



Sacred Emergence

Initiation into Adulthood for Young Women

A Sacred Fire Lifeways Program

July 7-14, 2019

Application

Application deadline for 2019: January 15, 2019

Sacred Emergence provides a doorway for young women to become adult women with a mature orientation to their soul-discovery, their authentic service to others, and a connection to the natural web and flow of life.

There is a natural stage in a young woman's life, around age 16–25 years, when she begins to prepare for the deeper growth that leads to adulthood. Subtle or obvious, she may have the compelling urge to leave home, adventure out into the world and begin her search for deeper meaning and purpose. Looking within, she feels called to discover her gifts and the greater purpose of her life.

At this time in life we naturally—consciously or unconsciously—have an impulse to seek an initiatory experience, a fundamental shift in how we see our lives, ourselves, and our world. What we seek may be difficult to define and it may take us into realms that are dangerous and even life-threatening, or at the least, outside the values and life experience we have experienced up to now. As a result, we can get stuck in adolescence rather than understand and integrate our passage into adulthood.

Sacred Emergence is a way to honor the natural “impulse of life” in a conscious and sacred way in our contemporary society.

About Sacred Emergence

Sacred Emergence is a rite of passage designed for a young woman who is ready to make a commitment to move forward and step into her adult life. More than just a program, Sacred Emergence is tailored to each candidate’s individual expression and offers a safe and secure container to deeply discover and address this impulse to grow in a meaningful way. The container of initiation is created and held by experienced elder guides and staff to support each young woman’s initiatory process.

Sacred Emergence offers a creative learning and heart-opening opportunity for young women who have been called by the great mystery. Each initiate will learn the fundamentals of what it means to be a woman, become grounded in her values, and connect with her essence and life. The program concludes with a ritual that catalyzes the energy of the initiate’s latent gifts to transform her into an adult.

Sacred Emergence is rooted in an approach to life we call *Life Cycle Living*, where initiation into adulthood is a natural and necessary part of human development. Sacred Fire is among a few organizations that are reviving initiation and Life Cycle Living in our modern culture.

Steps Toward Initiation

1. **Desire:** Consider, “Why do you want to be initiated?”
2. **Apply:** The Women’s Initiation Council reviews application year-round to determine each applicant’s readiness to participate. The application process includes a personal phone interview.
3. **Prepare:** If the applicant is accepted as a candidate for initiation, she will begin the preparatory process up to four months prior to the initiation ritual itself.
4. **Connect:** Candidates are encouraged to engage with a Sacred Fire hamlet or fire circle near them to find support and a sense of belonging and connection.
5. **Ritual:** At the time of the ritual, candidates arrive at a specific time and place fully prepared for a ten-day initiatory process.
6. **Welcome:** On their return from the ritual, parents, friends, and community sponsor a fiesta near the initiation site to welcome the new initiates.

7. **Integrate:** For six months following the ritual, members of the Women’s Initiation Council and staff follow up with the new initiate by phone to provide support and aftercare.

The Ritual

The ritual is held in different locations around the world. The specific location is announced to the candidates once they have been accepted and begun their homework. It takes place in a rural or wilderness setting where a village-like atmosphere is created with men and women staff to give optimal support to the candidates.

Sacred Emergence occurs in the summer when the sun is at its peak under a waxing moon—a time when the days are long and the nights warm. These provide the ideal conditions for the emergence of a young woman into adulthood.

The Women’s Initiation Council

The members of the Women’s Initiation Council have many years of experience working with young women and the initiatory process. As Lay Spiritual Healers, they offer emotional, spiritual and practical life-skill guidance.

The Women’s Initiation Council provides opportunities for the candidate to learn and discover herself through related homework preparation and activities prior to her initiation. The Council tailors a candidate’s preparation for exactly what she needs in order to enter the doorway to her initiation.

To read more about the Women’s Initiation Council, including member biographies, go to:
<https://www.sacredfirecommunity.org/sacredemergencepresenters>

How to Apply

To apply, contact the Women’s Initiation Council through email or by telephone. We accept applications year round from eligible young women, ages 16-24.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Age:** The window of opportunity for initiation is a critical time during the natural ‘impulse of life’ stage between ages 16–25.
- **Application:** We must receive your application (see below) five months prior to the initiation ritual. The application includes written essays, a health questionnaire, parental information, agreement forms, and an application fee. Once your completed application is received, you will be contacted for a phone interview.

Application Deadline

We accept applications throughout the year. **To qualify for the 2019 Sacred Emergence Program, we must receive your application no later than January 15, 2019.**

Application Components

Please complete and submit the following:

1. **Essay:** Why do I want to be initiated into womanhood? Maximum 500 words.
2. **Essay:** Write your life story, including historical facts about your life's journey.* Maximum 2,000 words.
3. **Essay:** Have you had mentors in your life? If so, please tell us about them, the nature of your relationship and how you have benefitted from those relationships. Maximum 500 words.
4. **Parent essay:** Ask either or both parents/guardians to write a story from their perspective about your life and where you are at this life stage. Maximum 1,000 words each.
5. Complete and send the **Applicant Agreement Form**.
6. Complete and send the **Sponsor/Parent/Guardian Information Form**.
7. Complete and send the **Confidential Health Questionnaire**.

** Life Story: In this essay of your life story, write about what you know has made you who you are today. Include events surrounding your birth and stories about family relationships, partners, teachers, and other significant people in your life. Include emotional patterns that you recognize and major events that have been turning points and raised your awareness or created change in how you view yourself and your life.*

Submit Application

1. Email ALL ESSAYS to sacredemergence@sacredfirecommunity.org
2. Scan and email the signed Applicant Agreement Form, Sponsor Information Form, and Health Questionnaire to sacredemergence@sacredfirecommunity.org
3. Mail a \$200 non-refundable application fee by check payable to *Sacred Fire Community* to Sacred Fire Accountant, 939 Gay St., Longmont, CO 80501. Write on the check: *Sacred Emergence*.

Interview

A conference call with the Women's Initiation Council will be scheduled after we have reviewed your application. Once we have determined your readiness to be accepted as a candidate for initiation, we'll begin the preparation process.

Once Accepted as a Candidate

- **Homework Assignments:** You will be given a series of homework assignments beginning 4 months prior to initiation arrival date. All assignments must be completed within the preparation period in order to qualify to take the next step towards initiation. Dedicated time for homework may be up to ten hours per week. There are minimal costs associated with the homework.
- **The Enemies of Learning Program (EOL):** The Enemies of Learning is a 12-week course that introduces you to an essential outlook towards learning. The cost is separate from initiation fees and paid directly to the EOL program.
- **Liability Waiver and Hold Harmless Form.** We will send you this form prior to the arrival date. You will need to print, sign and bring it to the ritual gathering. If you are under the age of 18, a parent or guardian will be required to sign this form.
- **Arrival at Initiation Site**
 - The site of the initiation will be announced 1 month prior to the arrival date to allow time to make travel arrangements.
 - Arrival and departure dates for the 2019 Sacred Emergence Initiation are tentatively scheduled for July 7-14, 2019.

Tuition

Total cost of Sacred Emergence: \$2,000

Tuition covers room, board and ground transportation during initiation as well as initiation activities (preparation, ritual, integration). **Tuition does not include travel to the initiation site.**

Payment Schedule

- \$200 Non-refundable Application Fee submitted with your application.
- \$900 Commitment Fee is due by **March 7, 2019.**
- \$900 Ritual Fee is due **June 7, 2019.**

The Application Fee supports the work of the Women's Initiation Council in determining the applicant's readiness for initiation and the support she needs to move through initiation.

The Commitment Fee expresses the candidate's commitment to her preparation process and initiation.

The Ritual Fee covers all additional ritual-related expenses.

Fundraising for Initiation

Although the cost may seem prohibitive for a young person, Sacred Emergence is attainable. We have a variety of ways to support you, including a knowledgeable staff person who can help you explore ways to meet the monetary challenges.

How to Raise Money for Your Initiation

Practicing the art of giving and receiving is a way to bring balance into our lives. This practice provides an opportunity for you to share your intention for initiation with your family, friends and community. When you declare your intent to become initiated into adulthood and ask for financial support, you clarify your aspiration and strengthen your commitment to it. You also invite others to share in your vision and to form a unique relationship with you that can support your initiation process and your life in the future.

Many of us have difficulty asking for help, especially financial help. We have been socialized to fend for ourselves and place value on individualism. This has led to a denial of our interdependence (*the fact that we are all dependent on one another for our very survival*). Asking for financial support challenges us to recognize the reality of interdependence, to go beyond our “go-it-alone” tendencies and our reluctance to be open with others about our financial needs.

By asking others to support your vision for initiation, you empower yourself and offer others the opportunity to practice generosity, cultivate relationship in community, and learn about life cycle living as a holistic way of life.

Fundraising Recommendations

1. After reflecting deeply on your personal vision for initiation, write a letter of introduction to inform community leaders of your intention and need to raise funds.
2. Talk with the Initiation Fundraiser Liaison for ideas about fundraising, which might include a “Go Fund Me” type of campaign, approaching friends and family, a fundraising event, and how to identify leaders in your chosen communities to approach.
3. Request a time to meet or talk on the phone with the liaison and others. This offers you an opportunity to have conversations with others about what initiation means to you.

4. Contact a Sacred Fire Community leader or Firekeeper in your area. If you do not know of one in your area or nearby, please contact us and we will help you find the closest one to your area. We are happy to introduce you in order to support your outreach efforts.
5. Explore fundraising ideas with a community leader. They may know just the right action you can take to engage their community. Plan how to best announce your request to fundraise for your initiation at a community event or a community fire.
6. Be sure to promptly send the community leader a thank you note for meeting and planning with you.
7. Reach out to us, and we will listen to your ideas, questions and concerns. We want to support you in reaching your goal!

Refund and Termination Policy

The \$200 Application Fee is non-refundable. In the event Sacred Emergence is postponed or cancelled due to too few applicants or other circumstances, the applicant will be notified promptly and will receive a full refund of all fees paid. The applicant will also be given the option to apply the \$200 application fee to the next scheduled initiation. If an applicant is no longer of age to qualify to participate during the period of postponement or cancellation, a full refund of the application fee will be made.

The readiness of each applicant is left to the discretion of the Women's Initiation Council. If the applicant is assessed not yet ready to proceed toward initiation in the current year, she may be moved to another year and receive additional assignments or asked to reapply at another time. There is no refund of the application fee for this situation however there will not be a 2nd application fee requested.

The Women's Initiation Council has the right to terminate a candidate at any time.

Termination may be based on, but not limited to, non-compliance with the preparation and ritual requirements. All fees and homework must be received and completed by the deadlines set by the Initiation Council.

If a candidate is terminated or withdraws her participation, a percentage of the fees paid will be held commensurate to her withdrawal date. The date is determined by a written letter to the Women's Initiation Council. No refund will be issued due to termination one month prior to initiation.

Application Agreement Form

By signing this agreement, I declare that I have submitted my application to participate in *Sacred Emergence: Initiation into Adulthood for Young Women*, and that I have met the application requirements.

I have read and agree to the Refund and Termination Policy. I agree to pay the fees in accordance with the Payment Schedule. I understand that the \$200 Application Fee is non-refundable. In the event I am unable to continue my preparation for any reason, a percentage of the Commitment Fee will be retained by Sacred Fire commensurate to my termination or withdrawal date. If for any reason I am unable to proceed within one month prior to arrival or after I arrive at the initiation site, I understand that the entire tuition is non-refundable.

Please complete the form below and have a Notary Public sign, date, and stamp this Contract.

Print Name: _____

Age: _____ Date of birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's or Guardian's Signature (if applicant is under 18 years of age) _____ Date _____

NOTARY PUBLIC'S SIGNATURE

Print Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____

KEEP A SIGNED COPY OF THIS APPLICATION & AGREEMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS

Sponsor Information Form

Upon your acceptance to the program, the Women’s Initiation Council will send a letter to your parent, guardian or adult sponsor (hereafter referred to as “sponsor”) to invite them to participate as a co-sponsor and help officiate a welcoming celebration called *Fiesta*. The Fiesta is an occasion to welcome you as an initiated woman and is an integral part of bringing closure to your initiation process.

Fiesta is a festive dinner party attended by initiates, their guests, initiation staff, and the local community. It takes place at a location near the initiation site. You are welcome to invite family members and close friends. Our Parent Liaison will contact the sponsors of candidates to plan the Fiesta.

If you have any questions about your sponsor’s participation in the Fiesta, please contact Lisa Lichtig at sacredemergence@sacredfirecommunity.org.

Please provide name(s) and contact information of your sponsor(s) below:

Relationship: Mother Father Guardian(s) Adult Sponsor(s)

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address(es):

Telephone Number(s):

Email Address(es):

If you have more than two Sponsors, please add their name and contact information below.

Application Checklist

In order for your application to be complete, please be sure to include the following:

1. All four essays
2. Signed and *Notarized Applicant Agreement Form
3. Sponsor Information Form
4. Health Questionnaire
5. Application fee made payable to **Sacred Fire Community**. Write on check: *Sacred Emergence*.

Email application items #1-4 to sacredemergence@sacredfirecommunity.org.

Send the application fee to:

Sacred Fire Accountant
939 Gay Street
Longmont, CO 80501

Address administrative questions to sacredemergence@sacredfirecommunity.org.

*A Notary Public is a public officer constituted by law to witness and authenticate the signing of legal documents. For a minimal fee, that person will witness your signature on the Applicant's Agreement and make sure that it matches your ID card. Among other places, you can find a Notary Public at your bank or local post office.