

Newcomer's Guide to the Society For Creative Anachronism Shire of Arrowsreach

What is the SCA?

The SCA is a world wide recreation group that has a love for the Middle Ages. Our large time frame of interest (600-1600 AD) allows members to participate in or create a wide range of activities and not be limited by region or culture. Members of the SCA strive to capture the ambiance, not specific events, of the past and express it in a new form with emphasis on Chivalry, Honour, Courtesy, Grace and Consideration for others. This is a society of our Current Middle Ages. The SCA as a whole is not an authenticity society; we only require a considerable attempt on our members part to add to festivities and events.

Anachronism; Anything out of it's proper time; from the Greek ana, backwards or reversed.

Brief History of the SCA

The Society's first incarnation came about in 1966 in Berkeley, California. Students of Berkeley University and their friends got together for a 'May 1st' Celebration with the theme being Medieval. The day's events included a tournament, a play, young courageous men were knighted, there was dancing and much merrymaking. All of the guests came in 'Medievalish' costume; Queen Lucy of Narnia, a Hobbit, and Knights in makeshift armour. After the Tournament all of the guests processed up and down the street in their finery protesting the 20th Century! And by the end of the day people were already discussing plans for the next event.

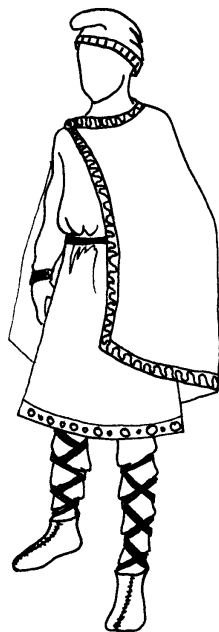
A year and half later tournaments, revels, fighter practices, classes in armoury, stitchery

and music were happening on a more or less regular basis. At a Twelfth Night event in January 1968 (or Anno Societatis II, since SCA time reckoning begins May 1, 1966), the Society for Creative Anachronism was then formally established. Thank you to fantasy author Marion Zimmer Bradley (one of the original guests at that May Day event) for our society name.

In 1967 there was great debate about whether or not the SCA should be a historical or fantasy group. In time it became more obvious that the SCA was a complex game that embodies very real values and ideals that are inspired by the Middle Ages. We hold dear the 'Medieval Dream' of chivalry and honour and recreate the traditions and favourable aspects of an idealised era.



12th Century Lady



12th Century Lord

An SCA Event

Events in the SCA can be as simple as Saturday picnics to week long camping extravaganzas. We hold seminars, banquets, public demonstrations and tournaments. The most typical Arrowsreach one-day event is a tournament followed by an evening feast. Because of our focus on individuality events are extremely colourful, culturally. Norse Raiders and Elizabethan Privateers mingle and gather with Teutonic Knights, Saracens and Celtic Warriors in campgrounds, scout halls and University campuses all across Melbourne. Every attempt toward creating an atmosphere at events is encouraged. This includes dressing in appropriate costume, acting in a courteous manner and helping out when help is needed. Events are advertised on our website, e-mail list, in our regular newsletter and fliers are handed out at weekly meetings.

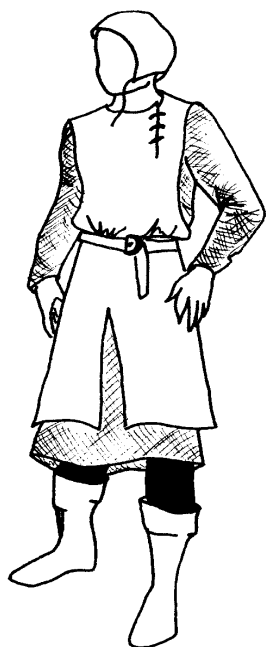
What to bring to a Feast

Feasting gear is BYO for events, so you should always bring:

- a cup/beaker/or goblet
- a bowl and a plate
- cutlery of your choosing. Of course no one will mind if you eat with your hands!
- a basket or bag to carry it all in
- Alcohol is also BYO. And drinking at events is only allowed for those over 18! Non-alcoholic drink is often provided for, but not always.

What to do at an Event

Enjoy yourself. Introduce yourself, ask if you can join in if someone is playing a game. Ask to help out in the Kitchen. Participate in the activities that are happening; Arts and Science classes, wrestling competitions, singing or please pay attention if there is a play or performance. Dancing is often taught at feasts; please join in! Bring along a craft to work on and share it with others. Talk to people about the food, the weather, the tournament, their clothing. but please try to refrain from talking about obvious modern topics such as computers or the footy. The SCA is about Medieval atmosphere, so please contribute to that.



13th Century Lord

What to wear

The rule of dress for the SCA is; a reasonable attempt at pre-seventeenth century Western European style clothing. If you have nothing appropriate to wear for your first event it is best to arrange to borrow clothing. Please ask the Seneschal or Hospitaller of Arrowsreach to help you attain attire. It is best to do this in advance so that you may try items on for size and perhaps organise accessories to accompany them (veil, pouch, belt, footwear and so on).

You may choose to make a costume for yourself. When planning to make a costume remember that your first outfit need not be grand. It is fine to start off with simple 'T-tunics' and then gradually work your way up to garb that is researched, well made and suites your personality.

One thing that we are able to provide is help. Many

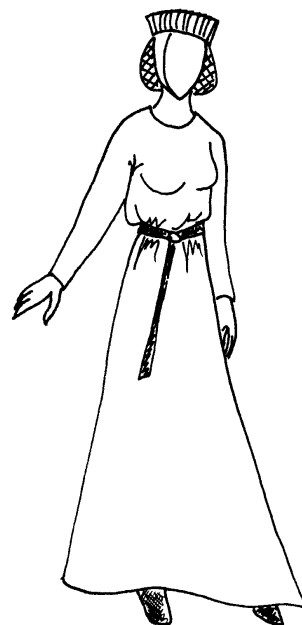
members will have costume books, patterns, ideas and advice. Workshops and classes are often available for newcomers when need arises. If in doubt, ask for help.

What not to wear

Although there is a level of fantasy to our game; Please do NOT wear elf ears, vampire teeth, wings space cadet gear, royal crowns and etc.

Please do not wear a white belt, sash or baldric. This colour is specifically reserved for the members of the Chivalry.

Avoid wearing a sword or knife until you have asked about what is permissible in your kingdom. There is a special etiquette about bearing a steel blade. To keep the knife or blade from becoming unsheathed accidentally, many people fasten a cord around it to hold it in place. Before you remove it from the sheath, it is customary in most kingdoms to call "Clear" to warn nearby people that there is a bare blade. Do not threaten another person with your knife, even in play! Also, don't handle other people's weaponry without their express permission.



13th Century Lady

Names, Devices and Personae

To help our members absorb themselves in the ambiance of the Society we change our clothes, equipment and often our names. When choosing an SCA name, period literature, history books and specialised name books are the best places to consult (please do not use modern baby name books). For ideas of where to find names, talk to the Herald of Arrowsreach or have a go researching at your local library or the internet. Please do not use the full names of obvious historical or fictional figures such as William Wallace or Arthur Pendragon. You are also not allowed to automatically use certain titles such as 'Sir', 'Lady', 'Count', 'Baroness', and so on. These are reserved for when members hold certain offices or are awarded with such titles.

You may also like to develop a 'device'. A device is a heraldic emblem registered to an individual or a group. When and if the holder receives an 'Award of

Arms', from Their Majesties, the registered emblem then becomes the holder's 'Arms'. Device and Arms can be displayed on shields, banners and personal items to identify yourself and generally for pageantry to add to the ambiance of an event. Again, talk to the Herald of Arrowsreach for advice, rules of heraldry and submission requirements.

A 'persona' is your SCA alter ego or your idea of what you would have liked to have been in the Middle Ages. Some people are themselves and choose for comfort and simplicity to just be 'themselves'. Other people choose to devise detailed family histories, complex personalities and behave and dress in a manner which characterises the new individual they have created. It is up to you to do as little or as much as you like!



14th Century Lord

SCA Courtesy

When you are at an event it is useful to remember that everyone is presumed to be noble, so courteous behaviour is of prime importance. Be polite and respectful of others. Never touch someone else's property, especially a sword or blade, without asking. And if they ask you not to, please respect this. All are treated equally in the SCA: prejudices against race, colour or creed should be kept to yourself and not interfere with festivities. Rude, disruptive or violent behaviour is not tolerated and if a group or individual is asked to depart, then they should do so without exception. Respect others property and personal space. Treat others in a manner that is fitting to a lord or lady.

SCA Combat

Both men and women can participate in the SCA as a combatant, being it Archery, Sword and Shield or Fencing. In the Kingdom of Lochac you are allowed to start training at 14 with parent consent and you are allowed to start armoured combat with parent consent at 16.

As in any sport, there are rules designed to increase the safety of the game. The 'Rules Of The Lists' set out the Society standards for SCA combat. Each kingdom adds additional rules and requirements covering acceptability of blows, style of weapons, fighting style and armour. The local marshal will

have a copy of the current kingdom rules.

Most local groups offer some form of fighter training, ranging from structured sessions to informal sparing. A fighter must be authorised in order to fight in tournaments and wars. Authorisation procedures vary from kingdom to kingdom. The local Marshal will tell you the procedure for Arrowsreach. Authorisation is to confirm that the novice knows the rules of combat and is sufficiently skilled so that he will not be a danger to himself or others. While efforts are made by the Society and participants to reduce the likelihood of injury, bruising and similar minor injuries do occur, and there is the risk of more serious injury of all participants.

Fighters are responsible for obtaining their own armour and weapons. Some people make most of their armour using metal, leather or plastic but most buy pieces, either new or used. Before making armour, check with your local Marshal about the safety standards and requirements.



14th Century Lady

Titles and Court

You are currently in the Kingdom of Lochac (Australia and New Zealand). Every six months a large tournament is held to decide who the next reigning Monarchs will be. When the King and/or Queen or Prince and/or Princess are present at one of our events we treat them with the courtesy they deserve. Make a reverence (a bow or curtsy) when Royalty walk past or when you walk past the Royal Thrones or even High Table. The space roughly 10mtrs around the thrones is considered part of the Royal Presence.

Refer to the **King and Queen** as 'Your Majesty' and the **Prince and Princess** as 'Your Highness'.

Counts and Countesses, Barons and Baronesses are referred to as 'Your Excellency'.

'**Sir** <name>' is for **Knights**

Those with **Awards of Arms** are called '**Lord/Lady** <name>'.

'**Master/Mistress** <name>' are titles for a **Laurel** or a **Pelican**.

A **Knight** is one who has been Knighted for their skill in combat. They are seen wearing a white belt and chain around their neck.

A **Pelican** is one who has served the Kingdom diligently and constructively. They are signified as wearing a medallion of a Pelican in her Piety.

A **Laurel** is one who has displayed great skill in one or more Arts and Sciences. Recognisable by a medallion displaying a laurel wreath.

A **Count and Countess** are those who have been King and Queen in the past

The **Crown Prince and Princess** are the next couple who will sit on the Thrones.

A **Baron or Baroness** are representatives/voices of the crown who preside over their local area.

It is acceptable to refer to anyone with 'my lord' or 'my lady' if you do not know who they are or what their name is.

'Court' is a very special event that occurs at feasts and tournaments, with an emphasis on pomp and ceremony. Court is a time

when awards are given, allegiances are proclaimed or special announcements are made. A herald will announce what happens in the court. If the herald calls the populace to court, gather in a semi circle in front of the Royalty. Stand until you are given leave to be seated and do not talk through court. If three cheers are called for, the Herald will cry 'Hip, Hip' and the populace replies with 'Huzzah!'.
If you are called before either Royalty or their Excellencies, make a reverence when you come near and then kneel before them. When given leave to depart, walk backwards several steps before bowing and then return to your seat. Try to sit near the front so that you can see well and watch others as they stand, sit or bow.



15th Century Lady

Please be aware that this section, specifically, will be something you do **not** need to memorize. This is just for your information. You are not expected to know all of our Society rules of etiquette at once!

Positions of Office

Seneschal: The chief administrative officer and legal representative of any SCA group, and generally also responsible for coordinating the activities of the group's other officers.

Reeve: Treasurer, or keeper of the group's funds.

Group Marshal: Officer in charge of combat rules, and supervision of SCA combat.

Arts and Sciences Officer: The officer who aids and encourages the creation of medieval arts.

Hospitaller: The officer in charge of greeting and helping newcomers.

Constable: The officer in charge of keeping order at an event. Duties include collecting indemnity forms and site fees and tending to emergency situations.

Chirurgion: An officer with first aid training who renders assistance as needed.

Chronicler: The officer in charge of the group's newsletter.

Herald: The officer in charge of the development and registration of names and devices. The herald also makes announcements...please pay attention when a herald cries out.

Minister of the Lists: The officer who organises the roster of fighters who partake in a tournament.

Archivist: The officer in charge of keeping news clippings and other memorabilia concerning the group.

How to get more involved?

Whatever your specific interest in the SCA, you can find lords and ladies with similar interests in your local group. If not, there are several groups in the Melbourne greater area that are all slightly different.



15th Century Lord

Most groups hold regular weekly meetings which is a great way to meet people. Events happen throughout the year and there are several publications to keep up with what's going on.

Offering to help is also a great way to meet/get to know people. There are usually many things to be done at an event- setting out the list field for the tourney, arranging tables for feast or decorating the hall. It takes more than one person to run an event, and we appreciate it if everyone pitches in.



16th Century Lady

Don't be shy about mentioning that you are new, or hesitate to talk to people. It's not always obvious to other members as to who are established old timers and who are new or just visiting from interstate. If you don't understand what's happening or what you should be doing, ask someone. Most people in the SCA like to talk about our hobby!

On the Matter of Minors

The SCA requires all minors to have a parent in attendance or a legal guardian appointed which involves a parent completing SCA issued documentation naming a legal guardian. In the past Arrowsreach has supplied a guardian being one of the Officers. As all of the Officers have expressed concerns with taking on guardianship we need to review this practice.

After a lot of consideration on how to best deal with the issue, it was decided to adopt a new policy requiring parents of a minor to supply a guardian or remain on site. If a minor attends a training or event and no guardian is supplied then the parent will be contacted and asked to take the minor home.

I acknowledge this new policy is not popular with everyone, yet as Seneschal the buck stops with me. I feel strongly about safeguarding the interest of the Shire's Officers. If Officers' interest are not safe guarded, then people will be less likely to remain or be willing to take on officer positions and the Shire requires Officers to exist.

I wish to stress that if this policy results in a minor no longer being able to participate, then ultimately this is due to the parents inability or unwillingness to support their own child's interest.

Becoming a Member

Its simple and relatively cheap to become a member of the SCA plus you gain a number of discounts when attending events and training sessions unlike non members. Depending upon the level of your involvement throughout a year, the discounts received by being a member normally out weighs the actual cost of membership. Attached is a membership form which contains all the necessary information and cost. If you would like to become a member you will need to complete and return the attached SCA membership form which contains all the necessary information and cost. If you have any queries or need assistance with the documentation please ask any of Arrowsreach's Officers or members.

Though paid membership you are contributing to the administration of the Society and supporting the progression as a whole. It also means that you will receive a discount to Society events, receive the Kingdom newsletter, be able to hold offices of responsibility and be able to one day fight to be King or Queen.

Just to Note

The SCA is a forum to which folk who are interested in things Medieval gather to do what they like. The Society is a blank canvas on which we have to work with, it is an evolving masterpiece that does not limit one's imagination or abilities. We are not here to tell you how to do things, that is a process that you should explore for yourself. We are here to share our knowledge, experience and love of the Middle Ages, as well as create an environment that encourages research and fun.

Areas of Medieval interest one might wish to explore

Archery, Cooking, Shoe making, Heraldry, Armour making, weaving, Jewelry making, embroidery, poetry, games, pottery, discussing historic politics, singing, beeswax, dancing, leather work, play writing/performance, painting, flirting, Astrology, sword/shield combat, bead making, organising events, furniture building, wrestling competitions, language, garb making, juggling, instrumental music, storytelling, making new friends, candle making, philosophy, pavilion construction, making mead, drinking, calligraphy/illumination, persona development, fighting to be King, starting your own household, starting another branch of the SCA.

Shire of Arrowsreach

(Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne)



<http://arrowsreach.com/>

Seneschal; Everard Sefar
seneschal@arrowsreach.com

Marshal: Master Will Cumyn
bill@arrowsreach.com

Herald: His Lordship Drogo von Koeningsberg
primagenia@yahoo.com.au

Reeve: Lord Mule de Patcher
reeve@arrowsreach.com

Constable: Lord Adun in Illi
Phone: 0417023033

Arts and Sciences: Lady Argenhell Merch Briac
suz00@iprimus.com.au

Chronicler: Lady Isobel de la Rose
qandjbaker@dodo.com.au

Weekly Meeting and Fighter Training

Monday 7:15-10.15pm
Bedford Park Community Centre
Bedford Park Rd, Ringwood

Lord Bryce's Armour Workshop
Thursday nights by appointment only

Lord Everard's Armour Workshop
By Appointment only

Archery Training
2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month
2-5pm
Croydon Secondary College Oval, Croydon Road
Croydon

SCA www.sca.org.au

Lady Nadezhda Phillipa Stolpa 2005