

# ADVICE FOR NEWCOMERS

## INTRODUCE YOURSELF

Go up to someone and say, "Hi, I am So and So and I'm new. Can you tell me what's going on?" Try to introduce yourself to someone new each time you come to a meeting or an event. You will often find that those already in the SCA are more than willing to talk to you and offer advice.

## ASK QUESTIONS

You have probably heard at least one person say, "If you have any questions, just ask." Try replying, "Tell me about ... the crafts done here, the fighting, the garb he/she/you are wearing", or "How I can learn about making ... ", and so on. These questions avoid a yes/no answer, and you might hear something that will prompt a second question from you.

## ATTEND AT LEAST FOUR MEETINGS

Attending several meetings will allow you to gain a broader perspective of the varied things that people do and work on, and provide you with an opportunity to learn more about the scope of your local SCA group. You will also be seen as a new person who is truly interested in becoming an active member. Finally, attending several meetings will provide you with the opportunity to hear about upcoming events, classes for Arts & Sciences, or perhaps guild or special interest groups. Feel free to ask for more information regarding these special groups, even if you are only slightly interested.

## ATTEND EVENTS OUTSIDE YOUR LOCAL GROUP

Here's where you get to play with others who share similar interests. At first you may not know anyone there except members of your local group who may be attending. Feel free to journey away from them for a while. Make new friends from other groups. Introduce yourself and ask questions. Participate in the planned activities. Keep your eyes and ears open. And, some day, someone will come up and say, "Hi, I'm So and So and I'm new. Can you tell me what's going on?" And YOU will be the one answering the questions you used to have to ask!

## ATTEND A NEWCOMER'S CLASS

Not all groups provide a formalized introduction to the SCA. If your group does offer some form of introduction, you will more quickly learn some of the basic rules of conduct, how to participate more fully, and how not to stick out like a sore thumb, something many newcomers dread!

## GET AT LEAST ONE PIECE OF MEDIEVAL CLOTHING

Ask someone how to make a simple tunic or look up the information on our website ([www.ravenscove.atlantia.sca.org](http://www.ravenscove.atlantia.sca.org)). If you can't sew, ask for ideas about putting together a reasonable approximation of medieval clothing out of modern clothes. Ask if there is a "Gold Key" or loaner clothing available until you can get your own. It is also possible that someone within your group may have something of their own that you can borrow. Be sure to return it as soon as possible, though!

### JOIN THE SCA!

Membership in the SCA is completely voluntary, but does include several benefits. As a paid member will you will receive your kingdom's newsletter, which provides you with information regarding kingdom news and events. Membership also provides you with voting privileges that will allow you to participate more fully in the affairs of your local group, possibly even serving as an officer. Additionally, an SCA Membership provides you with a financial incentive, as paid members received a reduced price at SCA events. If finances allow, consider purchasing the SCA newcomers' guide, "Forward Into the Past," and the Knowne World Handbook from the SCA Stock Clerk, which can give you key insights into the SCA, as well as many articles regarding the diverse activities of the Society. Finally, you should also read your local group's newsletter in order to keep up with all of the activities and goings on within your area.

### PARTICIPATE AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE AS YOU LIKE!

The SCA is a participatory organization. Where are your interests and abilities? Keep your eyes and ears open to what people are doing. Give yourself a year to develop your interests. You needn't rush into things the first few months. If you can choose a name fine. If you are interested in a particular time period of the Middle Ages, fine. There is so much to do and so many avenues to explore that it is permissible to take your time and proceed at your own pace. Experienced members are generally more than willing to point out resources and steer you to library references. You get out of the SCA what you put into it!