

 **Welcome Home!** 

Our Haven Nature Sanctuary

Beginner's Guide

Welcome to Our Haven Nature Sanctuary! We're a 175-acre retreat in French Lick, Indiana, dedicated to spirituality, nature, and community. Whether you're attending our famous Beltane gathering, another festival, or simply visiting, this guide will help you navigate our land, customs, and offerings.

Respect the land, the spirits, and each other. Our Haven is a place of freedom and acceptance, but also one of deep reverence for nature and community. Pack wisely, travel light in spirit, and be ready for an unforgettable experience!

First Things First

Here are some links to get you started!

Our Website is a work in progress and we hope to eventually load our photos and provide extra value for our membership there.

You'll find a link to our PayPal in both the Book and Donate links. This is also a great way to pre-pay for your firewood (\$7/wheelbarrow)!

Just send your name along with your payment to [PayPal.me/HummingBird1280](https://www.paypal.me/HummingBird1280) to book a stay. Day passes are \$10 per person, overnight stays are \$15 per person. Find more about our amenities below.

We have also included a packing list for your convenience. Generally you will need to be self reliant. Festivals and gatherings are a great time for fun stuff like body paint, pagan garb (or no garb at all), wine skins and horns, plus whatever makes you comfy!

[Website](#) - [Book](#) - [Packing List](#) - [Donate](#)

Contact us via [Facebook](#), [email](#) or phone at [812 - 936 - 7656](#).

 **About Our Haven**

Founded in 1999, Our Haven is a privately owned sanctuary welcoming all positive spiritual paths and lifestyles. Overseen by Mary Thomas and a Council of Elders, it is dedicated to holistic education, harmonious living, and personal freedom.

Key Features of Our Haven

We are proud to host many Sacred Shrines on the land. These shrines were placed here by previous visitors who wrote and took action on their proposal to the elders. We have shrines honoring Brigid, Pan, Venus, The Ancestors, and more.

In front of the main field, past the Big House, you'll find the Triple Oak Tree: A symbol of unity to some, growing apart and coming back together. To others it represents the three stages: Maiden, Mother, and Crone, and their interconnectivity with one another.

Wanderers will be pleased to find spaces for rituals and meditation, including the Sacred Sensuality Circle, all around the wooded areas. There are other surprises, too, like our Mirror in the Woods: A reflective space to embrace your truest self.


Our pavilion is a community gathering space with electricity and tables. This can be found in the clothing required area to the left of the showers. Rest assured that Our Haven is a judgment-free zone for body acceptance and freedom. If someone is causing harm or disturbing the peace, please find a staff member and report it immediately.

Our Haven operates with a primitive, off-grid approach—cell service is limited, so plan accordingly and bring cash if you need to purchase firewood (\$7 per wheelbarrow load).

Beltane Festival 2025

 **May 1st – May 5th, 2025**

 **10847 Spencer Hollow RD - Our Haven Nature Sanctuary, French Lick, Indiana**

 **Early Bird Price: \$45 for all five days (includes vending license). Prices increase after February 15th!**



Beltane is a celebration of the Sacred Union—between the masculine and feminine, the earth and sky, the wild and the divine.


In ancient times, the Maypole stood as a phallic symbol, representing the virility of the land, entwined by ribbons of fertility. The dance was a ritual courtship, a weaving together of passion and prosperity.

At Our Haven, we honor this tradition with the Maypole ritual—an invitation to revel in life's pleasures, to dance uninhibited, and to embrace the season's fire.


Join us for the 25th Beltane at Our Haven, a five-day festival celebrating renewal, passion, and community! Beltane marks the turning of the seasons, bringing together newcomers and returning guests in a space where all are welcome and no life is harmed.

We're an inclusive haven where people live harmoniously, free from judgment and full of celebration!


What to Expect

 During the Maypole Ritual Dance we weave our intentions into the Maypole!


Bring your own ribbon, something strong and meaningful to you!

 You can also expect lots of drumming & dancing – It may be chilly, but the earth's heartbeat and the Balefire will keep you warm!


Want to be a drummer? Please and thank you! Please let us know on our [Facebook Page](#).

 We love live music, storytelling, and performances around the fire.


Know a bard? We'd love to feature them!

 The Balefire is kept burning all night by dedicated fire tenders. Socialize, sing, and tell stories around this central flame.

No glass bottles at the main fire! Please decant your drinks into plastic or metal.

 Vendors, artisans, healers, and crafters are setting up shop! Vending is included with admission, and vendors can be found on both the clothing-required and clothing-optional sides of camp.

Want to vend? We'd love to have you! It's included in the ticket price, so why not?

 We're still looking for food vendors for our attendees to indulge in festival treats, but it's always a fun 15 minute drive to explore restaurants in nearby French Lick!

About the Sanctuary

Our Haven is a sacred, off-grid retreat, home to shrines dedicated to Brigid, Pan, Venus, The Ancestors, and more. Explore the Triple Oak Tree, the Sacred Sensuality Circle, and other spiritual landmarks.

Amenities

- A playground for families
 - Hiking trails through 175 acres of beautiful land
 - Coed hot-water showers
 - Plenty of porta-johns
 - A sheltered drumming area near the fire
 - An electrified pavilion for events, workshops, charging phones, and meals
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Clothing Guidelines

- The main field is clothing-required until 10 PM.
 - After 10 PM, the entire sanctuary becomes clothing-optional for those embracing the land's spirit.
 - The 24/7 clothing-optional side allows nude camping, hiking, and swimming.
 - Nudity is never required—wear what makes you comfortable.
 - Respect and consent are non-negotiable—no unsolicited touching or photography.
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Camping & Facilities

Book your stay by sending your name, date, and fee to [Paypal.me/HummingBird1280](https://www.paypal.me/HummingBird1280). During an event, those not participating must pay the day-pass or overnight fee. Day passes (9am to 9pm) are \$10. Overnight passes are \$25, and check-out is at noon.

If there is no event tent to greet you when you arrive, honk twice and a staff member will come to you. If you find that you are alone, head to your campsite to set-up and you will be visited when staff returns.

- Camping is included with your ticket any time there's an event.
 - Tent and RV camping are available. **RVs should contact us in advance for level sites.**
 - Hot, coed showers and clean porta-johns are available.
 - A fresh water pump is available near the entrance.
 - Firepits are communal and located at designated campsites—do not create new ones.
 - The drum shelter is a dedicated safe space for drums and drummers near the main fire.
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FAQs

General Questions

☆ How do I know if an event is family-friendly?

Unless a private event or otherwise stated, all events and camping dates will offer a child-friendly space. The main field is clothing required until 10PM, but our entire campus is kid friendly.

It is recommended (but not required) that children go to bed by 10 PM when nude festivities begin, especially during events.

☆ Can I camp on-site?

Yes! Your pass includes camping in both clothing-required and clothing-optional areas. **RV spaces are limited—contact us before bringing a large camper.**

☆ Is nudity required?

No! And as always, inclusivity, body-positivity, and acceptance are non-negotiable. Wear whatever makes you comfortable.

☆ Are there showers and restrooms?

Yes! Coed hot showers and porta-johns are available. Skinny-dipping is not the recommended way to bathe—especially in May! Showers are available after April 25th.

☆ Can I bring my own drum?

Absolutely. Drummers are essential to the atmosphere of Beltane and beyond!

We need both drummers and fire tenders, if you're interested!

☆ **Are vendors allowed at events?**

Yes! Your \$45 ticket includes a license to vend. We also host a barter system and auction to raise funds for Our Haven. **Vendors and attendees are encouraged to donate an item or service to the auction.**

☆ **Can I bring my own food and drink?**

Yes! We will have food vendors at most events, and updates will be shared as more menu options become available.

☆ **What rituals will take place during Beltane?**

The Maypole Ritual is the main event on Saturday, but there will be fire circles, drumming, and personal shrine offerings throughout the week.

☆ **Are pets allowed?**

Yes, but they must be leashed or caged at all times. This is a nature sanctuary, and we prioritize safety for all attendees—clothed or unclothed. Dogs may be walked anywhere, there is a large field for tie outs in front of the sanctuary.

☆ **How do I get tickets to an event?**

Secure your spot by sending payment via [PayPal](#) (include your name), or bring cash to register in person. You may also prepay for firewood via PayPal or bring cash.

Less General Questions

- ◆ **I've never been to a clothing-optional event before. What if I feel uncomfortable?**

That's completely okay! Nudity is optional, and many first-timers choose to remain clothed while they get used to the atmosphere. There is no pressure—wear what makes you feel comfortable.

♦ **Is public nudity legal here?**

Yes! Our Haven is private property, and clothing-optional areas are permitted within the sanctuary.

♦ **What's the etiquette around nudity?**

Respect is key. Always ask for consent before taking photos, avoid staring, and be mindful of personal space. Just like in a clothed setting, common courtesy applies.

♦ **Will people judge me if I stay clothed?**

Not at all! Many people choose to remain clothed, especially if they are new. Everyone is welcome to participate in whatever way makes them feel comfortable.

♦ **What if I see someone I know?**

It happens sometimes! Most attendees are there for the same reason—to celebrate or relax in a welcoming, judgment-free space. If you're concerned, a simple friendly nod and moving along is always okay.

♦ **Is there a place to store my belongings while I'm swimming or walking around?**

There isn't a designated storage area, so it's best to keep valuables in your tent or vehicle. Some people bring a small bag or fanny pack for essentials.

♦ **Are there rules about intimacy in public spaces?**

Yes! Public displays of overt sexuality when not appropriate, especially when children may be present.

Please note that while Beltane is a celebration of passion and fertility and Lupercalia can get rowdy, our goal is primarily about community, connection, and respect. Think of others.

♦ **Are there security or event staff to ensure safety?**

Yes! Our Haven has event staff and community members who help maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all. If you ever feel uncomfortable, there are people available to help.

♦ **What should I bring?**

Camping gear, layers of clothing for varying temperatures, a towel if you plan to use the showers, bug spray, sunscreen, and any personal comfort items. Drums, costumes, and festive attire are also encouraged! Check out our [packing list](#) for more ideas.

♦ **Can I take pictures?**

Photography is strictly regulated and visitors are discouraged from taking photos when the background isn't completely void of other visitors. Always ask for explicit consent before taking a photo of anyone, even those you know! Areas not within one's own tent may be designated as photo-free zones to respect privacy, especially during events.

♦ **What's the vibe like?**

Whether you're here for a high-energy festival, a quiet spiritual retreat, or a mix of both, different areas of the camp feel safe and energy-filled throughout the day and night.

♦ **What kinds of people come to visit?**

We host long-time attendees and a lot of newcomers with a mix of ages, backgrounds, and experience levels in pagan traditions and spiritualism of all paths. Nudists and Naturists alike will also find peace here, with plenty of hiking trails and campsites with different levels of seclusion.

- ♦ **What happens if it rains during an event?**

Our events happen rain or shine—embrace the elements like our ancestors did! We have covered areas, but bring waterproof gear if needed.

- ♦ **Will there be discussions, guided meditations, craft-making, or other structured events?**

Yes! While many events are private and the fields are rentable (\$500/field), we host intellectual/spiritual pursuits, workshops and vendors of all kinds. Please reach out to us via Facebook messenger or at Ourhaven10847@gmail.com if you're interested in booking a special date or running a session/performing/vending during an event!

- ♦ **What's the best way to meet people if I'm coming alone?**

As of now there are no designated meetups for newcomers, but it has shown true time and time again that Are volunteer opportunities, communal meals, and events that help people connect. Bringing your true self out to play at Our Haven is your best bet! Really connect with the like-minded individuals around you and take the feeling of Home when you leave.

- ♦ **Are there food vendors, or do I need to bring all my own meals?**

You should always plan to be entirely self-sufficient. During events we may have vendors or fund-raising dinners, but it's safe to assume a quick 15 minute drive to the store is in your future if you don't pack meals.

- ♦ **How do I get firewood?**

The firewood can be located to the left of the pavillion, and to the right of the stage. You may leave \$7 per barrel load or pre-pay via PayPal at paypal.me/HummingBird1280 . You may also forge in the woods or in the discard pile behind the drum shelter.

- ♦ **What's the camping situation like?**

There are no designated areas for tents vs. RVs, we have quite a few flat spots. You'll find campsites with communal fire pits all over the Sanctuary. If you'd like an RV spot it's recommended you call to ensure it's not already taken and to arrange someone knowledgeable

to meet you at the gate. There is no electricity at the sites themselves, but the pavilion offers outlets for your use. Visitors may park one vehicle near their campsites.

- ♦ **Can I bring my own alcohol or substances?**

BYOB is allowed for those 21+, but no sales or illegal substances are permitted. This is a sacred space—respect it accordingly.

- ♦ **Is there a fire policy?**

All fires must be attended and are restricted to designated areas. Do not bring your own firewood, due to invasive pests.

- ♦ **Are there quiet hours?**

It is always recommended to bring earplugs, hoops and hollers can be heard often well into the night. Generators must be off when the fires come on.

- ♦ **What's the best way to navigate the grounds?**

Trails are marked or can be found along the road. There is one main road which leads into the sanctuary that then splits. One left turn onto the main field, straight for clothing optional. You'll find the clothing optional signage near the entrance to Brigid's shrine.

- ♦ **How accessible is the area?**

With minimal assistance, sites are wheelchair and mobility-aid friendly. The grounds are not entirely flat and may get squishy in some areas.

- ♦ **Is there a lost and found?**

If someone loses something, it can likely be found in the pavillion, placed on a table.

- ♦ **Is there a first-aid station?**

The first aid station may or may not be open, based on volunteer availability.

♦ **Who should people talk to if they need minor medical help?**

Event staff will help if possible. Please keep in mind that Our Haven cannot legally provide bandages, sterilizing solutions, or even basic care without putting its operation at risk.

♦ **What if I have a personal spiritual practice—can I lead a ritual?**

Absolutely! Contact us!

♦ **Are there opportunities for guests to contribute to the spiritual experience, or is everything pre-planned?**

We love participation! Please call us if you have the calling to contribute.

♦ **What's the best way to get involved in keeping the event running smoothly?**

Contact us!

♦ **Are there volunteer positions for things like fire tending, welcoming new guests, or assisting with rituals?**

That and more! Fire Tenders, Wood Chucks, and Pitbosses are in dire need as are drummers and patrol.

Final Thoughts

Our Haven is more than just a festival site—it's a community that welcomes all with open hearts. Whether you're seeking spiritual growth, a deeper connection with nature, or a place to be truly yourself, you will find a home here.

If this is your first time, take it at your own pace. Ask questions, explore, and most importantly—have fun!

 **Welcome Home.** 