomination must include a brief description of the services rendered to youth; a nomination form is included in the Way of the Hawk & Boar requirements booklet. Send the nomination and fee to AtN at the address shown.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNSELORS

The adult helper or religious leader administering this program should:

- A. Help the young person to obtain the requirements booklet from Awaken the North;
- B. Interpret the requirements as they relate to a particular Heathen tradition or other nature-oriented faith, and adapt them to the young person's age and abilities;
- C. Help the young person to understand their religious faith, and experience the depth, beauty, power and uniqueness of their religious tradition;
- D. Help arrange opportunities for the young person to participate in Kindred rituals (or appropriate ceremonies or services).
- E. Verify that the requirements have been met;
- F. Order the award from AtN;
- G. Present the Way of the Hawk & Boar Award to the young person at a suitable ceremony; either at a Kindred ritual, a Scout Court of Honor, or a Scout's Own, as appropriate; and
- H. Treat young candidates with courtesy and respect throughout the process.

VI. ADAPTING THE AWARD FOR NON-HEATHEN TRADITIONS

Awaken the North recognizes that smaller religious traditions may not have the resources to create their own religious awards for young men and women. Therefore the Way of the Hawk & Boar Award is available to young people of Native American traditions, Non-Heathen Pagan traditions, and other nature-oriented religions. Spiritual leaders should adapt the requirement to fit their own faith. We recommend that the following areas be covered:

1. Humanity's relationship to Nature;
2. Nature-oriented religions
3. The Gods, of your faith
4. Explain the terms of your faith
5. Pagan Holidays
6. Symbols of your faith
7. 6 Techniques for A Better Life
8. Ritual Preparation
9. Relationships with those of other faiths

However, alternate requirements need to be submitted to AtN for approval.

VII. ADVICE FOR COUNSELORS

- A. Try to work with two or more young people at a time. They will motivate each other and enrich the program.
- B. For the protection of the young candidates and yourself, always have another adult present when you meet with a young person. Never meet with a youth in your home when no one else is present, unless it is your own child. Private meetings could lead to misunderstandings and leave you defenseless against suspicions or accusations of abuse. ALWAYS follow the "Two Deep Leadership" as laid out in the YPT.
- C. Adapt your expectations to the age and abilities of the youth. Don't expect the same level of skill or understanding of an 11-year old that you would expect of a 16-year old.
- D. Make the work as active and experimental as possible. Help the youth learn by doing, instead of listening and memorizing. Use games and crafts, role-play exercises and participation in rituals.

E. Don't let the "course" drag on for months. Try to complete at least one or two requirements every time you meet, and finish up within a couple of months while enthusiasm is still high.

F. Order the award promptly when the youth is done (or almost done), so it can be presented shortly thereafter. Hold a colorful presentation ceremony, and let the youth know that you are proud of his or her accomplishment.

VIII. OBTAINING MATERIALS

Youth requirement booklets, additional copies of these adult counselor guidelines, and awards should be ordered from the following address:

Awaken the North
5043 State Highway 248
Branson, Missouri 65616

(417) 213-2372

cors@awakenthenorth.org

When ordering, please send payment via PayPal to donations@awakenthenorth.org, or by check or money order to cover the costs of materials, postage and handling: Make checks out to Awaken the North.

Way of the Hawk & Boar youth requirements booklet.....	\$3.00
Adult Counselor Guide	\$1.00
Way of the Hawk & Boar Religious Award (youth)	\$15.00
Distinguished Youth Service Award (adult)	\$15.00

Hail the Gods!
Hail the Vætr!
Hail the Ancestors!