

HUMANISTS *believe in* **GOOD.**

THE AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION

provides a humanist perspective in strong support of separation of religion from government, preservation and restoration of the environment, protection of civil rights and liberties, and promotion of personal choice regarding introduction of new life, family structure, and death with dignity. Though humanists are not monolithic on every issue—this is a community that encourages tolerance and nurtures diversity—we directly challenge human rights violations and discrimination.



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Are *you* a **PAGAN?**



You may *also* be a **HUMANIST!**

MODERN PAGANISM is a group of religious movements influenced by historical pagan (polytheistic or simply non-Judeo-Christian) beliefs of pre-modern Europe. While contemporary pagan movements are diverse, a number of beliefs are commonly shared, namely, the recognition of the divine in nature. Pagans worship the divine in many different forms, including feminine, masculine, and gender-neutral images. Ecologically, pagans seek to live in a way that minimizes harm to the natural environment. To most modern pagans, life is to be affirmed joyfully as long as other people are not harmed by one's endeavors.

One of the schools of thought within paganism is humanistic or naturalistic paganism. Its central elements are naturalism and the responsibility to meet life's challenges without recourse to supernatural aid. In other words:

- Viewing deities as metaphorical, poetic...and not as causal agents external to, and independent of, the individual.
- Grounding our practices and beliefs in experience, history, and scientific evidence.
- Focusing on evidence as the primary source of knowledge (leading many to an awareness of, and gratitude for, the long evolutionary process that resulted in existence today).
- Cherishing each moment and improving the world for all life on Earth.

The number of pagans in the United States is estimated to be between 750,000 and one million. Similarly to humanists, many who consider themselves pagan sometimes identify with another religion as well.

HUMANISM is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity.

“Paganism worships creation instead of the Creator.”

—William Cave, author of *Primitive Christianity*
(Published In 1839)

“We are not on this planet to ask forgiveness of our deities.”

—Scott Cunningham, author of *Living Wicca*
(Published In 1993)

“There is something pagan in me that I cannot shake off. In short, I deny nothing, but doubt everything.”

—Lord Byron

“Not far from the invention of fire must rank the invention of doubt.”

—Thomas Henry Huxley

“Paganism and humanism have long danced together and are beginning to do so again in the modern day.”

—B. T. Newberg,
Creator of humanisticpaganism.com

But *how* can I be a **PAGAN** and a **HUMANIST**?

What do paganism and humanism have in common? Compare what is said on the websites of two groups representing each:

“Our worldview doesn’t include afterlives or hidden realms.” (humanisticpaganism.com)

“We are living the only life we’ll have, in the only world we know about. The responsibility for the choices we make are ours and ours alone.”
(americanhumanist.org)

Can one be both a pagan and a humanist? Many already are.

HUMANISTS | PAGANS are naturalists and hold that nature itself is thought to be the ultimate reality.

HUMANISTS | PAGANS work to improve and protect the quality of the natural environment.

HUMANISTS | PAGANS uphold the position that the scientific method is the most reliable source of knowledge.

HUMANISTS | PAGANS believe that we alone are responsible for our actions.

HUMANISTS | PAGANS share a “joyous view of life” and are willing to work with friends and allies on issues of common concern. The positions we hold and the actions we take are not for our own benefit but are for the betterment of all of society and the world in which we live.

“We are not evil. We don’t harm or seduce people.

We are not dangerous. We are ordinary people like you.

We have families, jobs, hopes, and dreams. We are not a cult.

This religion is not a joke. We are not what you think we are from looking at TV.

We are real. We laugh, we cry. We are serious. We have a sense of humor.

You don’t have to be afraid of us. We don’t want to convert you.

And please don’t try to convert us.

Just give us the same right we give you—to live in peace.

We are much more similar to you than you think.”

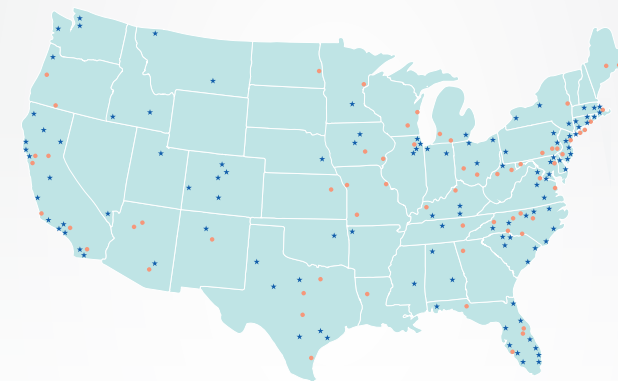
—Margot Adler, Wiccan priestess

Be a part of the *growing* **HUMANIST** **MOVEMENT!**

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Membership: New members receive a free book about humanism. All members receive voting privileges, the *Humanist* magazine, and discounts on AHA conferences, seminars, books, literature, and more!

Local Communities: Start or join a local AHA Chapter or Affiliate to connect with humanists in your area and build the humanist community.



Local AHA communities: ★ Chapter ● Affiliate

Education: Enjoy our Center for Education’s innovative online and in-person resources designed for individuals, professionals, and groups across the humanist spectrum.

Advocacy: Help us protect the separation of church and state and advocate for social justice and universal human rights.

Visit us at AMERICANHUMANIST.ORG for details.

See more at www.americanhumanist.org/paths