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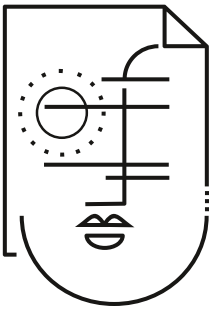
THE WELCOME HOME! FIELD GUIDE



ChiRadFae.com
OFFLINE ANTHOLOGY

FIRST EDITION - PRINTED 2026 - LAYOUT BY ORACLE

Welcome to this Field Guide



In your hands is the first-ever printed offline anthology for the ChiRadFae.com website, collected and bound for the Chicago community and our friends. It contains core articles pulled directly from the site (including several essential documents regularly referenced by our members) with the intention of providing a solid foundation for both new and existing Radical Faeries. Ultimately, this print project comes from a deep desire to support our local community, nurture our shared space, and help everyone thrive.



I recognize that not everyone wants to constantly read from a screen or keep a phone in their hand just to stay connected. Long before the internet, our fae ancestors relied heavily on printed materials, zines, and physical pamphlets to pass down wisdom and maintain our vibrant community. By crafting this physical booklet, the Chicago faeries are returning to those classic roots; offering a tangible resource you can carry with you into the parks & woods, to gatherings & gatherettes, and beyond!

And in case no-one has told you lately: the Radical Faeries hold a unique magic rooted in our freedom from dogma and the ability for anyone to self-identify as a fae. Because of this, no two faeries will completely agree on "what makes a faerie", including the words in this handbook. Ultimately, this content represents only a fraction of the wise, beautiful, and magnificent community we are all a part of.

Please note that these pages are printed snapshots of living documents, so you are always encouraged to check our website for the most up-to-date versions.

You get to decide how you want to coexist in this community. Hopefully this guide, created with love, helps to make your journey an easy one.

— Oracle, Summer 2026



Self-Reflections

Use the sections following various articles to reflect on what you just read, reply to the prompts, or maybe to just draw silly little doodles - it's up to you!

What are three things you're hoping to get out of this Field Guide?

What brought you to the Radical Faeries? What keeps you here? What challenges can make it hard to show up sometimes?



Who Are the Radical Faeries?

The Radical Faeries are a decentralized, loosely-organized countercultural queer movement. Anyone can self-identify as a Radical Faerie (even you!); which means there's no absolutes when defining what a "Radical Faerie" is.

Generally, we are queer folk who exist at the intersections of radical self-empowerment & accountability; Earth reverence & spirituality; and body & sex positivity. While globally many Fae are white cis-gay men; regional communities are seeing rapid growth in their female, BIPOC, trans, and gender non-conforming attendees.

Faeries are often artists, educators, healers, musicians, and activists. We're dedicated to the liberation & self determination of all women, BIPOC, and trans folk. We center ecological awareness; support minority & marginalized communities; radically empower each other's self-explorations & expressions; and champion free & fair speech.

We denounce transphobia, homophobia, ableism, racism, sexism, xenophobia, casteism, and facism. Since the Faeries exist without structure or hierarchy, we cultivate environments free from authoritarianism, dogma, and gurus. Some Rad Fae are low-income / no-income, so our community's events are almost-exclusively funded by donations, and publicized as NOTAFLOF [no-one turned away for lack of funds].

Faeries regularly attend Gatherings: extended retreats held in nature, exclusively populated by Faeries. Separated from the mundane world, we revel in the freedom of each other's company; connect physically & emotionally; and find healing & transformation.





Self-Reflections

Write down 3 ways you can actively empower a friend's self expression this week:

What does Earth reverence look like in your everyday routine?



Chicago Radical Faerie Guide

The Chicago Radical Faerie Community creates spaces for exploration, discovery, and radical self-expression. We gather in person, and use digital spaces to help us stay connected and organize. Our community thrives when each person feels empowered to fully express themselves and practice self-love.

Everyone takes responsibility for their own actions and contributes to maintaining safe, welcoming spaces. Our community blooms through your participation – whether that's supporting others, creating something new, or speaking up when something feels out of balance. The magic happens when we all contribute our unique gifts and energy to this shared journey.

Guidance

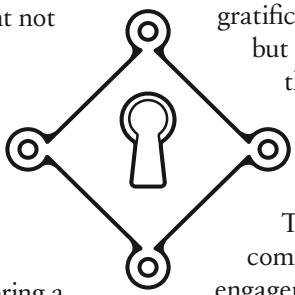
- **Set your intentions.** What energies are you bringing with you? What energies are you open to receiving? What do you hope to get from this experience? What can you contribute to the community? How will you engage when you're here? What will you take away, and what will you leave behind?
- **Connect mindfully.** Bond with fae you connect with, give yourself space from those you don't, and be open to learning from everyone.
- **Vocalize your needs.** Ask for support, and always get the help you require before assisting others.
- **YOU are the magic.** We're not transactional – share your time, resources, or acts-of-service when you're able & interested in doing so.
- **Handle conflict with care.** Address conflicts in-person with authenticity, accountability, and open hearts. If requested, support is available.
- **We center in-person connections.** While we use digital spaces to organize, our community thrives on face-to-face functions and real-world connections.
- **Respect our differences with maturity & curiosity.** Leave grievances, hostilities, identity weaponization, shaming, and agendas at the door. Instead, bring your understanding, respect, and a desire to celebrate our differences.
- **Nudity is an expression, not an invitation.** Don't assume you can touch just because someone is naked. Consent is required, ask if unsure.

- **Practice safety.** Protect yourself and others both online and in person. Don't share vulnerable information, including the addresses to faerie homes, with unknown individuals.
- **Read the room.** What is the vibe of the current space & time? What energy is drifting about? Navigate with intention. Respect the existing container.
- **Honor those that have paved the way.** Everything in our community was created by the hard work of many others before us. We are intentionally intergenerational, and work to honor the memory of our queer & rad fae ancestors.
- **Find your space.** You might not harmonize with all faerie spaces. Speak up about your experiences, or create new spaces to better align with your needs.
- **Steward anyone you introduce.** If you want to bring a newcomer, we recommend people you already know and trust *(e.g. close friend, lover, spouse, partners, etc)*. We also recommend reading our *Guidance for Inviting New Faeries*.
- **Accessibility is key.** We encourage free or donation-based NOTAFLOF *[no one turned away for lack of funds]* and GAYABAGS *[give as you're able, but always give something – like coin, food & snacks, volunteer labor, holding space, etc]* events to provide access for all.
- **We create safe spaces.** These are private events. Residents and event hosts reserve the right to turn anyone away.
- **Seek the divine.** We support everyone's unique spiritual expressions. Fae will regularly invite others to engage in moments of magic, mysticism, and ritual.

Community Practices

Subject-SUBJECT Consciousness

A strong value brought to us by Faerie ancestors & elders is the practice of treating others not as objects for gratification, or types to be sorted – but as sentient, sacred beings that have dreams, passions, unique talents, desires, life experiences, and heart songs.



This mindset creates a communal container where engagement, attention, and kindness are shared equally among everyone present. By shifting from a transactional subject-to-object dynamic to one of mutual recognition, we acknowledge that every person's internal reality is as complex and valid as our own.

This egalitarian approach moves away from the competitive sorting prevalent in mass culture, fostering a space of deep empathy and authentic connection.

Health & Wellbeing

Our heart-centered spaces invite fae to explore tender & challenging emotions, connecting and feeling supported through these shared experiences. While we support one another, each fae is responsible for their own wellbeing. If you anticipate severe mental distress or a health crisis: prepare a crisis plan before attending any events, and inform the PFN [Psychic Friends Network] so they can support you as needed.

Consensus Decision Making

This process of collective agreement is a cooperative process where the community collaborates to craft a solution everyone can accept. It requires actively listening to dissenting voices and using their objections to refine proposals until all core concerns are addressed. Healthy dissent doesn't stall forward progress, and instead offers critiques, feedback, and / or solutions to continue the process. Consensus agreement making doesn't require unanimous support, but the lack of a "no." The ultimate goal is not necessarily unanimous enthusiasm, but achieving collective consent where no individual feels their fundamental needs are compromised enough to block the final decision.

Non-Violence

Faeries often practice non-violence: a commitment to not engage in bodily harm, mental abuse, and emotional manipulation. Further, by addressing conflicts constructively and holding each other accountable, we collectively create safer spaces for us all.

Why we Hisssssssss

In faerie spaces, you may often hear a collective "sssss" or hissing sound during a performance or speech. This is a common way to show support and agreement. Unlike clapping, snapping, or exclaiming "YAS!" (all of which can interrupt a speaker's flow) – hissing provides a gentle atmospheric layer of encouragement. It allows the speaker to continue without being drowned out.

Radical Inclusivity

The faerie practice of access-positive organizing, and radical inclusivity, means more than just events without barriers to entry – it's the work of actively dismantling structural & social barriers so that all faeries can fully participate & thrive. Radical inclusivity nourishes the community by catering to it's diverse and unique set of needs, without excluding anyone. This practice creates spaces where everyone experiences collaborative ownership & genuine belonging.

Sexual Spaces & Consent

We are a sex-positive community, holding space and embracing consensual sexual expression in all its forms. Consent is essential and defined by an enthusiastic ***YES!*** — anything less requires stepping back, respecting boundaries, and seeking clarity.

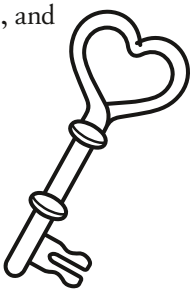


Photo & Video Consent

Taking photographs, recording video / audio, or using recording devices



Self-Reflections

Reflect on Subject-SUBJECT consciousness: when was the last time someone treated you as a truly sacred, complex being?

Draw an abstract visual representation of "the vibe" in your current physical space.

of any kind is permitted with the express consent, prior to recording, of the people being recorded (including all people in the background). Please do not record anyone who does not consent, and do not assume consent without asking.

Additionally, you must also get consent of all people, in every photo / video, before sharing them in chat, or on social media. Please, never post any photos / videos which contain nudity, sex, substances, or private information to social media.

Substance Use & Community Care

You are always invited to try connecting with yourself and fellow fae without the reliance on substances. If you are going to partake, or see friends that are, we ask that you abide by the following guidelines:

Zero Visibility

We encourage zero visibility for all substances. To practice zero visibility:

- Be mindful of others in shared spaces. Partake of substances discreetly, or out of view.
- Cannabis is a "soft visible" substance, but please be respectful of people's sobriety and / or recovery journeys.
- Always decant alcohol into nondescript cups or containers.

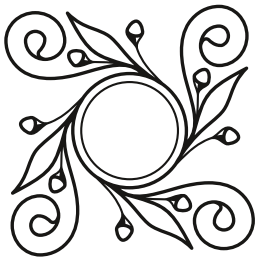
Cigarettes

- Always move away from others when smoking cigarettes, ideally standing downwind.
- Always dispose of butts appropriately.

Harm Reduction

We highly discourage unhealthy use of all substances, and actively support harm reduction against abuse and addiction. Please consider imbibing in a way that still allows you to be present for the community, and not just the party.

Please respect and hold space for fellow Faeries who are in various stages of sobriety and / or recovery from addiction – this ensures our community remains a safer space for everyone's journey.

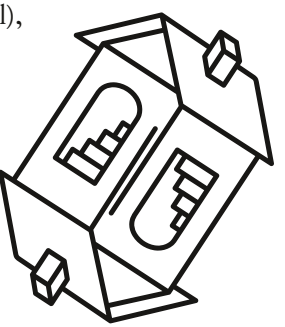


Getting the Address to a Faerie House

For the safety and security of our community, Faerie House addresses (private residences) are never posted online.

To receive the address for a faerie house, reach out directly to the event's host, or to a resident of the home where the event is being held.

The host or resident will ask who referred you to our local community and / or which local faeries you're already connected with. Once they've confirmed your identity by contacting your referrals, they'll share the address.



If you found our community on your own (without a referral), the host or resident may ask for a quick phone call to get to know you better before sharing the address. Alternatively, they may ask you to attend an event held at a public venue first, before sharing the address.

We're a welcoming community, but we're also deeply committed to each other's safety and well-being. Sharing the address of a private home is always up to the discretion of an event's host or the home's resident.



Self-Reflections

If your home was a hidden sanctuary, what three obscure clues would you give someone to find it?

Heart Circle Guidance

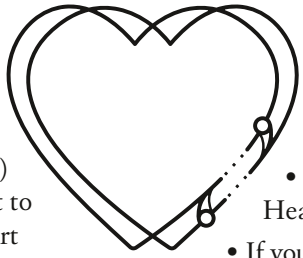
Fundamentals

It's recommended to read this aloud before any Heart Circle

- This is a safe space to speak and share whatever you wish. Sharing trigger warnings, before you speak, is encouraged.
- A talisman will be passed around the circle – only the individual holding the talisman should be speaking.
- When speaking, use "I" statements, and talk loudly.
- When not speaking: this is a space for active listening without judgment.
- You are welcome to take breaks, move your body, put in headphones for personal music, or (quietly) use fidget toys. If you want to take a break from the Heart Circle – at any time, for any reason – you're invited to give yourself space (please depart quietly).
- What's spoken here, stays here.
- If you want to talk to someone about their Heart Circle share, seek consent to discuss the topic with them.
- When the talisman gets back to the facilitator they'll announce the time, and we'll take a short break before returning for another round.
- We use a stopwatch to keep track of time. The facilitator will let speakers know when 5 minutes has passed, then every 3 minutes after that.
- To respect everyone's attention spans, and to ensure we all have a chance to speak, please focus your share to around 5 minutes. If you go over, the facilitator may ask you to continue your share next round.
- For the first round we invite you to share your name, pronoun, and a check-in.

Additional Guidance

- We love to say, "*I invite y'all to take a breath with me.*"
- We may have soft music or natural sounds playing to help those who audio-stim.
  - If you would like silence when you're speaking, please ask to have the music paused.
  - Please mute your phones.
  - Please: no phone use in Heart Circle.
  - If you leave Heart Circle, please depart quietly (ideally between speakers).
- A porous Heart Circle container (one that allows folks to arrive & depart as needed) is recommended – and is especially valuable during Gatherette & Gathering events.



The Role of the Facilitator

The facilitator supports the community in collectively holding the container, helping the space remain focused, supportive, and safe for everyone.



Self-Reflections

When you need to take a break from a heavy emotional space, what is your favorite way to ground yourself?

Reflect on a time when someone gave you the specific gift of active, non-judgmental listening.

- **Group Awareness:** keep a general awareness of everyone present in the room, ensuring you're both holding space for the collective energy, while also focusing on the current speaker.
- **Holding Time:** if a speaker goes over time, you should gently interrupt them, have them pause their share, and encourage the speaker to continue sharing the next time the talisman returns to them. Please use your phone's stopwatch feature to keep track of the elapsed time for each speaker, rather than using a timer. Example: "*hey friend, sorry to interrupt, but it's been 8 minutes and we need to move on. Can you pause your share, and continue it next round?*"
- **Guiding the Group:** to help ground and recenter the group, you should encourage everyone to take some collective breaths whenever they feel called.
- **Maintaining Focus:** if a speaker drifts from the guidelines, you should gently interrupt them, and ask that they return to the guidelines that help hold the circle's collective container. Example: "*hey friend, just want to remind you that it's important to use I statements when speaking.*"
- **Managing the Space:** you help steward an environment of focus and calm for the Heart Circle. This may include asking others to remain quiet, encouraging people to speak up, or adjusting the room environment (lighting, music, temperature).
- **Supporting the Container:** by modeling these boundaries, and reminding others of their value to the collective container, you help everyone feel held and respected throughout the circle.
- **Trust Your Intuition:** trust your intuition; allowing yourself to follow, or ignore, these guidelines as your heart and the energy of the room guides you.





Self-Reflections

Which of the seven directions (Earth, Air, Fire, Water, Above, Below, Center) do you feel the least connection with, and how do you want to encourage it to grow?

What is your preferred method of energy raising (movement, sound, drumming, visualization, or touch), and why?

General Ritual Outline

This document is provided as inspiration for creating a ritual for the community. Feel free to modify it, skip parts that don't resonate, and / or create something entirely different!

Outline

- Native land acknowledgement
- Call to the spirits of the land / local guardian spirits
- Cleansing of the space & participants
- Casting a circle / creating a ritual container
- Elemental / Directional Evocations
  - Air (East, Opening, Intellect)
  - Fire (South, Passion, Inspiration)
  - Water (West, Emotion, Intuition)
  - Earth (North, Grounding, the Body)
  - Above (Sky, Spirit, Cosmic)
  - Below (Earth, Roots, Ancestors)
  - Center (Here-and-Now, Community, Heart)
- Inviting participants to invite their personal gods, guiding spirits, etc.
- Weaving & casting the collective intention
  - Focusing on the group intention
  - Energy raising
  - Movement / dance
  - Sound / chanting
  - Drumming
  - Visualization
  - Touch / connection
  - Focused release of energy at the peak
- Gratitude expression
- Thanking directions, ancestors, guides, etc.
- Physical connection with earth and grounding



Chicago Native Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land we inhabit today is the traditional and ancestral home of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi nations. This region has long served as a vital center of trade and gathering for many tribes, including the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, and Fox. We recognize that this land was forcibly taken through broken treaties and systemic displacement, and we honor the enduring presence of the Indigenous people who continue to live, work, and create in Chicago today. As home to one of the largest urban Indigenous communities in the country, we celebrate their legacy and ongoing contributions to this sacred space.

Witchy Lexicon & Correspondences

This is a quick-and-dirty lexicon of magical correspondences for several elements of modern witchcraft practiced by faeries. It's wildly incomplete: meant to spark intuition, not push dogma. Each entry offers key associations to help build a gut-level familiarity with the symbols, elements, times, tools, and directions we dance with in ritual, spellcraft, and everyday wonder.

Elements / Directions

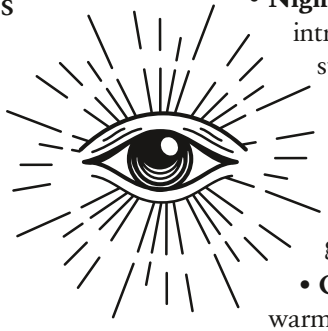
- **Air:** East, breath, mind, inspiration, clarity, movement, communication, new beginnings
- **Fire:** South, passion, energy, transformation, desire, courage, action, vitality
- **Water:** West, emotion, intuition, dreams, depth, healing, reflection, surrender
- **Earth:** North, stability, grounding, wisdom, strength, abundance, body, tradition

Axis of Being

- **Up:** sky, spirit, stars, divinity, aspiration, imagination, expansion, guidance
- **Down:** ancestors, roots, memory, shadow, lineage, underworld, wisdom, connection
- **Center:** here-and-now, heart, community, presence, awareness, soul, embodiment, truth, stillness, balance

Time of Day

- **Dawn:** awakening, hope, possibility, newness, gentle energy, liminality, fresh breath
- **Mid-Day:** clarity, power, focus, illumination, drive, visibility, expression
- **Sunset:** reflection, transition, release, beauty, peace, closing, gratitude
- **Night:** mystery, rest, dreams, introspection, darkness, subconscious, renewal



Colors

- **Red:** passion, blood, courage, vitality, anger, grounding, life-force
- **Orange:** creativity, warmth, joy, pleasure, movement, flirtation, sensuality
- **Yellow:** intellect, clarity, sunlight, optimism, learning, focus, humor
- **Green:** healing, nature, abundance, growth, love, balance, fertility
- **Blue:** calm, truth, voice, intuition, emotion, trust, communication
- **Purple:** magic, mystery, royalty, vision, spirit, transformation, sacredness
- **Pink:** softness, love, tenderness, romance, compassion, self-care, innocence
- **Black:** shadow, mystery, protection, endings, power, grief, potential

- **White:** purity, clarity, peace, illumination, truth, openness, spirit
- **Grey:** neutrality, liminality, ambiguity, reflection, stillness, twilight, mystery

Lunar Phases & Eclipses

- **Full Moon:** culmination, visibility, clarity, manifestation, energy, gratitude, peak
- **Waning Moon:** release, surrender, cleansing, reflection, letting go, banishment, slowing
- **Dark Moon:** stillness, rest, void, shadow, death, retreat, silence
- **Waxing Moon:** growth, intention, building, action, hope, expansion, momentum
- **Solar Eclipse:** hidden will, interruption, new identity, sudden shifts, internal reset, unseen power, awakening
- **Lunar Eclipse:** emotional upheaval, karmic reveal, hidden truths, shadow release, illumination, turning point, ancestral echo

Seasons

- **Spring:** rebirth, growth, tenderness, renewal, innocence, fertility, blooming
- **Summer:** fullness, celebration, joy, heat, expression, strength, abundance
- **Fall:** harvest, transition, gratitude, letting go, wisdom, reflection, decay
- **Winter:** rest, stillness, silence, darkness, gestation, endurance, inwardness

Witchy / Neopagan Holidays

- **Samhain:** ancestors, death, thinning veil, remembrance, endings, mystery, descent
- **Yule:** rebirth, longest night, hope, hearth, dreaming, light-return, incubation
- **Imbolc:** quickening, inspiration, spark, purification, healing, early stirrings, promise
- **Ostara:** balance, fertility, new life, awakening, curiosity, growth, equilibrium
- **Beltane:** passion, fire, love, union, sensuality, fertility, ecstatic celebration
- **Litha:** peak light, abundance, power, culmination, vitality, solar magic, glory
- **Lammas:** first harvest, gratitude, nourishment, sacrifice, sustenance, work, sharing
- **Mabon:** balance, preparation, reflection, maturity, mystery, descent, gathering

Symbols & Shapes

- **Circle:** wholeness, protection, unity, cycles, sacred space, eternity, infinite return
- **Triangle:** fire / spirit (up), water / womb (down), transformation, balance, focus, alchemy, direction
- **Square:** foundation, structure, grounding, material world, stability, boundaries, manifestation
- **5-pointed star (Pentagram):** protection, elements in harmony, body and spirit, sacred geometry, magic, balance, will

- **6-pointed star (Hexagram / Star of David):** divine union, cosmic balance, as above so below, integration, harmony, sacred duality
- **7-pointed star (Heptagram / Faery Star):** mystery, otherworlds, fae magic, liminality, initiation, intuition, spiral truth

Magical Tools

- **Broom (Besom):** cleansing, boundary-setting, threshold magic, home protection, preparation, sacred sweeping, genderfuck tool
- **Cauldron:** transformation, womb of creation, rebirth, alchemy, mystery, holding space, ritual brewing
- **Wand:** willpower, direction, energy flow, invocation, air or fire element, intention setting, queering authority
- **Knife (Athame):** cutting illusion, clarity, boundary, discernment, energy channeling, sacred blade, truth-edge
- **Cup (Chalice):** receptivity, offering, union, womb, water element, divine feminine, sacred drinking



Self-Reflections

Using the lexicon to spark your intuition, fill out your own personal correspondences for these directions: earth, air, fire, water, up, down, and center.

- **Altar:** sacred focus, devotional space, ritual center, intention setting, connection point, reflection of the self
- **Bell:** sound clearing, invocation, spirit call, transition marker, frequency shift, attention anchor
- **Mirror:** reflection, scrying, truth, illusion, portals, self-awareness, divination

Chakras

We honor and recognize the cultural origins of chakras: energy centers rooted in ancient Indian spiritual systems like Tantra and Yoga.

- **Root (Red):** safety, grounding, survival, belonging, earth connection, ancestry
- **Sacral (Orange):** pleasure, sensuality, emotion, creation, desire, fluidity
- **Solar Plexus (Yellow):** power, identity, will, self-esteem, clarity, confidence
- **Heart (Green / Pink):** love, connection, compassion, grief, forgiveness, empathy
- **Throat (Blue):** communication, truth, boundaries, voice, listening, expression
- **Third Eye (Indigo):** insight, vision, dreams, intuition, perception, clarity
- **Crown (Violet / White):** spirit, divine connection, unity, expansion, transcendence, trust

Flavor Profiles

- **Spicy:** intensity, heat, stimulation, desire, action, fire, wakefulness
- **Savory:** grounding, comfort, nourishment, depth, satisfaction, stability, richness
- **Sweet:** joy, love, reward, gentleness, celebration, pleasure, childlike energy
- **Salty:** purification, presence, preservation, protection, clarity, boundary, earthiness
- **Umami:** complexity, fullness, soul-depth, satisfaction, mystery, resonance, richness

Numerology

- **1:** beginnings, self, creation
- **2:** duality, balance, relationship
- **3:** creativity, growth, communication
- **4:** stability, structure, foundation
- **5:** change, motion, risk
- **6:** harmony, care, responsibility
- **7:** mystery, introspection, spirit
- **8:** power, mastery, manifestation
- **9:** completion, wisdom, release
- **0:** source, potential, cosmic void





Self-Reflections

Draw a portrait of a small, in-person meetup (like coffee or a walk) that brings you peace.

What are three ways you want to connect with a community member offline this month?



Centering the In-Person Community: Finding Connection Beyond the Screen

The Chicago Radical Faerie community thrives when we come together in person. While there is no single right way to be a faerie, we are a physical community at our heart. Our online tools are helpful tools, but the real connection happens when we share space. For many in our community, especially those with neurodivergence, being together makes communication feel much more accessible. Without the filters of a screen, we can catch the small smiles and gentle tones that text doesn't provide. Engaging in person allows us to see the full, beautiful nuance of one another in a way that chats will never convey.

As many Faeries know, digital spaces lack physical nuance, so it's vital to recognize when a conversation starts to go sideways and find new ways to approach those challenging moments. It is a common trap to think that one more message or voice memo will finally make everything clear – but in reality this often causes problems to spiral. When you feel that friction, a powerful way to love yourself, support the person you're talking to, and create space for productive interactions, is to stop the digital thread entirely. Tell the other person you would like to move the discussion to a phone call or an in-person meeting, and then gently disengage. Even if they continue to reply in chat, hold true to your intention – wait until you can hear their voice, or see their face, before continuing the conversation. Problems that feel massive in a text box often dissolve when we can actually experience the humanity in one another.

Shared memories are the strongest foundation for our community. If large events feel like a lot for you, remember that you do not have to wait for an official gathering to connect. Meeting up for a coffee or a quiet walk is a wonderful way to get to know the people behind the screen names without the pressure of a big crowd. Many of our most active members choose to stay out of the chat rooms entirely because they find more joy and clarity in physical gatherings. If the digital noise feels like a burden, remember that those spaces are not a requirement to be a Chicago faerie. Leaving the online spaces to focus solely on IRL experiences might just be one of the most wonderful gifts you can give to your mental health.



Self-Reflections

What qualities make someone a good steward for you when you enter new, vulnerable spaces?

Reflect on a time you were dropped into a new situation without a guide: what do you wish someone had done for you?



Guidance for Inviting New Faeries

The magic of our community lives in the depth of our presence and the safety of our shared containers. When we experience a sudden, rapid influx of unfamiliar faces, or when guests are dropped into our events without a guide, it can feel jarring and disruptive to the sanctuary we've built together. We want to avoid a culture of passive invitation, where the responsibility of welcoming and integrating a newcomer falls on the collective rather than the person who invited them. Because we are a rich, in-person community that values our safety and the specific vibe of our collective containers, we approach growth with a philosophy of intentionality rather than rapid expansion.

To keep our community safe and ensure we continue to thrive, we've found that moving with heart-centered intention is key. These are some of the practices we use to help newcomers integrate in a holistic way:

Before You Invite

- **Root Yourself First:** we highly recommend that you **attend community events for 3 to 6 months** before inviting someone else. This allows you to truly understand the energy of our shared spaces, and how we move as a collective.
- **Heart Circle Foundation:** additionally, please **attend at least 2 Heart Circles** yourself before bringing new folks around. Understanding the vulnerability of our community is a powerful key that will help everyone feel safer when you start to bring a new person around.
- **Ask Yourself Why:** before extending an invitation, reflect and ask yourself: *"Is this person seeking deep, radical connection, or are they just looking for a queer social outing?"*
- **Invite from Within:** the most successful introductions come from existing bonds of trust. **Focus your invitations on people you already know and trust deeply** (e.g. a close friend, lover, spouse, or partner).

Extending the Invite

- **Inform the Host:** if you're bringing a newcomer to an event, **inform the host.** This allows the host to decide whether a newcomer would be appropriate for their event, and ensures they are prepared to welcome them into the space. Several of our events will flow much easier with this small bit of preparation.



Self-Reflections

What are the top three things you learned from this guide that you didn't know before?

Has this guide inspired you? List all the ways you plan to plug into the community in the future:

- **Practice Active Stewardship:** when you bring someone, **you are their steward.** This means staying present to support their journey, attending the event alongside them, and helping them understand our community's operations. You should also ensure they've reviewed *Who Are the Radical Faeries?* and the *Chicago Radical Faerie Guide.*
- **Encourage Participation:** we are a participatory culture, and recommend that you **encourage your newcomer to lean in.** Whether that's helping clean dishes, contributing to potluck, or participating in our rituals – make it clear that our community isn't a just show to be watched. Many of our deepest friendships were built doing communal tasks together!
- **Newcomer Behavior:** be open to receiving feedback from other faeries about the behavior of your guest. If your newcomer behaves in a way that is disruptive or disrespectful, **it is your responsibility to address it** (or gently guide them out). This should not fall on the collective or event host to manage.
- **Have a Post-Event Check-in:** whether it's a multi-day gathering, or a short evening event, **set aside time to check-in with your guest after the event.** High-magic or deep-vulnerability spaces can be a lot to process; being there to support them is a key part of stewardship.

Additional Suggestions

- **Avoid the Drop and Walk:** a guest should never feel alone, left to navigate the complexities of our community without a guide. We recommend that you **join your newcomer at their first 3 – 5 events.** Introduce them to the folks you know, explain how we operate, and ensure they feel seen and held as they find their own footing.
- **One-at-a-Time:** to ensure you can fully support a newcomer's journey, we recommend that you **avoid bringing more than one new face to any single event.** This allows you to stay focused on their integration, while also providing space for you to socialize.

Together We Collectively Foster Intentional Growth

As always, follow your intuition and know that these are only guidelines and suggestions. Ultimately it's your decision on who to bring, when to bring them, and how you will guide them through their first events. We hope this document helps to create a positive atmosphere of support and nurturing compassion for everyone involved.

When we follow this guidance, we do our best to create a space where any new spirit we meet has been thoughtfully invited and lovingly supported. This slow, steady growth allows us to maintain the intimacy that makes our community so vital.

