

What is the SCA?

The SCA is a non-profit educational organization devoted to the study of pre-seventeenth century European culture. It was started in 1966, in Berkeley, California and is now an international club, with branches all over the world. There are four branches in New Zealand, in Christchurch, Auckland, Wellington and Hamilton.



What is there to do?

An easier question to answer is "what isn't there to do?" It's a hobby that encompasses many other hobbies. There are many skills and crafts we pursue as part of our study of medieval life, including but not limited to:

Archery, Armouring, Basketry, Bardic Recital, Brewing, Calligraphy, Candle Making, Cooking, Costuming, Dancing, Drawing, Dyeing, Embroidery, Equestrian Pursuits, Falconry, Gaming, Heraldry, Herb Lore, Illumination, Jewellery Making, Leatherwork, Music, Medieval Combat, Rapier Fighting, Scribing,

Sewing, Spinning, Tanning, Weapon Smithing, Weaving, and Woodworking. Plus of course the research that goes into all of these.

How do I find out more?

The SCA is organised along medieval lines, with Kingdoms, Principalities, Baronies and Shires. The Christchurch branch is known as the Barony of Southron Gaard, and we have a Baron and Baroness who preside over us, on behalf of our King and Queen. We are part of the Kingdom of Lochac, which encompasses Australia and New Zealand. You can find out more about the Barony at <http://sg.sca.org.nz> or read about the Kingdom of Lochac at <http://www.sca.org.au/> and the SCA in general at <http://www.sca.org/>

So, how do I get started?

Simply show up to any of our meetings, events, classes, or demonstrations! We love having new faces along. You can see our calendar of events online at <http://sg.sca.org.nz> or subscribe to our newsletter (See contacts on the back page).

The Barony also has a class specially designed for newcomers, which is normally held on the first Tuesday of every month at the home of the Chatelaine. The Chatelaine is the newcomer assistant, and is there to help you make sense of everything. From "how do I make my own medieval clothes?" to "what do I need to bring to an event?" the chatelaine is a valuable resource in helping you get started. The Chatelaine can also provide first timers costume hire and feast gear (medieval plates and drinking vessels).

If you are not on the internet you can get our current contact details from the CINCH database at Christchurch City Libraries.



Contact details:

Our website is <http://sg.sca.org.nz>

Chatelaine (Hospitality Officer)

E-mail: chatelaine@sg.sca.org.nz

Chronicler (Newsletter Editor)

E-mail: chronicler@sg.sca.org.nz

Marshal (Combat Sports)

E-mail: marshal@sg.sca.org.nz

Arts and Sciences Officer

E-mail arts@sg.sca.org.nz

Seneschal (Branch President)

E-mail: seneschal@sg.sca.org.nz

Person you spoke to today:

Chatelaine's Phone # _____

S.C.A. Combat

Medieval combat with swords, shields, and armour 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 combat.



As in any sport, there are rules and regulations to ensure the safety of the players (and spectators). The "Rules of the Lists" set out the Society's standards on weapons and armour, and how hard the fighters are allowed to hit each other. The SCA has a good safety record and we consider our sport safer than playing rugby, however, as with any sport, there is an inherent risk involved. We try to make participants aware of the dangers, and insist on responsible behaviour.

Most local groups offer some form of fighter training, ranging from structured training sessions to an informal "I'll teach you when I have time and if no one else will". A fighter must be authorized in order to fight in tourneys and wars. Authorization is done to confirm that the novice knows the rules of combat and is sufficiently skilled so that he or she will not be a danger to himself or to others on the field.

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. Sub-standard equipment is not allowed, so before making any armour, or weapons you will need to contact your local marshal and get a copy of the safety standards and requirements.

What's with all the funny names?

Everyone in the Society creates a persona, a person that they could have been if they had lived in the Middle Ages. Some people only go so far as selecting a name, while others create and write entire histories of the person, their family, and how events of their time period affected them. Which of these you do is entirely up to you.

When developing a persona thinking about your interests, which aspects of the society you want to get involved with, and what parts of the Middle Ages you like most. Are you intrigued by Queen Elizabeth's court? Perhaps your interests lie in the Persian Empire? Maybe you are a big, bold Scotsman from the Highlands? Whatever your interest, a persona can incorporate them.

You may want to use your real given name to start with, as working out what interests you and what persona to choose can take a while. We use the titles M'lord and M'lady to refer to anyone who's name we don't know, so you will probably hear those terms a lot.



SCA

The Society for Creative Anachronism (NZ) Inc.



A medieval history and recreation club