

What is the S.C.A.?

An "anachronism" is something that is out of its proper time. "Creative anachronism" takes the best qualities of the Middle Ages and selectively re-creates them in the modern world.

*There are 16 kingdoms,
each with its own
King and Queen...*

Geographically, the SCA covers the globe, with the majority of its members living in the United States and Canada. There are 16 kingdoms, each with its own King and Queen chosen on the field of combat. You are a subject of a kingdom by virtue of where you live for the majority of the year. Your membership is with the Society, not with any particular local group.

The kingdoms are independent of each other, and there is a considerable amount of variation among them. Each kingdom has a body of written "law" established by the King and Queen, and a larger body of generally accepted customs that give each kingdom its unique personality. All the kingdoms build their laws and customs on *Corpora*, which sets overall rules for the Society.

S.C.A. Combat

Medieval combat with its swords, shields, and armor attracts much attention. It is often one of the first activities that a newcomer wants to try. Both men and women actively participate in recreating medieval foot combat.

As in any sport, there are rules designed to increase the safety of the game. The Society sets standards for combat and each kingdom adds additional rules and requirements covering acceptability of blows, styles of weapons and fighting, and armor. Contact the local marshal for the current kingdom rules.

Local Contact Information

Barony March of Mons Tonitrus

Hospitaler

Lady Shalyla MacGregor
(Sheila Roy)
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(520) 555-5519

Meetings

1st and 3rd Tuesdays
Cochise College Library Commons
Sierra Vista, AZ

www.geocities.com/monstonitrus

Society Contact Information

Registry

The Society for Creative Anachronism
P. O. Box 360743
Milpitas, CA 95036.0743

<http://www.sca.org/>



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Forward into the Past



An Introductory Guide to the S.C.A.

The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) is a non-profit educational organization devoted to the study of pre-seventeenth century Western Culture. It concentrates on the European Middle Ages and Renaissance, and members work to recreate the arts and skills of this era. Some members study the Middle East and explore the interaction between Europe and Asia during the period under study. The SCA was incorporated in 1968, but recognizes a tournament held in Berkeley, California, on May 1, 1966, as its founding date.

Getting Started - Your First Meeting or Event

SCA members carry on the regular business of the local group at a "meeting." An "event" is a special gathering, often publicized in the kingdom's newsletter to invite people from more distant groups. Customs vary as to whether garb is worn at local meetings. Because people often work on various skills and crafts at meetings, many will stay in modern clothing. Participants wear medieval garb at events, although some may change out of their modern clothes after they arrive.

When you arrive at your first meeting or event:

- Go up to someone and introduce yourself.
- Explain that you are new and ask who you can talk to about learning more about the group.
- Approach someone who is working on a project and ask about it. Most people are glad to talk about what they are doing.

Some groups have special people (known as the hospitaller, castellan or chatelaine) to greet newcomers, but others do not.

At either meetings or events, people may be so involved with what they came to do that they do not notice a new person. Some are too shy themselves to ask if you are new. Begin by observing others and start a conversation about what they are doing. If you see a skill or craft that interests you, ask who might be willing to teach it.






If members are so involved in their projects that you feel ignored or unwanted, have patience and persist in coming to meetings. Keep asking questions. Some groups provide special meetings for newcomers to help them learn what they need to know to feel a part of the group. Be sure to attend those. Volunteer to help at any events, if only in the kitchen or with clean up. Many new friends can be made over hot dishwater!

Heraldry



The brightly colored designs you may see on shields, banners, clothing, or personal items are part of heraldry in the SCA.

"Device" is the term used for any heraldic emblem registered to an individual. When a person becomes an "armiger," the heraldic device is called "arms." An armiger is a person who has been awarded arms by the Crown.

Heraldry uses a limited set of clear, bold "tinctures." The colors are:

Azure	
Gules	
Sable	
Purpure	
Vert	

The metals are:

Or	
Argent	

There are also furs, which combine the two types of tinctures in complex repetitive designs.

Since it is easier to see colors that contrast with their backgrounds, the rules of heraldry state that colors must be placed on metals and metals must be placed on colors. This guarantees that charges do not blend into the field.

"Charges" are stylized versions of everyday objects, beasts, and birds. Charges can be used in multiples or in combination with other charges. They can be placed directly on the field or layered upon another charge.

Your device must be different from all other registered devices, including such familiar heraldry from the modern world as the Nutra-Sweet® symbol and the Shell Oil Company shell. If you would like a heraldic device of

your own, talk with your local herald about designing one and registering it with the Society's College of Heralds.

Membership

Participation in the SCA is open to any person who shares the Society's interest in medieval re-creation and re-enactment. Paid membership is a requirement for Crown Tournament participants and for kingdom and Society officers. Sustaining, contributing, or patron members receive their kingdom's newsletter and the Society's quarterly journal, *Tournaments Illuminated*. These publications provide important information about kingdom and Society-wide events, educational and *how-to* articles, as well as cartoons, poetry, and artwork.

Kingdom newsletters include the names of persons to contact in each of your kingdom's groups. If your newsletter does not list the meeting dates and times for the group nearest you, call, write, or email the primary local contact person, known as the Seneschal, for more information.

By formally joining the SCA, you provide valued financial support, are counted in the growing ranks of those supporting the Society's aims and ideals, and may receive a discount at some Society events. The SCA is one of the few organizations, however, where you can participate without paying dues, although those who are able to are strongly encouraged to become paying members.

To become a paid member, just complete and return an SCA membership form. If you don't have one, please ask a SCA member for a copy, download the form at <http://www.sca.org/members/welcome.html> or send a postcard or letter with your name and mailing address to the Registry at the address on the back of this brochure.