



Ásatrú Folk Assembly

2017 Gothar Program Application

The AFA Gothar program is a 2 year course designed by AFA Gothar Board for experienced and dedicated AFA members who wish to serve the AFA and their community in the capacity of Gothi/Gythia. This position of service to the folk includes many responsibilities which include, but are not limited to: leading marriage ceremonies, funerary rites, and naming ceremonies, and other rituals for the community, organizing and participating at AFA and community events, assisting with the formation of new kindreds, providing counsel services, and educating those not of our faith, or new to our faith, and many other forms of public service that are generally expected of Gothar in this day and age. This is not an easy responsibility, but it is a very honorable path. As ordained AFA Clergy, AFA gothar in most states and regions are given legal rights *and* legal recognition for ceremonies performed and services rendered to their community.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The curriculum is an in-depth, advanced study which has been organized in a collaborative manner akin to the time-tested apprentice-mentor dynamic. A mentor is assigned to each new student to help facilitate the learning experience. Through the course of the program, the student can expect reading and composition assignments, regularly scheduled phone and/or video conference discussions and educational discourses, ritual performances before leadership, spiritual tasks and assignments, testing, and more.

As a student, your propriety, professionalism, patience, timeliness, dependability, communication skills, and aptitude will all be under constant review. It is important to remember that students *can and have* failed the program by not maintaining the aforementioned to a high and acceptable standard. Upon graduation, new Gothar are required to fulfill an obligation for the program and/or AFA, such as mentoring a new student. AFA Gothar are expected to remain active with the AFA on their home grounds, online, at AFA events, and in their communities.

DO I QUALIFY FOR THE CLERGY PROGRAM?

The AFA Gothar Program is designed for folks who already give their time and service to the folk in a comparable capacity. A minimum of 5 years of Ásatrú experience, and no less than 2 years of membership with the AFA is suggested, but not required. Being experienced means that you are *past* the fundamental groundwork of Ásatrú: you know/have led rituals, have a comfortable familiarity with the mythology, philosophies, history, social stratifications, and know and agree with the AFA's Declaration of Purpose and Mission Statement. Applicants are expected to be an active member of the AFA in good standing in the Ásatrú community, show obvious and consistent support and dedication to the AFA, are a self-sufficient and contributing member of society, and are able to maintain a professional and well-composed demeanor *at all times*.

PROGRAM COST

The cost of the program is \$100 USD. However, these payments are to be made in 4 installments of \$25 USD, at each of the four quarters of the year (the first \$25 is to be sent with the application). These costs are for course materials, programs, and the many expenses that are required to maintain the success and continuity of the program, and its services in giving back to the community.

Before submitting your application we request that you think long and hard about the duties that you will need to perform, and if you can fulfill the role of clergy in its entirety. If you have any questions, please contact the Gothar Coordinator at Gothar@runestone.org

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Your Personal Information

Full (Legal) Name: _____ Birth month/year: ____ / ____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit #

_____ *City State ZIP Code*

E-Mail: _____ *Alternate, if applicable:*

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Educational Level: *Specify Degree(s):*
High School Some College College Degree Technical School

Have you been an AFA member for 2 years? YES NO If yes, how long have you been a member? _____ years

Do you understand the AFA's Mission Statement, Laws of the Hall, Code of Ethics, and Declaration of Purpose? YES NO Do you support them? YES NO

Have you ever been a Clergy student, or among the leadership in another Ásatrú organization? _____
If so, when? What position(s)? What organization(s)? _____

One precedent for AFA Gothar, as a member of AFA leadership, is not being on **long-term** public welfare assistance, except in obvious cases, such as those with disability. If you do receive benefits in the long-term, please explain, very briefly, as this is not an attempt to embarrass, single out, or pry into your private life. _____

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Your Ásatrú Experience

The AFA Gothar program recommends you be a devotee of the Ásatrú religion for 5 years, minimum.

How long have you followed the religious path of Ásatrú? _____ years

Do you adhere to a certain denomination or philosophy of Ásatrú? YES NO *If so, what is it?*

What was your religion prior to Ásatrú, and for approx. how long were you a devotee of that religion? _____

Are you currently a member of a kindred (or any group equivalent to an Ásatrú kindred)? YES NO *If yes, what is your kindred's name?*

If applicable, how long have you been a member there? *If applicable, where is the kindred located?*
 _____ years _____

If applicable, are you the Goði or Gyðia? YES NO *If no, have you acted in that capacity for your kindred before?* YES

Does your kindred have a website? YES NO *yes, what is the URL?*

Do you have any personal websites? *If yes, what is the URL?*

Do you have a personal Facebook, Google, or other social forum page? *If yes, what is the URL?*

Are you active in your regional Ásatrú community? YES NO *If there is no active Ásatrú community in your area, have you been attempting to build one, and Ásatrú awareness?* YES NO

Is there anything else you would like to add to your Ásatrú experience for the Gothar Board to consider during the review process?

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Applicant Questionnaire & Personal References

Please describe your personal goals as a Gothi or Gythia, and how you believe that being an ordained AFA Gothi or Gythia would help you achieve those goals. *(use a separate sheet if necessary)*

Please describe your professional goals as a Gothi or Gythia, and how you believe that being an ordained AFA Gothi or Gythia would help you achieve those goals. *(use a separate sheet if necessary)*

Please explain why you would like to be a Gothi or Gythia specifically *for the AFA*. *(use a separate sheet if necessary)*

Please list two AFA members/Ásatrúar references. (REQUIRED)

Full Name: _____ Relationship: () _____

Location: _____ Phone: () _____

E-mail Address: _____

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Location: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Disclaimer and Signature

I understand that if I am accepted into the AFA Gothar Program, that I am required to attend at least one of the major events held by the AFA every year, which includes AFA Walpurgis, AFA Midsummer, AFA Freyfaxi, AFA Fallfest, AFA Winternight's, or AFA Ostara, unless exceptional circumstances prevent my attendance. I also understand that I will not be ordained until I am able to do so, or am approved otherwise by the AFA Clergy Board of Directors and the Allsherjargoði.

I understand that if I am accepted into the AFA Gothar Program, that I am required to meet with the Gothar Coordinator, a Gothar Board member, or a member of the AFA Board of Directors, in person, and no less than once per year before ordination may be granted. This meeting will be counted as fulfilled by attending a major AFA event.

I understand that if I am accepted into the AFA Gothar Program that I am required to honor the policies and Code of Conduct set forth by the AFA and the AFA Gothar Program, which follow the AFA Declaration of Purpose, AFA Laws of the Hall, AFA Laws of Wedlock, and the Nine Noble Virtues of Ásatrú.

I understand that if I am accepted into the AFA Gothar Program, that all educational and AFA Gothar-related materials, private and personal discussions with AFA members and leadership, and any and all other AFA Clergy related business is to remain confidential. Should I leave the AFA Gothar Program and/or the AFA as a whole, I understand and agree to honor my word of maintaining the confidentiality and integrity of the AFA and the AFA Gothar Program.

I understand that the \$25 I send with this application is non-refundable, and that if I am accepted into the AFA Gothar Program, that same \$25 will also count as the first quarter payment, and will be the first of four \$25 Student Tuition installments required to complete the curriculum.

I certify that I have read all the above statements and items, and that the information included in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. In the event that I am accepted into the AFA Gothar Program, I understand that any false or misleading information provided in this application or in the interview process may result in discharge from the AFA Gothar program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Received by:

Date:

Signature:

Date Applicant was notified of application & payment receipt/method of contact:

/

Important Information

There is a \$25 USD non-refundable application fee for all Gothar applicants. If accepted into the program, this initial payment counts as the first of four quarterly installments of \$25 through the first year, \$100 USD total. If the student cannot maintain these payments, they cannot proceed further in the program. All payments are non-refundable once made, even if the student drops out, or is asked to leave due to disciplinary action. This cost helps support the AFA Gothar Program and your curriculum.

You can send your payment directly to the AFA with PayPal using the primary AFA email address: AFA@Runestone.org (be sure to reference that your payment is for the AFA Clergy Program in the message box, and who for).

Keep this page and the first page for your record, and mail the signed and completed 3-page application to:

Ásatrú Folk Assembly
c/o Clergy Program Director
P.O. Box 124
Brownsville, CA 95919

Due to the requirement of a hand-signed application, any applications sent by email cannot be accepted.

APPLICATION REVIEW TIMELINE

All applications are due no later than May 31st 2017 for the 2017 Clergy Program. You will be notified either by phone or email when we receive your application. No exceptions will be made for late applications, unless the date of the stamped postal date on the application is at least TWO business days prior to the May 31st due date.

No application reviews will be made before the ^{May 31st} deadline. During the first week of June, the Clergy Board of Directors will officially begin reviewing the applications and start the interviewing process. Please understand there is **limited availability** for the number of students who can enter the Clergy program each year. All decisions will be made within the first two weeks of June. You will receive a phone call interview from one of our board members as part of the review process. The program begins on July 1st; all upcoming students will be given their materials in that time.

If you have any questions, please contact your Clergy Coordinator at Clergy@Runestone.org.

Gipta eða farið þér vel.....Good luck and fare well!

The AFA Godar Board of Directors