

A decorative border of small evergreen trees surrounds the text. The trees are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with a row of trees at the top, a row at the bottom, and vertical columns of trees on the left and right sides.

## A Green Winter Solstice

Create a new family or neighborhood tradition: Celebrate Solstice! We welcome you to come to Muir Woods for our traditional celebration but you can also enjoy an even greener one by staying at home! Here are the ideas we use each year to honor wintertime and the seasons; continue the good will that comes from people gathering together to tell stories; sing songs and honor the cycles of nature.

Invite friends to gather near an evergreen in your community toward the end of the shortest day, December 21. Prepare a thermos of hot cider - Muir Woods Solstice Cider is three parts cranberry cider, one part lemonade, 1 stick cinnamon and three cloves simmered - and ask everyone to bring a mug, dress warmly, and provide their own lighting for safety! Line the path with luminaria - tea candles set safely in sand and placed in the bottom of a recycled brown bag.

You may wish to ask everyone to bring a poem or a song to share. Someone may even be a good storyteller! If possible, have a fire in a BBQ or fire ring, but make sure it is not a Spare the Air evening! If not possible, gathering symbolically while holding candles or around one candle works well, too. This would be a good time to provide wire rings and greenery to honor the circle of life by making a wreath. Be creative! As the sun sets, draw closer for song and story, a cider toast and the warmth of friendship as the longest night starts.

There are many symbols from traditions around the world, too:

- ✓ keeping the light of the sun hopefully in our midst through luminaria, candle and fire
- ✓ recall the cycle of the seasons through wreaths and the circle around a fire
- ✓ evergreens also remind us of life still going on when it is cold and dark
- ✓ sing songs of the season
- ✓ eat traditional foods

Look up! This Solstice is a full moon!