# Land Blessing Ceremony at the Summer Solstice

# Full Script

# Ancient Order of Druids in America

*The purpose of this ceremony is to provide protection, healing, and blessing for the skies, helping to respond to the effects of extreme weather and an imbalance in air energies present. This ceremony uses a modified Sphere of Protection placed in an object representing air which is then offered to the air.  This is part of our four Order-Wide rituals for healing the earth.  Please see* [*this page*](http://aoda.org/earthrituals/) *for details about the ceremonies as a whole and how to participate.*

*This represents a full script for the ceremony; you may also find a simplified version on the website:* <http://aoda.org/earthrituals/solarlandhealingceremony/>

**Introduction**

The purpose of this ceremony is to provide protection, healing, and blessing for our lands and those who live within them. This ceremony uses a modified Sphere of Protection placed in a tree or stone to radiate blessing and healing to the broader landscape.

**Preparation for the Ceremony**

*The purpose of this ceremony is to provide protection, healing, and blessing for our lands and those who live within them. This ceremony uses a modified Sphere of Protection placed in a tree or stone to radiate blessing and healing to the broader landscape.*

Choose a private space in nature that is outdoors. This can be a forest, park, garden, or any other natural space. In order to select your space, use your intuition and commune with nature to select an appropriate location. Once you select your space, find a tree, stone, or other natural features that will receive the blessing on behalf of the broader landscape. Using your intuition, make sure the tree/stone/other natural feature is willing to receive the blessing before proceeding. (The rest of this ritual will refer to “tree”). We suggest if you are choosing a tree, choose a mature tree, one that is producing fruits/nuts/buds/seeds.

You may optionally choose to use an anointing oil or bowl of water to draw the symbols on the tree/stone/natural feature.

Feel free to create and decorate an altar space any way you see fit with the symbols and energies of the elements, the land, the sun, and for healing. This ceremony can also be done without an altar if you are out in nature.

**Solitary Grove Opening**

### Declaring Peace:

The first duty of Druids assembled in the Sacred Grove is to proclaim peace to the four quarters of the world, for without peace our work cannot proceed.

(Raise your hand in the east, facing outward toward the east and say):

I proclaim peace in the east.

(Pause, feeling peace radiating within and without.  Lower your hand and proceed to the south, where you repeat the same process, saying:)

I proclaim peace in the south.

(Proceed to the west, and do the same thing, saying:)

I proclaim peace in the west.

(Proceed to the north and do the same thing, saying:)

I proclaim peace in the north.

(Advance to the north side of the altar, facing south across it.  Say:)

The four quarters are at peace and the work of the grove may proceed.

### Purifying the Grove with the Elements

Let this grove and all within it be purified with air.

(Go to the eastern side of the altar, pick up the cauldron with the incense, and carry it to the eastern edge of the space.  Pause there, holding the cauldron out as though offering the incense, and then walk in a clockwise circle once around the outer edge of the space, tracing a circle around the grove with the cauldron.  When you’ve come back around to the east, return the cauldron to the altar.

(While you do this, visualize the following. When you hold the cauldron as though offering the incense, imagine a current of yellow light streaming in from the east and forming a sphere of yellow light around the cauldron.  As you carry the cauldron around the grove, imagine the cauldron tracing a line of yellow light in a circle around the outside of the grove. When you carry the cauldron back to the altar, see it trace a line of yellow light in from the edge to the altar, and see the sphere of yellow light remaining with the cauldron on the altar.

(If you are doing this in a natural setting, instead, observe in the four directions around you, starting in the east.  Look at how the air manifests in the surrounding landscape.  Feel it on your skin.  Feel the element of air coming into your sacred space, see it tracing a line of yellow light around your space and then, from the east, into the center of your space..)

(When you have finished, say:)

Let this Grove and all within it be purified with fire.

(Go to the southern side of the altar, pick up the cauldron with the flame, and carry it to the southern edge of the space.  Pause there, holding the cauldron out as though offering the flame, and then walk in a clockwise circle once around the outer edge of the space, tracing a circle around the grove with the cauldron.  When you’ve come back around to the south, return the cauldron to the altar.

(While you do this, visualize the following. When you hold the cauldron as though offering the fire, imagine a current of red light streaming in from the south and forming a sphere of red light around the cauldron.  As you carry the cauldron around the grove, imagine the cauldron tracing a line of red light in a circle around the outside of the grove. When you carry the cauldron back to the altar, see it trace a line of red light in from the edge to the altar, and see the sphere of red light remaining with the cauldron on the altar.

(If you are doing this in a natural setting, instead, observe the role of the element of fire in the four directions around you, starting in the south.  Look at how the element of fire manifests in the surrounding landscape.  Feel the warmth on your skin, feel the heat of the sun.  Feel the element of fire coming into your sacred space, see it tracing a line of red light around your space and then, from the south, see it tracing a line of red light into the center of your space.)

(When you have finished, say:)

Let this Grove and all within it be purified with water.

(Go to the western side of the altar, pick up the cauldron with the water, and carry it to the western edge of the space. Pause there, holding the cauldron out as though offering the water, and then walk in a clockwise circle once around the outer edge of the space, tracing a circle around the grove with the cauldron. When you’ve come back around to the west, return the cauldron to the altar.

(While you do this, visualize the following. When you hold the cauldron as though offering the water, imagine a current of blue light streaming in from the west and forming a sphere of blue light around the cauldron.  As you carry the cauldron around the grove, imagine the cauldron tracing a line of blue light in a circle around the outside of the grove. When you carry the cauldron back to the altar, see it trace a line of blue light in from the edge to the altar, and see the sphere of blue light remaining with the cauldron on the altar.

(If you are doing this in a natural setting, instead, observe the role of the element of water in the four directions around you, starting in the west.  Look at how the element of water manifests in the surrounding landscape.  Feel the moisture of the water on your skin, hear the nearby sound of the stream.  Feel the element of water coming into your sacred space, see it tracing a line of blue light around your space and then, from the west, see it tracing a line of blue light into the center of your space.)

(When you have finished, say:)

Let this Grove and all within it be purified with earth.

(Go to the northern side of the altar, pick up the cauldron with the salt, and carry it to the northern edge of the space.  Pause there, holding the cauldron out as though offering the salt, and then walk in a clockwise circle once around the outer edge of the space, tracing a circle around the grove with the cauldron from north to north.  When you’ve come back around to the north, return the cauldron to the altar.

(While you do this, visualize the following. When you hold the cauldron as though offering the salt, imagine a current of green light streaming in from the north and forming a sphere of green light around the cauldron.  As you carry the cauldron around the grove, imagine the cauldron tracing a line of green light in a circle around the outside of the grove. When you carry the cauldron back to the altar, see it trace a line of green light in from the edge to the altar, and see the sphere of green light remaining with the cauldron on the altar.

(If you are doing this in a natural setting, instead, observe the role of the element of earth in the four directions around you, starting in the north.  Look at how the element of earth manifests in the surrounding landscape.  Feel the solidity of the land beneath your feet, see the mountains in the distance on the horizon.  Feel the element of earth coming into your sacred space, see it tracing a line of green light around your space and then, from the north, tracing a line of green light into the center of your space.)

(When you have finished, say:)

### Invoking the Holy Powers through the Druid’s Prayer

I invoke the blessing of the holy powers with the words that have been the bond among all Druids:

Grant, O holy ones, thy protection;

And in protection, strength;

And in strength, understanding;

And in understanding, knowledge;

And in knowledge, the knowledge of justice;

And in the knowledge of justice, the love of it;

And in that love, the love of all existences;

And in the love of all existences, the love of Earth our mother and all goodness.

(When you’ve finished the druid’s prayer, chant the word Awen three times; with each chant intone it. Draw the word out into its three syllables – Ah-Oh-En – and let it resonate throughout your body and the Grove.

AWEN, AWEN, AWEN

### Land Blessing and Healing Ceremony

Using an adaptation of the AODA’s Sphere of protection ceremony, bless the tree. (Given here are words for the base ceremony; you may make any adjustments to the wording as you see fit.)

*Move to the east of the tree (so your back is facing to the east) Draw the symbol of air (a circle with a line extending from the top) on the tree’s trunk (If you have anointing oil or water, use that to trace the symbol for this and all remaining symbols). Envision this symbol glowing in a yellow light.*

Say: “With the blessing of the hawk of May, the energy of the rising sun, and the power of the east, I ask for the blessing of the air upon this tree, and thereby, upon the surrounding land.” Visualize the energy of the air, a bright yellow, flowing into the tree.

*Move to the south of the tree. Draw the symbol of fire (right-side up triangle) on the tree trunk. Envision this symbol glowing in a red light.*

Say: “With the blessing of the white stag in the summer greenwood, the energy of the noon-day sun, and the power of the south, I ask for the blessing of the fire upon this tree, and thereby, upon the surrounding land.” Visualize the energy of the fire, a bright red, flowing into the tree.

*Move to the west of the tree. Draw the symbol of water (a triangle with the point facing down) on the tree trunk. Envision this symbol glowing in a red light.*

Say: “With the blessing of the salmon of wisdom, the energy of the setting sun, and the power of the west, I ask for the blessing of the air upon this tree, and thereby, upon the surrounding land.” Visualize the energy of the water, a deep blue, flowing into the tree.

*Move to the North of the tree. Draw the symbol of earth (a circle with a line descending from the lowest part of the circle and down) on the tree trunk. Envision this symbol glowing in a green light.*

Say: “With the blessing of the great bear in the starry heavens, the midnight sky, and the power of the north, I ask for the blessing of the earth upon this tree, and thereby, upon the surrounding land.” Visualize the energy of the earth, in deep green, flowing into the tree.

*Remain in the north for the rest of the blessing. Raise your hands and observe the crown of the tree above your head. Envision the the sun’s rays of light shining down on the tree.*

Say “With the blessing of the solar currents and the turning wheel of the celestial heavens, I ask for the blessing of the solar current upon this tree, and thereby, the surrounding land. Let the light of the solar current be a blessing that radiates outward to heal, protect, and bless this land.”

*Visualize the energy of the solar current—a golden light—flowing into the tree through the crown of the tree and down into the trunk.*

*Place your hands upon the roots of the tree where they meet the earth.*

Say “With the blessing of the telluric currents and the flows of energy in the deep earth, I ask for the blessing of the telluric current upon this tree, and thereby, the surrounding land. Let the light of the telluric current rise through these roots and be a blessing that fills this tree and radiates outward to heal, protect, and bless this land.”

*Visualize the energy of the Telluric current—a light gold-green light—flowing into the tree through the roots and into the trunk.*

*Place your hands on the tree’s trunk firmly.*

Say, “By the six powers here invoked, and here present, and with the blessing of the lunar current, the inner realms of spirit, and the flow of Nywfre (NOO-iv-ruh), I ask for the blessing of the lunar current upon this tree and thereby, the surrounding land. May the the land here and throughout the earth be protected, blessed, and made whole.”

*Focus on the energies present in the stone and then chant,* “Awen, Awen, Awen.”

*Envision the energies of the tree melding to create a multilayered sphere that surrounds the tree.* *Focus on this image as long as you need.*

Say, “The energies of blessing, protection, and healing will be radiated from this tree to the surrounding land. Sacred lands around me, receive this blessing!”

*Envision the tree bathed in radiant, multicolored light. Envision the light from the sphere radiating outward and the sphere expanding to bless, protect, and nurture the surrounding land. Take all the time you need to firmly visualize this image.*

*Offer this prayer:*

Summer sun, stand nowAt the height of your powerSee this place with your fiery eyeShare your warmth and light.Let the solar current descendBlessing all with its radiance.Let that blessingRadiate from this placeBlessing the landsAnd all who live upon them.

Pause, then say, “I thank the lands of the earth—the great soil web of life, the fungal kingdom, the roots and stones—for the gift of life. Blessings to the land, this day and always.”

*Sit in meditation for a time once you are finished seeing if any additional insights or messages from the living earth arise.  Perform any other work you choose to perform..*

*After the ceremony, we suggest that you also do something to bring the energies of the blessing to the earth directly, as an additional offering. This allows you to balance both physical and metaphysical work.  This might be picking up trash in the area where you did the blessing, working to replant trees, working in your community to raise ecological awareness or any other earth-path style change.*

## Solitary Grove Closing

(When the work of the Grove is completed, let your mind return to stillness. When you’re ready, rise and go to the north facing south and say.  Say:

Let the powers be attentive as I am about to close a grove of Druids in this place.

(Go to the eastern side of the altar.  Take the cauldron with the incense to the east, and hold it outward as though offering the incense, as in the opening. Say:)

### Releasing the Elements

With thanks I release the powers of air to their rightful places. May peace prevail in the east.

(As you say this, imagine the yellow light that surrounds the cauldron flowing back to its sources in the east.  When this is finished, return the cauldron to its place on the altar, and go to the southern side of the altar. )

(Alternatively, if you are outside, imagine the energies of air leaving the center of your grove and flowing back to their sources in the east.)

(Take the cauldron with the flame to the south, and hold it outward as though offering the flame, as in the opening. Say:)

With thanks I release the powers of fire to their rightful places. May peace prevail in the south.

(As you say this, imagine the red light that surrounds the cauldron flowing back to its sources in the south. )

(Alternatively, if you are outside, imagine the energies of fire leaving the center of your grove and flowing back to their sources in the south.)

When this is finished, return the cauldron to its place on the altar, and go to the western side of the altar.  Take the cauldron with the water to the west, and hold it outward as though offering the water, as in the opening. Say:)

With thanks I release the powers of water to their rightful places. May peace prevail in the west.

(As you say this, imagine the blue light that surrounds the cauldron flowing back to its sources in the west. )

(Alternatively, if you are outside, imagine the energies of water leaving the center of your grove and flowing back to their sources in the west.)

(When this is finished, return the cauldron to its place on the altar, and go to the northern side of the altar.  Take the cauldron with the salt to the north, and hold it outward as though offering the salt, as in the opening. Say:)

With thanks I release the powers of earth to their rightful places. May peace prevail in the north.

(As you say this, imagine the green light that surrounds the cauldron flowing back to its sources in the north.

(Alternatively, if you are outside, imagine the energies of earth leaving the center of your grove and flowing back to their sources in the north.)

When this is finished, return the cauldron to its place on the altar, and remain at the northern side of the altar, facing south. Say:)

Peace prevails in the four quarters and throughout the grove.

### Returning Power to the Land

Let any power remaining from this working be returned to the Earth for her blessing.

(Any grove working leaves some energy behind it, and this can usually be sensed as a mood, a feeling, or a subtle sense of presence in the space.  Imagine this flowing inward toward the altar, down through it to the earth, and then down to the earth’s center.  Keep concentrating on this until the grove space feels clear of any leftover energy and you feel that this work is done. Then say:)

### Invoking the Sword of  Swords

I now invoke the Sword of Swords.

(If you have a sword, draw it and hold it high with the hilt up and the point down. If you don’t have one, visualize a great medieval sword in that position, hovering in the air before you, and raise your hand in salute.  Say the following incantation:)

From the rising Sun, three rays of light;

From the living Earth, three stones of witness;

From the eye and the mind and the hand of wisdom, three rowan staves of all knowledge.

From the fire of the Sun, the forge;

From the bones of the Earth, the steel;

From the hand of the wise, the making:

From these, Excalibur.

By the Sword of Swords, I pledge my faithful service to the living Earth, our home and mother.

(Chant the word Awen once:)

AWEN.

(As you chant the word, imagine the sword—whether physical or imagined—dissolving into pure light, which draws together into the image of the Sun, standing at the zenith in the south. Lower the sword, sheath it, and put it back in its place, or lower your hand, and leave the altar; walk in a clockwise circle around the grove to whichever gate your degree entitles you to use, and exit the grove.  This concludes the closing ceremony.)