



Please email team@rook.family if interested.
Photos and bios available at dsplayground.com/bios

M/s As A Spiritual Path

Some slaves describe their journey as being “monks for love.” Some owners are worshipped. Considering all of the protocol, ritual, symbology, traditions, and ordeals that we pursue, there are many parallels to spiritual traditions. Let’s talk about ways a spiritual path can be incorporated as a model or tool to strengthen your dynamic, and ways that you both can find spiritual value and deep soul satisfaction on the path of your relationship, no religion required! We will share our personal experiences with Buddhism, Energetic embodiment, Christianity of many flavors, and spiritual animism and welcome discussion from the group’s diverse belief systems. M/s is truly a vocation; for those of us who feel the pull, it can be a powerful engine for spiritual growth and meaning.

Unlearning White Fragility as Leatherfolk

Racism is a problem in leather communities, including the M/s community, just like it is everywhere else in the US. Dialogue is an important step to begin to unpack and address the harms of white supremacy, but sometimes white people need a little help to get ready for those conversations. If you are a white person who is uncomfortable talking about race, is scared you might say something racist, thinks you don't see color, or just wants to be a better friend to your Black and brown partners and friends, please come! This is an interactive space where it is okay to be raw and not-perfect. We will discuss the concept of white fragility/white tears, and work to build our resilience effectively with race so we can better show up for the conversations we need to have in our communities.

Gender for the Rest of Us

Nonbinary. Genderfluid. Transsexual. Transgender. Mx. Leather Titles. Pronouns. —
Language changes quickly! How can you, as someone outside of the gender diverse

community, keep up with the best words to use, and just generally be a better ally for the trans and nonbinary members of your leather and kink communities? We will start with a quick roundup of words, then move on to a discussion of strategies we love to see our traditionally gendered friends embrace. Finally, we'll have a brief "ask a nonbinary person anything" exercise where you can anonymously get your burning questions answered. Leave feeling more comfortable having conversations about and with gender diverse folks in your community!

The Protocol Game

Options: standard class (1, 1.5, or 2 hours) or 4-hour intensive

Whether you're a dominant or a submissive, creating, implementing, and enforcing protocol in D/s dynamics is freakin' hard. But it can be easier. Come create your own Protocol Game and create, implement, and enforce 52 protocols in the next year. In this workshop, you'll learn: how to create a "training wheel" of categories that will drive your protocol, how to implement new protocol so it actually sticks, and how to enforce new protocol with the minimum of effort. And you'll walk away with your own Protocol Game to play—it can be done in partnership or solo, by dominants, submissives, or anyone in between.

The Vulnerable Master (Master Rook)

Embracing that we D-types are fundamentally human means facing our egos and practicing humility. We are not good leaders despite being vulnerable, we are good leaders precisely because we can be vulnerable. In this roundtable discussion, we talk about ways to undefend and share our strategies to face the challenges of being both fallible humans and also Divine Infallible Mistresses/Masters/Dominants/Mommies/Sirs. Come ready to embrace paradox and learn the bubble theory of a good owner: hard on the outside but soft and squishy deep down.

The Art of Ownership

"I'm yours." "You're mine." Ownership has a powerful pull for some of us. Many desire to fully possess someone, or give ourselves over to another—maybe for one scene, maybe for absolutely everything. How does one have personal agency and explore owner/property dynamics? How can we reconcile the reality of non-consensual slavery with our fantasies? How can we queer the prevalent images of kinky authority exchange relationships? Is it even possible to play without limits? And here's the big question: What is it about this that gets you hot? Explore the full spectrum of owner/property fantasies, from scene-only dirty talk to collared pups to 24/7 Master/slave relationships, and find a style that works for you!

Radical Monogamy

Practicing kink (and especially power dynamics) in a monogamous framework has unique challenges and opportunities. How do you find other monog perverts? It is easy for monogamous couples to get into the habit of leaning on each other for everything, and it can be even more intense when the couple is also D/s. How can one person meet all the needs of the other? How to keep things fresh and exciting when you're fucking forever? We'll also talk about live-in D/s and the particular challenges of keeping the dynamic strong while managing the nitty gritty of life.

Power Cuddling (slave rook)

Need: cozy space with pillows, blankets, bean bags, or beds

Are you a cuddle whore? Come dressed in your finest PJs to dig into some Serious, Deep Snuggling Theory. Together we'll muse on the power implications of different cuddle positions, their use in different kinks, and tackle the big questions like what to do when it feels like your arm is going to fall off but your partner is adorable and already sleeping, or strategies when your lover doesn't want to be your personal teddy bear. There will be time for facilitated experimentation to test out a cuddle kama sutra you haven't tried before and find your perfect posture for after that hot n' heavy scene you have planned. Don't miss the (consensual) massive spooning circle jerk!

