Samhain

Samhain, pronounced *sah-win*, is a Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. Because the year begins with the dark half, it is known as the Witches New Year.

When is it? October 31 / November 1 in the Northern Hemisphere. April 30/May 1 in the South.

This holiday marks a halfway point between the Autumn Equinox and the Winter Solstice. It is a *liminal time*, when the boundary between this world and the Otherworld can easily be crossed.

Samhain Ideas

- Honor your deceased loved ones and ancestors, offering gifts. Craft an altar with pictures, letters, their favorite foods and drinks.
- Place black candles on the windows, or decorate them with black ribbons to protect your home from evil spirits.
- Add extra plates and chairs at dinner for the deceased and share old family stories. Leave the dishes set to the deceased by the door.
- Light a bonfire or a fireplace to calm the souls of the dead.
- Make a list of goals or intentions for the year that begins and add it to your Book of Mirrors or journal.

Practice divinations. Use your Tarot deck, pendulum, candles to assess choices you are facing and to help you in the decision-making process.

Correspondences

Colors: Black, orange, white, red, gold and silver.
Food & Drinks: Beets, Turnips, Apples, Corn, Nuts, Pumpkins and Pie, Gingerbread, Bread, Meats. Wines, Ciders, Tea, Water.
Crystals: Black Tourmaline, Obsydian, Ghost Quartz, Labradorite, Amber.
Herbs: Mugwort, Mandrake, Sage, Chrysanthemum, Thistle, Thyme.