GROUP / POD ORGANISER APPLICATION FOR
SAMHUINN FIRE FESTIVAL 2020

Please submit to festival@beltane.org by <u>10pm, Friday 28th August 2020</u>

PLEASE READ THE GROUP ORGANISER GUIDANCE NOTES BEFORE FILLING IN THE APPLICATION FORM. Provide all information requested, and answer the questions as clearly as possible. Thank you, and good luck!

GO Interviews will be held in the evenings of 1st / 2nd September.
The Group Organiser (GO) preparation days will be on 5th-6th September.
If possible all GOs must attend the entirety of the preparation day, but there **<u>must</u>** be AT LEAST ONE GO from each group for the duration.
The Open Meeting will be on Sunday 13th of September
GO meetings are on Tuesday evenings

GOs are responsible for facilitating a positive and cohesive festival experience for a group of volunteers. Normally, we ask you to have at least **two fully informed and prepared GOs** on the form to ensure group leadership can continue should one GO become unable to take part. Recruiting a member of the group is not appropriate, as all GOs need to be considered and approved by the Board in advance. If you are struggling to find a co-GO, feel free to contact the Board or Blues, who can help.

Whilst two GOs is preferable, **we will consider individual GOs for smaller groups / pods**, and there may be occasions when there are good reasons for the presence of a third organiser. If you feel a third GO is necessary to your group, please submit their name in the application, along with a brief explanation of the reasoning behind their presence, and the role(s) they will undertake in the group.

Please provide the following information and answer the questions as clearly as possible:

<u>Group and Organiser Details:</u>

Name of Proposed Group:

Summer's Shield Wall

What type of group is this? An In Person Pod (outdoor or indoor), or Digital Group?

Digital Group

Rules for group sizes:
In Person Pod (outdoor) - up to 5 households (max 15 people)
In Person Pod (indoor) - up to 3 households (max 8 people)
Digital - no limit, but you'll need a good explanation of how you're going to manage more than 20!

What is the maximum number of people you propose to have in your group? This must include all helpers, fire tech etc . (please provide a breakdown of numbers e.g.: 10 group, 2 GOs, 2 helpers, 1 tech, also, see limits above for groups with in-person activities).

Currently we're looking for 20, but this could be a larger project, we can probably handle 30 max.
2 GOs,
2 Prop makers
1-2 Digital experts.
16+ Group

Full name, email address and mobile phone number of all proposed organisers

Zaphod Beeblebrox – 01234678910, ZB@Hitchhikersmail.com
Ford Prefect- 010987654321, FP@Hitchhikersmail.com

Dates you will be unavailable, throughout the festival period

Zaphod – Available from open meeting throughout.
Ford – Unavailable 2nd – 5th September

Important Dates and Times:
1st/2nd September - keep available for GO interviews if necessary
5th-6th September - GO Preparation weekend
13th September - Digital Open Meeting
Tuesday evenings - GO Meetings
10th November - GO Debrief

What is your previous group organising, performance and participation experience within and outside of BFS?

Ford has been in Air Point twice, Summer at Samhuinn and led Earth Point once. He ran a workshop in prop-making for BFS last summer. He has also built a boat for a Water Point group in the past. Zaphod has been in Wild Hunt twice. He has worked as a team leader at a woodland visitor centre where he is responsible for 15 people. Zaphod also worked on producing a Fringe physical theatre show in 2011 and he has a background in safe stage combat from his time in the Dawn Duellists Society.

Group Concept:

Please give us a summary description of the concept, character and core themes for your proposed group. <u>Please keep it to a maximum of 300 – 350 words.</u>

We want to build a digital performance where a large number of people in different areas of the world produce a big visual shield wall, doing real shield and spear moves in complete unison to provide a barrier to protect the summer from the coming of winter.

This performance will be entirely digital, but we're thinking of presenting people in perspective; side by side and above and below, to give the appearance of an actual physical presence.

We'd like the shield wall to break in a big display when winter comes. We'd welcome input from winter groups as to how to do this. We'd be up for exchanging some of our video footage with an appropriate winter group, to create a single sequence from both performances.

Please give us a summary of how / where you think your group fits into the the overall festival <u>Please keep it to a maximum of 100-200 words.</u>

We're at the barrier between summer and winter.

We'd really like this Samhuinn to tell a more consistent story this year. Is there a specific bit of a Samhuinn story you'd like your group to tell? (Don't worry about it being super-traditional, we're going to build a story from what you create) <u>Please keep it to a maximum of 100-250 words.</u>

A big part of Samhuinn is the idea of seasonal change. Our group specifically tells the part of the story where Summer holds out, but finally gives way to Winter. If there's a Wild Hunt, we'd really like to learn more about their plans, so we can build a story with them.

Do you envisage your group interacting with other groups / court? If so, how? (NOTE: We don't want in person groups meeting up, but digital interactions, and shared projects are very welcome) <u>Please keep it to a maximum of 100-200 words.</u>

We'd love to interact with one or more Summer groups to show that we're the vanguard which protects them. We also really want to work with a Winter group to destroy our wall!

Running your group:

How do you intend to recruit your group and in what style do you intend to lead it? *(This year, we are more willing to accept closed groups than normal for the 3-5 household pods)*

This will be an open group. We'll be recruiting at the digital Open Meeting, and we'll put out a call on Facebook asking for people from anywhere and everywhere to join us.

It's going to be a digital group, running 2 hours, twice a week. We, as Group Organisers, intend to set the schedule and run the necessary workshops to achieve the basic plan; but we intend to leave time available to the group, to offer to lead workshops and suggest other relevant activities. We would also hope that the group would bring the ideas to build the performance, from our framework of ideas.

What specific skills or knowledge do you think it will require to make your ideas happen and who do you envisage bringing these to the group? If you will be seeking assistance from people outside of the group, have you already contacted them to discuss their involvement?

We'd like to raise fitness level of our group a bit, so we're planning to bring in our friend Bob who's a fitness fanatic.

We could do with a bit more prop experience, as we'd like as many different imaginative shields and spears as possible, we're hoping to recruit some awesome crafters to help with this.

We're also going to need to get some digital experts in to help make our video. We know that we'll have to record separately and bring the videos together, but we could do with some help with this.

What additional support might you require in order to realise the concept or performance of your group? If you feel that your group will be unusually expensive due to the need for practices to be in a hired venue (e.g. for drum groups), or expensive props, please tell us here. We'll consider requests on a case-by-case basis, but can't guarantee extra funding.

If we have trouble finding digital people, we could do with some help teaching us to make the videos ourselves.

If one, or all, of the proposed GOs of your group were unable to continue leading, how would you manage this situation, to ensure that the group continues?

While we were creating our concept and plan for the group, we consulted with people who have the relevant knowledge and skills to oversee costuming, performance and admin for the group should we both become unavailable. We also intend to keep the group up to date on interactions and ensure that they are all well informed about details of the festival right from the beginning. If necessary, we are prepared to appoint two responsible group members to take our place.

How much money do you think your group members will have to spend as part of your group and how do you intend to organise this?

Because it's a digital group, there's not that much up front costs. We can see our props and costumes costing between about £20-£60 depending on how people source the materials.

How will you minimise the risks for the members of your group, the larger society, and our audience? How will you ensure responsible and respectful behaviour from the members of your group?

Zaphod is trained in how to do the weapon stances safely

Will this group require any of your members to be physically present with other people? (if so, you'll need to make this clear to all participants in advance of joining the group.)

No, it's important to us that it won't.

Do you foresee any possible risks related to Coronavirus from this group? If so, what actions will you take to minimise these?

Our group is actually designed to allow people who are shielding from taking part, so for them, they won't actually need to go anywhere near each other. Also, some of our volunteers might be in different countries, so infection risk for them from this will be quite low!

If any of our members in the same cities decide to meet up to craft together, we'll make sure they know not to be in groups of more than 3 households, to wash their hands frequently, and not to share materials with each other.

If a volunteer with a disability or illness joined your group, what difficulties do you think they might encounter and how might you offer support in that situation?

We're open to everyone, and Zaphod has thought up some shield and spear moves for people in wheelchairs. We're also specifically designed to