

Welcome to

Northshield



A branch of the Society of Creative Anachronism.

All are welcome here.

Please know we strive to be inclusive of all people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized based on gender, gender identity, race, class, sexuality, disability, etc. and treat them fairly and equally. Our goal is to make everyone feel accepted and comfortable.

by Lady Runa Úlfríðardóttir.

Updated: 1/2020 (A.S. LIV)

This is guide is not approved by the Kingdom of Northshield or the SCA

Free to distribute with due credit

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First Things First

The SCA prohibits harassment and bullying of all individuals and groups. Harassment and bullying includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Offensive or lewd verbal comments directed to an individual;
2. The display of explicit images (drawn or photographic) depicting an individual in an inappropriate manner;
3. Photographing or recording individuals inappropriately to abuse or harass the individual;
4. Inappropriate physical contact;
5. Unwelcome sexual attention;
6. Retaliation for reporting harassment and/or bullying.

Participants violating these rules are subject to appropriate sanctions.

If an individual feels subjected to harassment, bullying or retaliation, they should contact their local seneschal (i.e. group president), President of the SCA, or the Kingdom's Board Ombudsman.

If a participant of the SCA becomes aware that someone is being harassed or bullied, they have a responsibility pursuant to the SCA Code of Conduct to come forward and report this behavior to a seneschal, President of the SCA or Kingdom's Board Ombudsman.

Northshield Seneschal: seneschal@northshield.org

Northshield Ombudsman: tmorgan@director.sca.org (207-248-2445)

President of the SCA: president@sca.org

The SCA is a political and religious free organization.

Something To Keep In Mind

SCA Statement of Core Values

In pursuing its mission, the SCA is committed to excellence in its programs and activities and to:

- act in accordance with the chivalric virtues of honor and service;
- value and respect the worth and dignity of all individuals;
- practice inclusiveness and respect pluralism and diversity;
- promote a safe and respectful environment for all SCA events;
- act with transparency, fairness, integrity and honesty;
- be a responsible steward of SCA resources; and,
- be committed to maintaining the trust of its members and participants.

It is the expectation of the SCA that its members and participants, in all events and activities of the SCA, will conduct themselves in accordance with these tenets.

Now, let us proceed.

LGBTQIA+ in the SCA

To those of the LGBTQIA+ community. You are very welcome. Northshield strives to be inclusive of everyone. There are some pages for LGBTQIA+ Scadians (Scadians is slang for people in the SCA) on Facebook, however none are endorsed by Northshield or the SCA.

A Note on SCA names and personas:

(Or "Why does everyone have a million different names?")

A persona is how you are in the SCA. You could be portraying a Norse raider, a Roman soldier, a Venetian merchant... the list goes on. However, some may not have a specific time period and/or location, some may have a few different time periods they go between, and some may be transitioning to a new persona, location or time period. Being in the SCA is a personal experience and we each have a different way of participating. So, it may seem intimidating, what with everyone having personas and fancy names, to go right out and get one. However, there really is no need to hurry. So, go ahead and give the middle ages (well, pre-17th century) a spin for awhile. And if you are interested in a certain time period, we can help you out.

Northshield Profile

(when you're ready):

Northshield has a website, which if you haven't visited, please do, that allows people to put their information on a profile page. This allows others to connect with you and also so that awards can be submitted for you (more on that later). It serves many purposes. It also allows you to be affiliated with your local group. Members are encouraged to place their personal pronouns on their Northshield profile page

How to: go to www.northshield.org and in the top right corner is stated "New Registration" (you can also read the "why I should login" under the login. Fill out the blanks and walla, done. You can update this later, especially if/when you decide on an SCA name. If you have questions please feel free to contact the Kingdom Chatelaine at chatelaine@northshield.org.

Ok, I'm about to bombard you with information.

Before I do, keep in mind that this is just a brief overview to get you started. For a more extensive look at all things SCA, and to delve deeper into what I'm about to tell you, I highly recommend that you purchase the Known World Handbook. If you'd like to look before buying, we have one we can loan you temporarily.

Online: www.sca.org/apps/#store

By Post: You can request a Marketplace Order Form from here:

Store Clerk, Society for Creative Anachronism, P.O. Box 360789, Milpitas, CA 95036-0789

So, you're new (newish) to the SCA?

(If not, it's still a good read.)

There are two rules: 1. **Don't die.** 2. **Have fun.** (Ok, well those aren't exactly "official" rules.)

Step One: Read & ask questions

There are several sources on the welcome.sca.org website for new members. Also, if you have questions, ask. You have a whole shire at your disposal along with all the people they know (there's a lot!).

Step Two: Go to events. It's important to go to at least a few events to decide if this is right for you, and especially before you start investing a lot of time and money into this new hobby.

So, what exactly happens at events?

There are three rules for every event: Sign-in at Gate, pay entrance fees, and an attempt at pre-17th century garb. Also, don't die and have fun.

Some or all of the following may happen at events:

Fighting, rapier, archery, thrown weapons, bardic activities, Arts & Sciences competitions, goofing off, crafting, lots of socializing (or hiding from people is also acceptable), classes, court, and sometimes, there is a feast at the end of the day.

*Feast is available for an additional fee but it's usually not very much. Have dietary restrictions? Don't worry, let the feast steward know beforehand and they can usually accommodate you (there is normally an email address on the website or you can ask the seneschal to help you get in contact with them).

Planning Your Day(s)

Events sometimes have quite a lot going on. On page 27 you will find a blank itinerary to help you organize your time. Don't forget to schedule meals, snack times, and always hydrate!

Garb or "Where am I and why am I in an Elizabethan outfit?"

The first thing when planning to attend an event is to get yourself appropriately dressed. At events it is requested that you make an attempt at pre-17th century attire (we call it "garb"). Not sure where to start? Don't worry, we have garb to fit a wide range of people, if we don't, we can help you locate some, and if that fails, there are several simple outfits that can be made fairly inexpensively. Haven't sewn? No worries, several people in our shire know how to sew, either by machine or by hand. And if you prefer, we can even direct you to places where you can buy garb.

What (is probably best) Not To Wear

You may at some point hear the words "sumptuary laws." Sumptuary laws are laws that were put in place during the later medieval and renaissance period to govern what people could and could not wear, often this was based on social class. SCA Kingdoms do have sumptuary laws. Northshield sumptuary laws mainly involve symbols of rank and office. However, don't worry too much, we're a pretty laidback kingdom. Here are some things to be aware of though. We typically avoid wearing these as a courtesy to those that have earned them. Such things are:

Crowns and metal circlets - These are worn by royalty (crowns) or are awarded to people by the court (baronets, coronets, and circlets). *See "Shiny Hats" below or ask!

White belt (fabric or leather), spurs and gold chain around the neck - These are worn by knights. The Order of Chivalry is a very prestigious position that took many years of training and an elevation that was agreed upon by their peers and awarded by The Crown. **(White unadorned belts are reserved across the Known World for Knights and Master/Mistress of Arms).**

White livery collar - Worn by members of the Order of Defense. The Order of the Defense, like the Order of Chivalry, is a very prestigious position that took many years of training and an elevation that was agreed upon by their peers and awarded by the The Crown.

White scarf around upper arm - These are worn by distinguished members of the Rapier community known as The Order of the White Scarf.

Pelican, piercing her breast - This is the symbol worn by Pelicans. The Order of the Pelican is a very prestigious position that took many years of service and an elevation that was agreed upon by their peers and awarded by The Crown.

Laurel wreath - This is the symbol worn by Laurels. The Order of the Laurel is a very prestigious position that took many years of teaching and an elevation that was agreed upon by their peers and awarded by The Crown.

Red belts - are indicators that the person is a squire to a Knight.

Green belts - are worn by apprentices to a Laurel.

Yellow belts - are worn by a protégé to a Pelican

What to bring to your first event?

Some things can be loaned to you from what we call our "Gold Key." These things typically include garb and some feast gear (please ask before the event so we can get something together for you). What you want to bring depends on your needs and the venue. It's always a good idea, and often cheaper, to make yourself a checklist.

It is a good idea to bring the following to every event:

- Medications (prescription and over the counter, such as Advil and Benadryl)
- A cup for water (pottery or wood) & feast gear (bowls, plates, utensils).
- Snacks (nuts, power bars) and something to share if you choose to.
- Comfortable shoes (even if they are modern, all black or brown is a close fit)
- A basket to keep all your things in.
- Chair (camp chairs are fine but it's nice to bring something to cover it with)
- Money for all the cool stuff that vendors are selling.

For summer events you may want to add:

- An insulated water container to keep cool water in, and/or a small cooler
- Change of clothes
- Sunscreen 100 SPF full spectrum (you can still get burned in the shade)
- Straw hat (with built in SPF if possible) and/or a parasol
- A hand held fan (folding fans, while not around during the medieval ages, are convenient)
- Electrolytes, especially if you will be active (gatorade, pedialyte, sekanjabin...)
- Bug spray
- A blanket to sit on
- A watch (for being pre 17th century there sure are a lot of places we need to be on time)

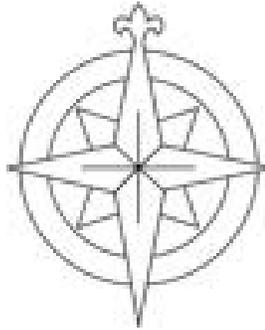
For winter events:

- Wool cap or scarf
- Wool (or warm) coat or cloak (a wool blanket pinned at the neck is very appropriate)
- Extra clothes and socks (layers!), thermal underwear is totally acceptable

Traveling

People in Northshield, utilize an app called “Zello” that functions as a walkie-talkie on your phone. This can be used to keep in touch with others in Northshield while on the road. It’s a handy tool that, if you have the technology, can be very useful.

The password for the Northshield channel is: **stellar**



AN IMPORTANT NOTE

It is wise, regardless of the event, but especially in the summer, to bring a list of any allergies, medications, and health problems you may have. Also, include an emergency contact number (personal and someone at the event) and the group you are with. If something unfortunately does happen, EMS may be able to use this information.

*On Page 29 there is a form you can use to record this information and keep it with you, if you so choose.

Shiny Hat Alert! What do I do?

Courtly Etiquette

Courtly etiquette, and thus royalty, is part of the essence of the SCA. By employing this etiquette we are showing respect to them, the throne, and the kingdom.

Royalty wear different types of crowns or coronets (see the cheat sheet below)

- When you see someone with a crown or coronet with more than one point, a dip of your head, curtsy, or bow is good etiquette.
- If you're seated and the sovereigns and/or heirs walk by, it's polite to stand and acknowledge them with a curtsy/bow.

Most everyone with more than one point on their crown you can address as "Your Excellency" (even the sovereigns).

- However, the sovereigns are usually called "Your Majesty;"
 - The heirs are called "Your Highness."
- It is also a good etiquette to curtsy/bow to the throne if you walk within 15 feet in front of it (don't walk behind the thrones if you can help it). You are showing respect to the Crown and the Kingdom of Northshield.

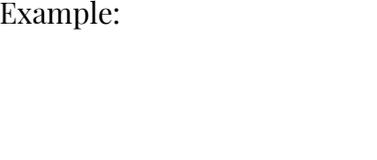
I know, I know, at this point you're thinking, "I'm going to screw up and it's the guillotine for me!" In all serious, don't worry about it. Most everyone understands it takes awhile to learn all the nuances of the SCA; not just the jargon but the courtly etiquette as well.

(FYI, I still screw it up)

More importantly, the more you learn and the more comfortable you become, the more fun you'll have. I promise. But when in doubt, ask. It is 100% acceptable to ask a person what their title is and how you should address them. When I first met the King I said, "You must be important, you're wearing a shiny hat." He shrugged and smiled.

If anyone is rude to you, find the Seneschal and let them know! This is not appropriate behavior on their, or anyone's, part.

They Shiny Hat Field Guide (Simplified)

<u>Position/Title</u>	<u>How to address them</u>	<u>Indicator of status</u>	<u>Shiny Hat</u>
Sovereign and Sovereign's Consort	His/Her/Their/Your Royal Majesty	Gold Crown of State with the Northshield device surrounded by laurel wreath or roses.	
Heir and Heir's Consort	His/Her/Their/Your Royal Highness	Silver Crown of State with the Northshield device surrounded by laurel wreath or roses.	
Duke/Duchess	His/Her/Their/Your Grace	Coronet with sets of strawberry leaves adorning it.	Example: 
Count/Countess	His/Her/Their/Your Excellency	Coronet (usually gold) with embattlements adorning it	Example: 
Viscount/Viscountess	His/Her/Their/Your Excellency	Coronet (usually silver) with embattlements adorning it	Example: 
(Landed) Baron/Baroness *Baron/Baroness of a barony.	His/Her/Their/Your Excellency	Gold Baronial Coronet with 6 pearls adorning it.	Example: 
(Court) Baron/Baroness *Granted by the Crown.	His/Her/Their/Your Excellency	Silver Baronial Coronet with 6 pearls (or other) adorning it.	Example: 

			
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Peer Identification Guide

<p>Laurel</p>	<p>Master <u>name</u> Mistress <u>name</u> Other (ask preference)</p>	<p>Laurel Wreath</p> <p>*Apprentice (dependent) wears a green belt.</p>	<p>Example:</p> 
<p>Pelican</p>	<p>Master <u>name</u> Mistress <u>name</u> Other (ask preference)</p>	<p>Pelican (usually in its piety)</p> <p>*Protege (dependent) wears a yellow belt.</p>	<p>Example:</p> 
<p>Knight</p> <p>*See under MOA for the difference between a knight and a MOA.</p>	<p>Sir <u>name</u> (this applies to all genders according to the Known World Handbook)</p>	<p>White belt/sash, unadorned gold chain, gold spurs, white baldric (a belt for a sword)</p> <p>*Squires (dependent) wear a red belt and silver chain.</p>	
<p>Master/Mistress/ of Arms (MOA)</p> <p>*The difference between a knight and a MOA, besides the title, is that a knight swears fealty to the Crown where a MOA pledges service.</p>	<p>Master <u>name</u> Mistress <u>name</u> Other (ask preference)</p>	<p>White belt/sash, unadorned gold chain, gold spurs, white baldric (a belt for a sword)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">See above</p>
<p>Master/Mistress of</p>	<p>Master <u>name</u></p>	<p>White livery collar,</p>	<p>The main way to identify</p>

Defense (MOD) (Rapier)	Mistress <u>name</u> Other (ask preference)	cloak with Master of Defense symbol on it, sword hanger *Provosts (dependent) wear a circle on a red ribbon around their neck.	a MOD is: A white ribbon with a medallion that is worn around the neck.
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Peer Identification Guide continued...

The Order of the White Scarf (Rapier) *No new members are accepted into the order	Don <u>name</u> Doña <u>name</u> (ask preference)	A white scarf worn around their upper arm. *Cadets (dependent) wear a red scarf around their upper arm.
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Other

Grant of Arms	The Honorable Lord <u>name</u> , The Honorable Lady <u>name</u> , or <u>name</u> The Honorable Noblis (gender neutral) <u>name</u>	Circlet (see below) and the right to wear the badge of their order *See Grant of Arms awards.	
Award of Arms	Lord <u>name</u> , Lady <u>name</u> , or <u>name</u> nobilis (gender neutral) <u>name</u>	Simple metal, leather, or fabric circlet one inch or less in width and with (optional) no more than one protrusion.	See above

Sources: The Known World Handbook and northshield.org

Shiny hat pictures courtesy of Jason Malarkey. Knight identification picture courtesy of Sir Hanman.

Lingo:

1. A “dependent” is a student. A peer is responsible for the training/education/guidance of their dependent.
2. To be inclusive, the titles “Sovereign and Sovereign’s Consort (or The Crown)” are used in place of “King” and “Queen.” The “Prince and “Princess” are referred to as “Heir and Heir’s Consort.” Interesting bit of history, Northshield was the first kingdom to have a same-sex rulers: The Brother Kings.

Whilst at Court...

At events we have this thing called "court." Don't worry, there are no lawyers. At most events there will be one, maybe two, courts (some smaller events have none). Courts are called by the sovereigns and typically last from one to two hours. During court, Their Majesties (or in some cases Their Highness) will address business within the kingdom, and make

announcements for the populace to be aware of. Awards are usually given at this time and elevations may be performed. For example, a person may get the title of Lord, Lady, or noblis (gender neutral) by getting an Award of Arms or someone may get a Cygnus, also an award. There is a cheat sheet of court awards included in this handout. An example of an elevation is when a squire becomes a Knight or an apprentice becomes a Laurel. If you hear someone say, "I beg a boon," to Their Majesties, then it is very likely someone is getting elevated.

At or shortly after the new Sovereigns are crowned, there is an opportunity for the populace (that's you) to come up and swear fealty to Their Majesties. Don't worry, there will be someone there to tell you what to say. This is totally optional but it is a magical experience.

Basically, there are plenty of things that can happen at court, even some rather silly things. I recommend you go, at least once. It's a neat experience and you are supporting members of the community who are being recognized by the throne.

Note: At some courts the Sovereigns or Heirs will call forth those for whom this is their first event. It may seem intimidating but it's a great way to be welcomed to the community, meet the Sovereigns or Heirs, and maybe get some advice/counsel. You do not have to go up, but you really should. And DON'T PANIC (I totally panic going into court, so go ahead and panic)!

Approaching The Throne During Court

If you bring a knife or sword to court, always remove it before approaching the throne.

Version 101

- Walk down the center aisle to the throne when possible;
- 15 feet before the throne (usually where the chairs end) show reverence to the Crown (i.e. curtsy/bow - as per your preference)
- Now you can approach the throne (i.e. the sovereigns)
- There will be a pad or fur in front of the throne, you can kneel on that or just stand in front of it. It's a personal decision, but if you have bad knees or are wearing a corset the decision may not be optional. If you don't know which to do, it's entirely appropriate to ask.

The Extended Version

- If you have a consort/friend they may escort you up to 15 feet away from the throne.
- Stop 15 feet before the throne and show reverence in order from highest rank to lowest.
- First show reverence to the Crown (look at them while showing reverence);
- Show reverence to any visiting sovereigns;
- Next show reverence to the heirs, they will be sitting to the (your) left of the throne;
- Lastly, show reverence to any barons/baronesses present, they will be the farthest seated group away from the throne;

- Approach the throne, show reverence again and stand in front of the pad/fur or kneel on it, whichever way suits you best.

When you are dismissed from the Crown, the herald will call out “VIVANT,” proceed backwards (ONLY IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO) until you are 15 feet away. Reverse the order by showing reverence to the barons/baroness first, Heirs, visiting royalty, and the Crown.

One final note, ESPECIALLY if that was overwhelming or “freak out” inducing. Northshield, unlike many other kingdoms, is very laid back when it comes to courtly etiquette. In fact we don’t have “laws” or “rules” just recommendations. If you want to attempt something between the two versions, it is quite acceptable and common to bow/curtsey to the Crown, and then simple bow/curtsey left, and again right. Reverse when withdrawing. Simple. Once again, don’t panic and don’t worry about getting it perfect (I didn’t). Also, Sometimes you may see people who do not follow this method or they do so in a completely different way. Some will observe the customs of the time period and the location their persona is from. It can vary a lot, but this is a good place to start.

These are some of the awards that may be given out during court.

Note: “Balzon” is the symbol of the award.

This is just for reference during court, don’t worry about learning it.

Augmentation of Arms

**An Augmentation of Arms may be awarded by the Crown to specially honor a person for service to the Kingdom above and beyond the call of duty. Each augmentation is a specific charge at the Crown’s discretion, to be added to the individual’s heraldic arms.*

Beare of Northshield

Given to those who embody the spirit of the Kingdom. No more than one person may be admitted into this Order during any reign. Members of this Order may style themselves "Beares of Northshield". [previously known as Great Bear.]

Bravura

The award will be bestowed upon gentles who have committed those heroic and specific deeds of valor, courtesy, or prowess in the arts martial and which have increased the renown and reputation of Northshield. This award is for individual deeds as opposed to constant performance. An example of the first might be leading a charge against a greater force at Pennsic, of the last, shooting a 300 IKAC. [previously known as the Nordbandr]

Crwth, Order of the

Given for proficiency in the performing arts (dance, bardic recitation, music, theater, etc.)
Blazon:(Fieldless) A crwth argent.

Cypher, Joint King & Queen

Given for personal service to the Crown

Cypher, Joint Prince & Princess

Given for personal service to the Heirs

Cypher, King's

Given for personal service to the King

Cypher, Prince's

Given for personal service to the Prince

Cypher, Queen's

Given for personal service to the Queen

Cypher, Princess'

Given for personal service to the Princess

Gems of Northshield, Order of the

The Award of the Gems of Northshield may be given to honor groups (ex. Shires, Clans, Fighting Teams) who have, as a group, given outstanding service to the Kingdom. Blazon: Sable, in cross four hexagonal gems argent

Golden Peacock, Order of the

Award for period appearance and attire in all the arts martial Blazon: Sable, a peacock in its pride within a bordure embattled Or.

Griffin of Northshield, Order of the

25 years of continuous authorization and activity in the martial community - Members of this Order may style themselves "Venerable Griffins"

Hearthstead, Award of the

Given to groups who consistently (or specifically) excel at showing hospitality and hosting events. This award is not just for SCA branches; it is for any body of people that are a "group" (like a household, or archers, or Constables, etc.) Blazon: Sable, a brazier Or enflamed proper within a bordure Or masoned sable.

Pyxis, Order of the

Given for putting forth great effort at researching, creating and maintaining a period persona and atmosphere. Blazon: (Fieldless) A cross clechy Or within and conjoined to an annulet argent.

Rose

The Order of the Rose consists of former Royal Consorts of a kingdom. It is specifically charged with encouraging chivalrous and courteous behavior among all members of the Society. (Fieldless) A wreath of roses. (Registered as both badge and regalia)

Saltire, Order of the

Membership in this order may be offered to an individual that has shown a proven record of widespread guidance and instruction, enriching the abilities of the Northshield populace. No more than four people may be admitted to this order in any reign. Members of the order may

bear the badge: [Blazon] Vert estencely argent, a saltire Or surmounted by a lozenge ploye' argent.

Scroll of Honor

A record of the worthy deeds of the people of Northshield and its friends. The Kingdom Herald or a deputy cares for the Scroll and insures that it is displayed at court. Principality Scroll of Honor.

Youth Awards

Bellerophon, Award of

Given to youth who have displayed prowess and courtesy in any of the Arts Martial.

Compass, Award of the

Given to youth for exemplary service to the kingdom Blazon: (Fieldless) A pair of compasses Or.

Golden Lamp, Award of the

Given to youth for achievement in an Art and/or Science

White Owl, Award of the

Given to youth who demonstrate initiative in teaching.

Award of Arms (AoA) Bearing

Award of Arms

Individuals who have shown consistency of effort over time within the arts, sciences, service or arts martial and willingness to maintain involvement in the SCA. The recipient may wear a circlet and will have the title of Lord, Lady, or noblis.

Black Bolt, Award of the

Given to those who demonstrate prowess and chivalry in artillery activities, including a level of participation beyond their own personal endeavors. Blazon: (Fieldless) A lightning bolt bendwise sinister sable.

Black Flame, Award of the

Given to those who show proficiency in one or more of the Arts or Sciences, including a level of participation beyond their own personal endeavors. [previously known as the Award of the Balefire] Blazon: (Fieldless) A flame sable.

Cygnus, Award of the

Given to those who have performed substantial service to the Kingdom of Northshield.
Blazon: (Fieldless) A swan naiant contourny Or

Glove, Award of the

Given to those who demonstrate prowess and chivalric comportment in rapier combat, including a level of participation beyond their own personal endeavors. [formerly known as the Queen's Glove; registered as Order of the Glove]

Griffin & Sword, Award of the

Given to those who demonstrate prowess and chivalric behavior in armored combat, including a level of participation beyond their own personal endeavors. [formerly known as the Griffin's Sword] Blazon: (Fieldless) A griffin Or sustaining a sword argent.

Palfrey, Award of the

Given to those who demonstrate prowess and chivalry in equestrian activities, including a level of participation beyond their own personal endeavors. Blazon: (Fieldless) A horse passant sable charged on the shoulder with a compass rose argent.

Grant of Arms (GoA) Bearing

**A GoA means that the recipient may wear the emblem of the order and will be addressed as "The Honorable Lord/Lady/noblis."*

Aquila et Fulmen, Order of the

Given to those who have, over time, demonstrated great prowess, chivalry, and leadership in one or more of the Artillery Arts. Members will be responsible for continued, conspicuous activity in Artillery and for helping others become involved and proficient. [formerly known as the Aquila] Blazon: (Fieldless) An eagle per pale Or and sable maintaining a lightning bolt sable and a lightning bolt Or.

Black Griffin, Order of the

Given to those who have, over time, demonstrated great prowess, chivalry, and leadership in Armored Combat. Members will be responsible for continued, conspicuous activity in Armored Combat and for helping others become involved and proficient. [formerly known as Iron Griffin Legion] Blazon: (Fieldless) A griffin sustaining a sword sable.

Brigits Flame, Order of

Given to those who have shown over time they enthusiastically strive for mastery in the Arts and/or Sciences, endeavoring to provide leadership and displaying courtesy. Members are expected to continue their pursuits in the Arts and/or Sciences and to help others find their own opportunities for enrichment therein. [formerly known as the Bridget's Flame] Blazon:(Fieldless) A torch argent enflamed proper.

Destrer, Order of the

Given to those who have, over time, demonstrated great prowess, chivalry, and leadership in Equestrian Arts. Members are expected to continue conspicuous activity in Equestrian arts, and to encourage others to become involved and proficient. Blazon: (Fieldless) A compass rose argent sustained by a horse rampant Or.

Hand of Tyr, Order of the

Given to those who have distinguished themselves over time by performing, with all due courtesy, outstanding service on behalf of the kingdom. Members are expected to continue conspicuous service and to help others find their own opportunities for service. [formerly known as the Order of Tyr] Blazon: (Fieldless) On a hand fesswise sable a Týr rune argent.

Ordo Circini Vitruvii [Order of Vitruvius' Caliper]

Given to those who, over time, have demonstrated great prowess, chivalry, and leadership in Rapier Combat. Members will be responsible for continued, conspicuous activity in Rapier Combat and for helping others become involved and proficient. Blazon: Sable, a keythong maintaining a rapier in chief a caliper argent

Court Baron/Baroness

Highest level GOA. The Estate of Court Barony may be bestowed by the Crown to those who have, over time, demonstrated exceptional and continual service to the Crown. Recipients may wear a coronet of silver adorned with six pearls and ornamented as they see fit.

Patent of Arms Bearing

**These people will be put on vigil in court [you will hear someone be called into court and they will say to the sovereigns "I beg a boon."], they then will choose a future event where they will be on vigil. This means any member of the populace can come talk to, ask questions, and give advice to the person. That evening in court the person will be elevated to one of the below.*

Chivalry (Knights)

The Chivalry consists of two equal parts: Knighthood and Mastery of Arms. No one may belong to both parts of the order at one time. When a member is admitted to the Order of Chivalry by the Sovereign, the choice of which part of the order to join is made by the new member. The candidate must be considered the equal of their prospective peers with the basic weapons of tournament combat. To become a Knight, the candidate must swear fealty to the Crown of their kingdom during the knighting ceremony. Masters of Arms may choose to swear fealty, but are not required to do so. Blazon: (Fieldless) A circular chain. (For the Order of Knighthood) (Fieldless) A white belt. (For the Order of Knighthood) (Fieldless) A white baldric. (For the Order of Mastery of Arms)|

Defense (Master of Defense)

Members of the Order of Defense may choose to swear fealty, but are not required to do so. The candidate must be considered the equal of their prospective peers with the weapons of rapier or cut-and-thrust combat. Members are recognized for their great skill at rapier and/or cut-and-thrust combat, as well as for qualities of courtesy and grace, for their willingness to teach others, and for service to the kingdom. They are addressed as "Master" (name) or "Mistress" (name), and are entitled to wear a white livery collar and to bear the badge of the Order. Blazon: Three rapiers in pall inverted tips crossed.

Laurel

Members of the Order of the Laurel may choose to swear fealty, but are not required to do so. The candidate must have attained the standard of excellence in skill and/or knowledge equal to that of their prospective peers in some area of the Arts or Sciences. The candidate must have applied this skill and/or knowledge for the instruction of members and service to the kingdom to an extent above and beyond that normally expected of members of the Society. Blazon:(Tinctureless) A laurel wreath.

Pelican

Members of the Order of the Pelican may choose to swear fealty, but are not required to do so. The candidate must have attained the standard of service to the Society or any of its branches equal to that of their prospective peers, which is above and beyond that normally expected of members of the Society. Blazon: (Tinctureless) A pelican vulning itself. (Tinctureless) A pelican in its piety. (Fieldless) A chapeau gules trimmed ermine.

Royalty

**This usually happens at coronations when the sovereign's step down and are awarded their new title.*

Count/Countess

Persons who have once reigned over a kingdom. (Fieldless) A coronet embattled, all gold, ornamented as the wearer sees fit. (Registered as both badge and regalia)

Duke/Duchess

Persons who have reigned over a kingdom two or more times. (Fieldless) A coronet with strawberry leaves. (Registered as both badge and regalia)

Source: The Northshield website award's section.

(Too much information? Go ahead and skip ahead for now.)

Step Three: Advanced SCA'ing

Lending a Hand

Want to volunteer at an event? First off, it is very important to spend time just doing eventing stuff and getting to know people, especially in the beginning. However, volunteering is one of the best ways to meet new people and give back to the SCA community. Here are some ways you can help out at events:

Set-up

Many events require help setting up. This can be things like putting out tables and chairs, hanging decorations, helping to bring in food and supplies, clearing out areas. It can vary depending on the site. All you need to do is contact the event steward (the event steward's contact information can be found on the Northshield Event Page or ask the Seneschal) and ask them what they need help with, and match that with what you are able to do safely!

Tear-down

This is basically the opposite of set-up. There may be more cleaning (sweeping, vacuuming) involved in this aspect as the SCA is known for leaving a location cleaner than they when we arrived. Once again check in with the event steward ahead of time (they'll be pretty busy during the event.)

Helping out in the kitchen

Typically, the lunch and feast prep/clean up crews are established before the event takes place. Sometimes, though, there will be a call for help during the day, or you may want to volunteer ahead of time. Your point of contact will be the feast steward. Helping in the kitchen can take a myriad of forms from basic food prep (cutting, slicing, arranging on trays) to washing dishes, and so on. You may also be asked to help with putting food on platters to aid the servers. Essentially, follow the direction of the lead cook (usually the feast steward), and be ready to lend a hand just about anywhere as you're able (to the same note: aprons or your less-than-best garb with sleeves you can push out of the way are good idea). Finally, be flexible. The kitchen crew can be under a lot of stress, especially as the set time for serving the meal might change at the last minute, and they're still responsible for ensuring the hot food is hot, and the cold food is cold!

Serving feast

Communication with the kitchen crew and lead server is key. You may or may not be paired with a partner, and will likely be assigned a table to serve. Meet in the kitchen (or indicated

location) to receive your directions on how the flow of the feast is expected to go. At the most basic level, you'll bring each dish out, and once the Head Table (sovereigns and heirs) has been served, you'll serve the other tables. On your way back from each course (sometimes called a 'remove'), you'll likely collect the empty trays/platters from the previous one. As needed, you may also be expected to offer refills on the water/juice/beverage being served. You are the visible face of the kitchen, so don't forget to smile and interact with your 'customers'!

Water bearing

Water bearing can take a couple of different forms. Typically, it refers to ensuring that everyone stays hydrated, especially in the summer events and at fighting-centric events. You may be helping to refill and haul water coolers across site, or carrying more practical sized water jugs to the fighters on the field (or some combination thereof). Be sure to check with the Event Steward, Marshall in Charge or water-bearing point-person to learn what kind of aid they're looking for!

Royal Room Guard

Is a simple yet important job. Your task is to make sure that the royal room is only frequented by royals and their attendants. Thus, it is about making sure that those wandering around don't accidentally (or purposely) stumble into the royal room especially if it is vacant. It is also a point of prestige to be guarding the royals' sanctuary.

Gate

Gate is where everyone checks in and pays if they haven't already. Gate is a great way to get to know faces and names. Volunteering here consists of asking incoming people if they are a member and if they have pre-registered for the event. If they are a member you can check their card and have them sign-in. Make sure their card is signed (that's their event waiver for insurance purposes) and not expired. If they are not a member then signing the form works as their waiver. They'll sign on the line of the gate record, pay if needed and they can go about their way. Don't worry about your first time on gate as you will be paired up with someone with experience in this area. (Note: You must be a paid member to handle money at gate)

Retaining

Retaining involves being an assistant to either one of Their Royal Majesties or one of Their Royal Highnesses. It is a sign of respect to their station to have someone to assist them and thus it is an honor to be the one doing it. Shifts last from one to two hours and can consist of everything from holding a Royal's water cup (and to check periodically to see if they need more) to assisting them with their garb. The important part is to stand/walk slightly behind

them (or where directed) and be there for them if they need something. Often you will have a “retainer bag” which has everything they’ll need. Open it when requested and keep it on your person throughout your shift. Each Royal may have different requirements of a retainer but don’t worry, they’ll let you know what those are. Another thing to note is that while retaining, avoid interrupting their conversations. You are there to assist not to chat (unless directly invited to). These are some guidelines to follow, remember, your Royal will let you know what they require of you. Follow these preferences, and be flexible in adjusting to your Royal’s personality. And enjoy yourself, you’ll have the best seat in the house.

Note: One important part to remember is that if your Royal visits the restroom it is important that you wait outside and hold their crown respectfully. Crowns, even though there is no official policy, do not generally go into restrooms/porta potties for obvious reasons. No one wants to dig a crown out of a porta potty.

Also, it is wise (although in no way mandatory) that when signing up to be a retainer you don’t take back-to-back shifts with different royals. You never know if the person relieving you may be late, and you don’t want to be late to relieve the retainer for your next post (also, you may need time to find them at larger events). When you are relieved of your post by the next retainer you can simply go about your day. There is no need to check in with the royal when you leave.

Finally, always remember: what you hear while retaining or while in the Royal Room is private and not to be shared.

There are many other ways of helping out, some of which are event specific. If you would like to help out but don’t know what to do, you can always check in with the event steward, or at gate, to see if help is needed. Remember, the event steward may be very busy so it’s important to be patient with them. Also, look around you, there may be people moving things or setting up, it doesn’t hurt (unless you have a bad back/hips/knees...) to offer assistance. Also, check the parking lot, people tend to bring a lot of things to events (Seriously, A LOT of stuff, don’t worry, you’ll get there too). I’m sure they would appreciate your help if you’re so inclined.

SCA Dictionary (otherwise known as “Are they talking in code?”)

SCAdian (SKAY-dee-an) – as a noun: a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism.
Also: SCAer. Used as an adjective to mean “of the SCA.”

General Terms

Anno Societatis (abbreviated “A.S.”) – The dating system we use in the SCA (translates to “In the Year of the Society”). May 1, 1966 was the first day of the year A.S. I, and May 1st is “New Year’s Day” for each Society year. The years are usually depicted in Roman numerals.

Arms (or device) -- the heraldic emblem that identifies a person or entity.

Arts and Sciences – crafts and skills of the Middle Ages/Renaissance which we research and practice in the SCA. Also referred to as “A & S.”

Award of Arms – a Society-wide award given by the royalty. Recipients can use the title “Lord” or “Lady” before their names.

Barony/Shire – types of SCA local chapters. Baronies are generally larger in size, and have a Baron and/or Baroness as their ceremonial heads. Sub-groups within a Barony’s territory are known as Cantons.

Bardic Circle – an informal gathering for singing and storytelling. Anyone who attends is welcome to perform appropriate material, but you can just sit and listen if you prefer. A bard is a person who sings, tells stories, recites poetry, etc.

Blue Card – an SCA membership card printed on blue cardstock, indicating that the card holder has a signed waiver on file at the SCA offices.

Carriage or Wagon – Vehicle

Court – a gathering where the sovereigns of a kingdom make announcements and present awards. Rulers of principalities hold Principality courts, and landed Barons and Baronesses hold Baronial courts.

Crash Space – informal lodgings with members of the group holding an event. Dayboard – lunch, served at some events.

Demo – a demonstration of the activities in the SCA. SCA participants will usually perform martial activities as well as arts and sciences for the public.

Farspeaker – Cell Phone

Gentle – any person, not gender-specific.

Household – a voluntary association of friends or people with a common interest. Can be organized under whatever rules the members jointly accept. Households have no formal standing in the SCA.

Modern: (Mundane is the old term, sometimes still in use) – used to mean “non-SCA”, “everyday”, “in real life”.

Oyez (OH-yay) – an attention-getting call, usually preceding an announcement, which means to stop talking and listen.

Period – of the time period studied in the SCA (the Middle Ages and Renaissance).

Persona – the Middle Ages / Renaissance person that you are posing as.

Populace – the inhabitants of a kingdom or local group; the people present at an event.

Porta-castle/Privy – portable chemical toilets found at outdoor events.

Post-revel – a get-together after the event (or “revel”), for socializing and unwinding, usually held in someone’s home.

SCA Name – the name someone uses in the Society.

Positions

Apprentice – a student in a formal relationship with a Master or Mistress of the Laurel.

Chivalry – fighters recognized by the sovereigns for their great skill on the tourney field.

They are Knights and they have sworn fealty to the Crown (Masters-of-Arms do not).

Master of Defense

Laurel – someone recognized by The Crown for mastery of an art or science.

Pelican – someone recognized by The Crown for great service to their Kingdom and the SCA.

Protégé – a student in a formal relationship with a Master or Mistress of the Pelican.

Peers – companions of the Chivalry, Laurel, and Pelican.

Royal Peers – Viscounts, Viscountesses, Counts, Countesses, Dukes, and Duchesses.

Squire – a student in a formal relationship with a Knight or Master of Arms.

Officers

Seneschal – the officer serving as “president” of a local group or kingdom. Acts as the group administrator and legal representative of the SCA.

Exchequer – the officer serving as treasurer for a group or kingdom.

A&S Minister – the officer serving as the coordinator for activities, and additional information related to the Arts and Sciences.

Chatelaine) – an officer who helps new members learn about the SCA.

Herald – officer who helps participants come up with SCA names and armory; or, the official who makes announcements on the field, or is the Master of Ceremonies for court.

Marshal – a specially trained person who oversees combat activities for safety purposes.

Types of Events

Coronation – the event where the heirs to a kingdom, are crowned and the previous sovereigns step down from their reign.

Crown Tournament – the tournament held to determine the next heirs of the kingdom.

Twelfth Night – an event which is the traditional winter-holiday celebration of Northshield). It is scheduled at the beginning of January; attendees wear their finest garb, and friends exchange gifts.

SUN – Stellar University of Northshield- events where classes are taught on a variety of subjects.

War – a large gathering at which the main activity is one or more battles for large groups of participants, involving the use of fields, woodlands, or other broken terrain.

Tournament/Tourney – a competition in SCA fighting or fencing. Some types of tournaments are: Pas d’Arms, Bearpit, Double-Elimination, Round-Robin, and Ransom tourneys.

Martial Arts/Combat

Authorization – the process that fighters and fencers go through to be allowed to participate in combat.

Heavy Weapons – combat done by armored fighters, with rattan versions of swords, polearms, and spears.

HOLD! – a cry meaning “Stop whatever you are doing and freeze in place until you see where the hazard is!” Normally used during combat, but applies to all forms of activity.

Light Weapons – in some kingdoms, refers to rapier combat (fencing).

Lists / List Field – the roped-off area for combat. The List Table is the location where competitors sign in and where the Minister of Lists keeps track of the paperwork necessary to actually run the tournament.

Melee – martial combat with many participants on each side.

Events

Event – any Society gathering. You’re welcome to go to any that are listed in the newsletter. You can take part in the activities, although some (mainly martial arts) take special training, and you’ll need to be “authorized” by a marshal before you can take part in those.

Event Steward – the person in charge of an event.

Dry/Damp/Wet Site – alcoholic beverage policies.

- Dry sites allow no alcohol.
- Damp sites permit wine, beer, and mead, but no hard liquor.
- Wet sites do not restrict alcohol.
- “Discreetly” damp permit alcohol as long as the labeled containers are kept out of sight and are removed at the end of the event.

Site – place where the event is being held.

Site Fee – the cost of admission to an event. Does not usually include the cost of the feast.

Gate – the place to check in or buy at-the-door admission to an event.

Waiver – a release of liability form signed when you purchase SCA membership. A blue membership card indicates that you have a signed waiver on file with the SCA, Inc. Non-members and members with white membership cards must sign waivers at events and martial practices.

Feast

Off-board – attending an event and bringing your own dinner. The “off-board” price includes the site fee, a seat at a table, and sometimes bread and butter and some kind of beverage.

Removes – sometimes used as a synonym for “courses” at a feast. (“Remove” is actually a post-period term for a dish served during a course that is later removed and replaced by a new one.)

Sources: SCA.org, Northshield.org, The Known World Handbook, personal and shared experiences

Still Have Questions? Excellent, life would be quite boring if you knew everything, right?

Oh, and you're officially a scadian now!

Welcome Home!

Now, go ask someone what “moo boom” means. Trust me on this.

Don't forget about these. ♪

My Event Itinerary

(and pre-event planning when applicable. Feel free to make a few copies.)

Event: _____ Date(s): _____

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8:00				
9:00				
10:00				
11:00				
Noon				
1:00				
2:00				
3:00				
4:00				
5:00				
6:00				
7:00				
8:00				
9:00				

My First Event

Event: _____ Date(s): _____

Modern Location: _____ Shire/Barony: _____

Questions I want to ask someone:

Who did I meet?

What do I want to try next?

Things that piqued my interest:

Best part of the event?

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Modern Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Blood Type (if known): _____

Emergency Contact Information

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

On-site Contact: _____ Group: _____ Phone: _____

*Are you a minor: Yes No (If yes, note guardian/parent under emergency contact)

Medical History

Medications (attach a separate sheet if necessary and note below)

Allergies

Any additional information you would like to add

Camp and Location (if applicable)

Group/people/person you are with (if applicable)

This is for you to keep on you.