

SCA Awards: What are they for and When Should I Submit a Name?

(Written by and 'in the opinion of' Kajira Camber, Baroness of Wiesenfeuer)

The SCA is built upon the idea of volunteering and recognition of skills and service. I have previously submitted articles for our Baronial newsletter *The Flamebearer* regarding the necessities of volunteering and it is only appropriate that I now cover the vast recognition system that many people of the SCA hold with pride.

First off, you need to understand that there are Society level awards, Kingdom level awards, Baronial level awards, and so forth and so on. Not everyone will be eligible for every type of award simply based on regional availability (i.e. if you only have Baronies where you play, you won't be able to get a Comet due to that being restricted to service to groups smaller than a Barony, but each Barony has their own service award that you would be eligible to receive if you volunteer for their group.)

There are 3 major branches of awards: marshallate activities, arts & sciences, and service and these three branches are seen in all levels of the award structure (society to local). On the most part, each of these branches is broken into similar steps which grant titles to the recipient of the award: Lord/Lady, Honorable Lord/Lady, and Master/Mistress (peerage).

Awards are also broken into armigerous and non-armigerous, meaning that receiving the award grants the recipient the Award of Arms (AoA). So this means that even though someone doesn't have an "AoA" (Award of Arms) award, the fact that they have a Thistle in bardic (which is an armigerous award) means that they also have an AoA without ever receiving the actual award on its own. If you aren't sure what each award is for, you can read about them anytime on the Kingdom website under 'Award Constitutions' http://heraldry.ansteorra.org/OP/A_constitutions.pdf

At the end of this article I have broken down the different branches of awards that the populace of the Kingdom of Ansteorra is eligible for, including examples of when it would be a good time to submit your friend's name for that award. To find more information about Baronial awards, closed orders, list of who all has a specific award and more, go to the Kingdom website found here: <http://heraldry.ansteorra.org/OP/> (or click on the 'Order of Precedence' button on the Kingdom homepage).

How can I tell what awards my friends have? All members of the populace that have received a Kingdom level award **should** have that award listed on the Kingdom's website here: <http://heraldry.ansteorra.org/OP/op-names.php> It is a nice search engine where you can search names and it will inform you of the awards they have received as well as the dates of receipt. It is also a useful place to verify the spelling of your friend's SCA name (when you submit their name for the award) to ensure appropriate tracking of their awards as well as appropriate spelling of their name on their award. Additionally, since there are occasions (more common in the early days of the society) where the recording of a person's award has been missed, checking for the awards you know they should have is a nice thing to do.

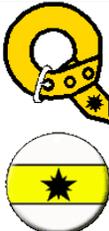
How do I recommend my friend for an award? It is really easy to recommend someone for an award, you only need to go to the Kingdom website and click on the link that is found on the bottom of most pages: <http://www.ansteorra.org/forms/award.php> You will need to know the appropriate spelling of their name, their mundane name, and what events they will be attending. You also should include up to three references, who know and support your recommendation of the person for the award. The references may be used by the King and Queen to help determine if an award is appropriate for the person, since they don't know everyone in the Kingdom.

What happens with my submission? All awards, with the exception of non-armigerous Baronial awards, are submitted and given by The Reigning King and Queen of the Kingdom. When an award recommendation is submitted, it automatically goes to the King and Queen's email, as well as the Prince and Princess, if applicable. The Baron and Baroness of the group is not automatically notified that a member of their populace has been submitted for award, so it is recommended to send a copy of your submission to the Baron and Baroness of your group so they may support your recommendation to the Crown, if needed.

What do I do if my friend doesn't get an award that I submitted for them? There is always the chance that the Crown will not agree that appropriate requirements have been met for the submitted award recommendation, then the request will simply go away and a new award recommendation will need to be completed at a later date. There is also the chance that the award recommendation was misplaced. The highest chance for this is during changeovers in Crown. If you submitted someone for an award and they don't receive the award, don't be afraid to talk to your Baron/Baroness about the recommendation to see if they agree with your thoughts or what they feel the person is lacking in order to receive the award. If the Baron/Baroness agrees with your recommendation, you may just need to re-submit under the next King/Queen. There is always a chance that the current King and Queen have an over-abundance of awards to hand out and had to cut some out due to time constraints or personal restrictions they have put on the number of awards they plan to give out during their Reign.

What do I say to a friend that is upset that they haven't received an award? If they truly deserve the award, then make sure they have had an award recommendation submitted for them. Sometimes our friends don't truly understand what is required for them to get an award and don't realize that they need to do more in order to be recognized in that area. If that is the case, then give them some suggestions on what they can do to obtain that award goal. (i.e. if they are wanting a thistle in illumination, encourage them to teach classes in illumination to share and show their skill. If they want a Baronial service award, encourage them to hold an office or autocrat an event.)

The process of getting public recognition for an art form or volunteering your service shouldn't be a sole reason to want to do the things you do, but it is known that the action of receiving public recognition is something that humans desire and seek out on a psychological level. Just like volunteering, public recognition makes us feel good about what we do and helps show others our appreciation for their art and/or service. Help us give your friends the recognition that they deserve by submitting award recommendations for their skill or service!

Award Name	Insignia Badge	Rank	Title Given	Description	When Available (only examples, ultimately is up to Crown to determine if eligible)
Service Branch					
Rising Star		None	None	Recognizes people <18 years old who have made contributions of worth by works, service, or example to the Kingdom	They are known to help out with children's activities, gate, feast, marshallate activities, etc.
Sable Comet		AoA	Lord or Lady	Served a shire or other official branch of the SCA, other than a barony, well and faithfully, above and beyond what is expected of them. They shall have consistently displayed an understanding and respect for the traditions, laws, and customs of Ansteorra and the SCA.	They are recognized as a key service person for a shire, province, or other non-Baronial group. Taking office, being event or feast steward, gate work, making items for the group.
Sable Crane		AoA	Lord or Lady	Displayed outstanding service to Ansteorra	Recognized as assisting a single group over many years or multiple groups/Crowns. Steward of Kingdom events, holding deputy Kingdom/regional offices, working on projects for the Kingdom.
Star of Merit		Grant	Honorable Lord or Lady Initials of CSM	Served their kingdom well and faithfully, above that which is normally expected of the citizens of Ansteorra, and who have shown a consistent respect for the laws of Ansteorra.	More involved of the items listed above. May take multiple regional or deputy roles or being a Great Officer of State (main Kingdom officer positions). There is no set checklist or time frame. Keep in mind that this is more for KINGDOM level service (Baronial service is recognized more by Baronial service award structure).
Pelican		Peer	Master or Mistress Initials of OP		Years of service in multiple aspects of the SCA without expectation of monetary relief (ie the service you provide isn't a source of income). If this peerage is a goal, recommend keeping a 'resume' of your services for the group, as well as your own, knowledge. Positive and helpful attitude.
Specialty Awards					
Compass Rose		AoA	Lord or Lady	Striven to greatly further the future of Ansteorra through their exceptional work with the children of Ansteorra or the Ministry of Children.	Exceptional work in roll of MoC for local thru Kingdom level. Known to volunteer to assist with activities that are directed towards the children of our society.
Queen's Glove	A cloth or leather glove bearing the Queen's Rose	AoA	Lord or Lady	Given by the Queen unto persons found to have served her well and faithfully, above and beyond what is normally expected of a citizen of Ansteorra.	Being head of entourage, Queen's champion or a key member of entourage helps, but is not required. A person that assists the Queen in a large way during her Reign.
King's Gauntlet		AoA	Lord or Lady	Given by the King unto persons found to have served him well and faithfully, above and beyond what is normally expected of a citizen of Ansteorra.	Being head of entourage, King's champion or a key member of entourage helps, but is not required. A person that assists the King in a large way during his Reign.
Rose		None	None	Given to the consort of the Crown upon stepping down from their first reign.	Only given for fulfilling the requirements.
Lion of Ansteorra		None	None Place after name	Given only once per reign to that person whom the Crown of Ansteorra considers to contribute most to the ideals and milieu of the Society as a whole, and who serves as an inspiration to	Living the Dream for many years. Lack of 'mundanity' in your SCA environment. Being known as someone that makes the SCA what it is.

			"Lion of Ansteorra Defender of the Dream"	others.	
Arts and Sciences					
Sable Thistle		AoA	Lord or Lady	Shown outstanding work in any field of the arts and sciences.	Creating items that replicate or imitate items of the Middle Ages. A&S competitions not required, but may help bring attention to your skill.
Iris of Merit		Grant	Honorable Lord or Lady Initials of CIM	Consistently shown outstanding work in the arts and sciences, well above that which is expected of the citizens of Ansteorra, and who have displayed a consistent respect for the laws of Ansteorra. These persons should have displayed exceptional skill and expertise in their fields of artistic or scientific endeavor.	Creating items of increased skill/difficulty and known as an artist in multiple formats of artwork. Teaching is considered by some as a key component of obtaining this award. A&S competitions not required, but may help bring attention to your skill.
Laurel		Peer	Master or Mistress Initials of OL		Creating/crafting items of mastery level that imitates or replicates items of the Middle Ages. A&S competitions are not required, but may help bring attention to your mastery and skill. Positive and helpful attitude.
Marshallate Activities					
Sable Talon		AoA	Lord or Lady	Striven greatly to further their skill levels and capabilities in any recognized marshallate activity, who have positively influenced the skills and capabilities of others in these fields, and who lead by example when on and off the field of endeavor.	May receive multiples of award, since based on specific marshallate skill. Doing many events in the field and being recognized as skilled in area. Teaching skill to others may assist in recognition.
Arc d'Or	A white archer's armguard charged inside the forearm with an Ansteorran star sable.	Grant	Honorable Lord or Lady Initials of CAO	Distinguished themselves by their excellence with the bow or crossbow, by their service to those who pursue excellence in archery, in the making of archery equipment, by their exemplary conduct, and who have shown a consistent respect for the laws and customs of Ansteorra.	Multiple years of showing excellence with bow/crossbow. Winning competitions, assisting with making archery items for group/Kingdom are some items that could assist in receiving award.
Centurion of the Sable Star		Grant	Honorable Lord or Lady and Centurion Initials of CSS	Demonstrated all of the following qualities: i. Exceptional leadership, skill and honor in chivalric combat ii. Service to Ansteorra and its people iii. Knowledge of the courtly graces iv. Obedience to the laws and ideals of Ansteorra and of the Society for Creative Anachronism	As description states...need to show skill in multiple weapon styles. Winning tournaments isn't required, but may help to demonstrate skill. Teach other's in the weapon style that you are most proficient. Keep a positive attitude about fighting and your skills. Sometimes it takes years for others to see what you feel you already perform.
Golden Lance	Ribbon sable edged Or charged w/ a lance Or on either the calf or above the elbow	Grant	Honorable Lord or Lady Initials of CGL	Distinguished themselves by demonstrating exceptional skill, leadership, and honor on the equestrian field; service to Ansteorra and its people; knowledge of the courtly graces; and who have shown a consistent respect for the laws and customs of Ansteorra.	Similar to the Centurion, but specific for equestrian field.

White Scarf		Grant	Don or Doña Initials of WSA	Demonstrated all of the following qualities: i. Exceptional skill and chivalry in combat with weapons of the duello ii. Service to Ansteorra and its people iii. Knowledge of the courtly graces iv. Obedience to the laws and ideals of Ansteorra and of the Society for Creative Anachronism	Similar to the Centurion, but specific for rapier field
Master					One of the two awards of the Order of Chivalry, but Masters don't hold requirement of Oath of Fealty to Crown
Knight					Multiple years of high end chivalric fighting skill. Known as a teacher/go to person in chivalric fighting. Far progression or winning of multiple chivalric competitions/tournaments. Positive and helpful attitude.
Specialty Marshallate Branch					
Sable Falcon		None	None	Striven greatly to further their skill level and capabilities in heavy weapons combat. The candidate should be involved in the skills of the arts and basic heraldry, and should display courtly graces and manners. Conduct on and off the field should be noticeably chivalrous.	Varies widely based on Crown's opinion of requirement of the award. Could be anything from offering help to a person at the field to doing something really cool on the field.
Golden Bridle		None	None	Striven greatly to further their skill level and capabilities on the equestrian field and have given of themselves to the furthering of equestrian arts. They shall be exemplars of courtly graces, manners, and chivalry.	Similar to Sable Falcon, but for equestrian arts.
Queen's Rapier		None	None	Striven greatly to further their skill level and capabilities in Rapier combat, the arts, and basic heraldry. They shall be exemplars of courtly graces, manners, and chivalry.	Demonstrate skill and behavior of that of a courtly Rapier fighter. Assist with guarding duties, Queen's competitions, and 'look the part'
King's Archer		None	None	Striven greatly to further their skill level and capabilities in combat or target archery, the arts, and basic heraldry. They shall be exemplars of courtly graces, manners, and chivalry.	Same as Queen's Rapier, but for archery
Nobility					
Court Barony	A flat topped or points-and-pearls coronet			No set definition found, but see activities to the right. If person has previously been a Baron(ess) of Barony, is allowed to place SINGLE 10 pointed black star on coronet.	Perform role of Baron(ess) for local Baronial group. Years of service for region/Kingdom in order to help improve the Society in both function and style. Additionally given for perceived grace and nobility by the crown.
Barony in Fief				Given to person that assumes role of Baron(ess) for Barony	Apply and be selected for role of Baron(ess) of local Barony
Vicar				Given to a person that has temporarily assumed the duties of the Baron(ess)	
County				Given to fighter and consort after serving term as "Crown of Ansteorra"	Win Crown Tournament
Duchy				Given to fighter and consort after serving 2 terms as "Crown of Ansteorra"	Win Crown Tournament twice

Wiesenfeuer Baronial Awards

Flint and Steel		None	None	Non-armigerous Baronial service award, given by the Baron and Baroness. It is typically given after a person has received the Award of Arms but not required. The award is given for what the name suggests: service to the Barony of Wiesenfeuer.	This service can be holding office, doing work projects for the Barony or just being there helping out on a regular basis.
Flamme d'Orleans		None	None	Non-armigerous level award. It is a combination of service and achievement in the area of Arts and Sciences. This award is given by the Baron and Baroness, generally after a polling of the Order. This award differs in that it is for the Arts and Sciences and showing a level of skill, as well as service is the way a member is chosen.	Doing the skill at a high level, teaching that skill, using that skill to provide service to the Barony, and doing these things over a sustained period of time.
Flaming Weasel		None	None	Reluctantly given at the discretion of the Landed Nobles to note spontaneous heinous acts of unchivalrous undertakings, deeds of shamefully inappropriate behavior, or other outstanding social blunders committed in a public place, and before an embarrassingly large number of eyewitnesses.	Do not feel it is wise to give specific examples...
Lanternari ous		AoA	Lord or Lady	Armigerous level Baronial award given to those that give long and faithful service to the Barony on a sustained level. This award is given by the Baron and Baroness, generally after a polling of the Order.	Keep volunteering for things that are needed to be done to better the Barony and its populace.