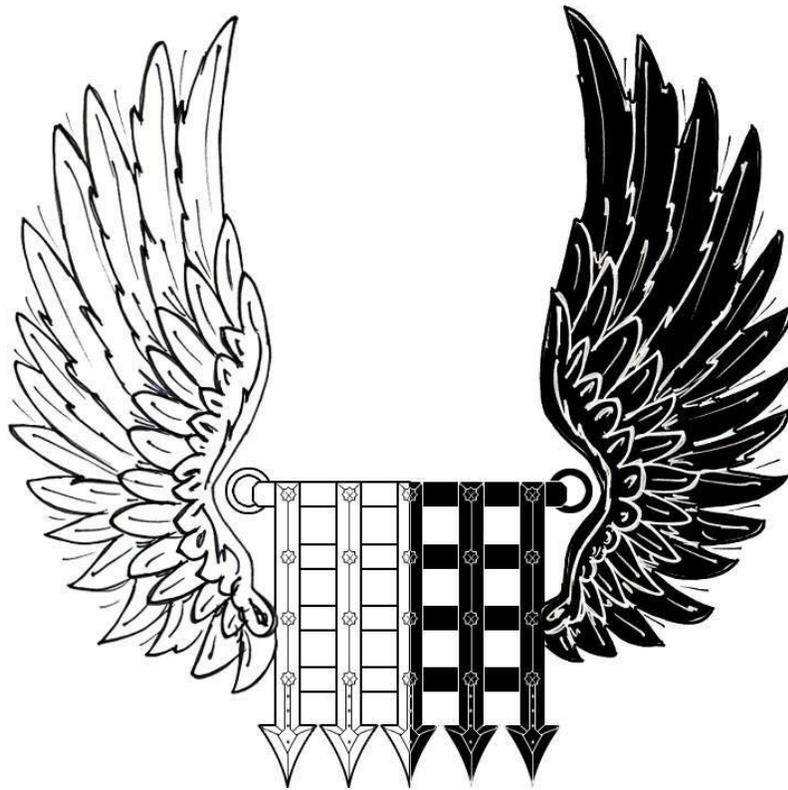


# **The Order of the Courtiers of the Barony of Lions Gate**



November A.S. 57 (2022)

## Foreword

The positions of Sergeant, Yeoman, Gallant, Lancer, Forester, and Courtier within the Barony of Lions Gate have been developed to allow individuals the opportunity to demonstrate the martial prowess, commitment to service, pursuit of the arts and sciences, dedication to the chivalric qualities and developmental ideals esteemed within the Society for Creative Anachronism.

The goal of the Sergeantry is to provide leadership and exemplify commitment to service to the populace of the Barony of Lions Gate, be worthy of respect as ambassadors for all who they interact with and particularly serve as mentors to newcomers to the society. The Sergeantry is responsible for the security and safety of the Barony and will serve as the Honour Guard for the Baroness in battle.

In the year XLIX (49) Anno Societatis, the Baron and Baroness of Lions Gate took steps to separate the Courtiers from the remainder of the Sergeantry, to focus them less on the martial aspects and more on the A&S or Service aspects to which they'd dedicated themselves.

Those individuals who successfully complete the requirements for Order of the Courtiers will swear fealty to the Baron, and through that oath to the Barony of Lions Gate, the Coronets of the Principality of Tir Righ and the Crowns of the Kingdom of An Tir. They will earn the right to wear the regalia that denotes this baronial position and accept the obligations of the Courtiers as outlined in the following pages.

An unsuccessful applicant may re-test in a subsequent year but must satisfy the requirements current at the time of the new selection trials.

The Baron will oversee the Courtiers and the testing process used to evaluate candidates. All modifications to testing or to the Courtiers' Privileges and Obligations are made on the authority of the Baron in direct consultation with the collective members of the active Order.

A Courtier represents not only the Barony and Baron, but is ambassador of the Principality of Tir Righ. It is expected that any member of the Order of the Courtiers will conduct themselves accordingly.

**The Order of the Courtiers is dedicated to inclusion and accessibility.**

**As such, any requirement or specification listed below is open to discussion and adaptation with collaboration between Their Excellencies, the Order, and the Candidate.**

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# I. Obligations

The Obligations of the Order of the Courtiers of Lions Gate are:

1. To assist, protect and support the Baron in his role within the Society for Creative Anachronism. Active members of the Order are required to swear fealty to the Barony through the Baron, and through that oath to the Coronets of the Principality of Tir Righ and the Crowns of the Kingdom of An Tir.
2. To protect and defend the Barony and, through the Barony, the Principality of Tir Righ and the Kingdom of An Tir. All active members of the Order are expected to participate in the Baronial war efforts. The nature of this support shall be discussed with and agreed to by the Baron.
3. To support and protect the populace of the Barony to the utmost of ability and need, in accordance with the code of Chivalry.
4. To uphold by word and deed the ideals of chivalrous behaviour as embodied in the Society of Creative Anachronism, and support the Dream by comporting oneself in an appropriately medieval manner and courtly decorum.
5. To be at the forefront in the guidance and instruction of newcomers and novices within the Barony, as regards to the Courtier's appropriate skills.
6. To bring to the attention of the Baron those who are deserving of recognition, be that of a baronial nature or otherwise.
7. To maintain an acceptable level of competence in all fields involved in the testing of the Order; maintaining and increasing their skills, should the Coronets or Crown need them.
8. To remain active within the position in accordance with the requirements of this station, to the best of one's ability and financial situation.
9. To actively promote the Courtiers and their worth to the Barony and assist the Baron in organising future Courtier trials and sponsored tournaments.
10. To attend the Sergeantry & Courtier tournaments, meetings, functions, and Baronial events to the best of one's ability and financial situation. (An absolute minimum of one Lions Gate event per SCA year.)
11. At least once per SCA year, compete in or organise an A&S competition (at any branch level), teach a class on any subject, event steward, co-steward, or otherwise organise an official SCA event or practice (at any branch level), or hold any office (at any branch level).
12. To acknowledge that there may be a time when you will be unable to uphold the responsibilities of this station and have the humility to accordingly accept a different status.

## II. Privileges

The privileges of the Order of the Courtiers of the Barony of Lions Gate are:

1. To wear Courtier regalia as an appropriate token of this accomplishment.
2. To receive written certification that one has been duly tested and admitted into the Order of the Courtiers.
3. To be recognized as the honoured counsellors and advisers to the Baron on matters of state, serving him and the Baroness both within and without the Baronial Courts and other appropriate occasions.
4. To fly the Order's banners at events, to promote the Courtiers.

## III. Guidelines for the Order of Courtier

1. The foundation of this Order is service; service to the Baron, the Barony, the Principality, and the Kingdom is of utmost importance. From time to time, the Members of the Order of Courtier may be asked to advise the Baron on matters concerning Principality and Kingdom Law and/or Corpora. They may also be asked to help with one or more of the offices of the Barony if they reside within Lions Gate, or of their home area, if the need arises.
2. In all matters regarding the Order of Courtier, the Baron has the authority of final judgement over any decision reached.
3. Under the direction of the Baron, the active Courtiers shall:
  - a. Organise the testing of candidates for the Order.
  - b. Provide commentary to the Baron regarding and modifications deemed necessary to the testing criteria.
  - c. Observe candidates upon the submission of the Petition.
  - d. Assemble and verify all judging results.
4. There are four statuses within the Order of the Courtiers of Lions Gate; Active, Emeritus, Alumnus, and Retired.
  - a. **Active:** A member of the Order is considered Active if they are able to fulfil the Obligations listed above, with particular emphasis on the individual's core focus. Temporary exceptions to any of the Obligations set forth in Section I may be granted on a case-by-case basis by the Baron, if due to unforeseen life circumstances.
  - b. **Alumni:** Courtiers who attain membership into the Order of the Laurel or the Order of the Pelican, shall be considered as – and use the title of – Courtier Alumnus, Alumna or Alumnus. They will be welcome to aid the Baron in testing

future candidates, adding their advice and comments at any time. They retain the right to display the heraldry of the Order and they will also continue to have the right and responsibility of sponsoring new candidates into the Order.

- c. **Emeriti:** Those individuals who are not active in the Barony they are sworn to serve and unable to continue in maintaining the obligations and responsibilities of the Order must inform the Baron, and request the status of, and use the title Courtier Emeritus, Emerita or Emeritum. They retain the right to display the heraldry of the Order and shall continue to be active on all the social forums of the Order. If the Courtier Emeriti requests to return as an active Courtier within two years, retesting may be waived at the Baron's discretion.
  - d. **Retired:** This status denotes those individuals who are no longer active. Any member of the Order of Courtier who has not been in contact with the Baron for a period of one year shall be considered Retired.
  - e. In the event of a change in Baron, all of the current members of the Order are obliged to contact the new Baron prior to his stepping up, and declare their chosen status within the Order. If a member of the Order has not declared their intentions by the investment of the new Baron they shall be considered to be Emeritus. If they have had no contact with the Baron within the first year of his reign, their status shall be changed to Retired.
  - f. Retired members of the Order retain the right to display the heraldry of the Order. All Retired members are required to re-test should they wish to rejoin the Order.
  - g. A member of the Order may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of currently active members if just cause is shown. No according title, rights, or privileges are bestowed to a member who has been removed. The sanctioned member may appeal the decision to the Baron, who reserves the right to final judgement.
5. A Baron may remove any member of the Order at his discretion for gross failure in their commitment to the Order, or for violation of the Obligations of the Courtier. No according title, rights, or privileges are bestowed to a member so removed.

## **IV. Requirements for Selection**

### **1. Prerequisites**

1. The applicant must have reached the age of majority in the modern country in which they are attempting the trials.
2. The applicant must have paid membership of the SCA.

### **2. Sponsorship**

1. Each candidate must obtain a Sponsor before presenting their petition to the Baron. A

Sponsor must be:

- a. a current active member of the Order or a Courtier Alumni;
  - b. a person the Candidate knows and feels comfortable communicating with;
  - c. a person the Candidate respects;
  - d. a person who respects the Candidate and their intent to attempt the Trials;
  - e. the Candidate's primary point of contact with the Order;
  - f. able to make themselves as available as possible to their Candidate;
  - g. able to relay any concerns of the Order to the Candidate and any responses as well as any questions or concerns of the Candidate to the Order;
  - h. willing to have hard conversations with their Candidate when needed;
  - i. willing to check in on a specific minimum timeline (as stated below)
2. At minimum Sponsors will check in with their Candidate at the six-month mark, in-depth, to ensure they are on track to complete their Trials; and check in with their Candidate again, one month before Trials, to confirm their Candidate's readiness and commitment to complete the Trials.
  3. Before the six-month mark, if a Sponsor relationship is not working, the Candidate has the option to request another Sponsor. The Order will assign this Sponsor.
  4. To avoid the perception of bias, a Sponsor will not be a family member, squire, protege, apprentice, provost, or any other individual with a personal or fealty relationship to the Candidate.
  5. Any individual Courtier eligible to do so who wishes to sponsor a candidate may, however Courtiers and Candidates are encouraged to consider the time commitments required for sponsorship, and in general no Courtier should sponsor more than one candidate at the same time. Candidates are encouraged to first approach Courtiers who are not currently sponsoring anyone else to be their Sponsor.

### **3. Petition**

Each candidate must notify the Baron of their intention to participate in the Courtier trials. This petition shall be created by the applicant's own hand and in a persona-appropriate method. No advantage will be given for the quality of the petition, beyond that it must be legible.

As the testing requirements for the Order require a significant amount of preparation and observation, all petitions must be delivered and presented in court to the Baron before closing court of the Baroness' Inspirational Tournament prior to that at which the applicant intends to test.

Once submitted, the petition is valid until withdrawn by the candidate, or they are successful in the trials.

#### **4. Test of Skill in Speciality Area**

Successful completion of the Test of Skill in Specialty Area requires 16 credits total.

- The 3 required components can total up to 10 credits.
- Elective credits will complete the 16 credit total.

Applicants may complete electives more than once but must complete at least 3 different electives.

The Order and candidate's sponsor should be kept up to date and be able to witness and evaluate your performance for your Core elements.

Specialty requirements will be discussed covering efforts in the previous year. There are a few things, like holding an office, that can or in some cases must happen before the Trials year, but in general the expectation is that core requirements be executed in a single Trials year. Service on Retinues and event teams and Displays and Projects completed in the past still count, but they go on your resume, a required component.

Projects for your core can be things you have been working on prior to your Trials year but must either have not been entered previously or must have significant changes based on feedback.

For items with an “up to” designations for number of credits please consult with your sponsor, who can consult with the order if needed, to determine the number of credits your project, class or other component will count for.

##### **A. Required Credits**

###### **1. Major Project Credits - up to 4 credits**

Complete and display at least one major project in the year of your candidacy in the realm of Arts, Sciences, Service or some combination. This project should have full written documentation and a display component. This project will be displayed at the Trials weekend and will be reviewed and evaluated by the Baron, the Order and any other appropriate judges, unless the candidate arranges to have the evaluation happen at an earlier event. The Candidate must contact the Baron as soon as possible after deciding on a project to ensure adequate and appropriate judges are available.

###### **2. Teaching Credits - up to 4 credits**

Teach at least 1 class on any topic in the year of your candidacy, must be witnessed and evaluated by the Baron (or Appointee), and a member of the Order.

###### **3. Resume Credits - 2 credits**

Provide an SCA resume detailing your service, and involvement in the SCA at any and all levels. Remember that activity in Arts and Sciences can be service as well. In particular please document any and all offices you may have held, any events you have run or helped run, including organising or sponsoring competitions, or classes, judging, teaching, gate, cooking, or serving in any other capacity on an event team.

**B. Electives Credits**

Activity	Credits
Complete an A and S project with at least basic one page documentation	2 credits
Take, or have taken the Kingdom Judging forms class and judge an entry at any level	1 credit
Serve on an event team	1 to 4 credits, depending on the event and team role
Serve for 2-4 hours at Gate	1 credit
Serve, be scullery, or be butlery at a feast	1 credit
Be head cook for a feast	3 credits
Organise a prize contest at an event at any level	2 credits
Complete a charter or scroll design, or text for any level	2 credits
Iron Scribe complete any last minute charter at an event	2 credits
Stunt Scribe - adding names and dates to at least 6 charters for any level	1 credit
Marshal or Ground Crew at an event for any Martial discipline for 2-4 hours	1 credit
Organise a display at an event at any level	1 credit
Paint any 1 charter for any level	1 credit
Make 2-4 pieces of largess for any level	1 credit
Serve in a main role on a single Crown or Coronet retinue (Head of Retinue, Head Guard, Head Attendant, Scribe, Herald, etc.)	4 credits
Serve as Head of Gate for an event	3 credits

Serve as a Guard or Attendant for a minimum of 4 hours (can be at 1 or more events)	1 credit
Complete a “Principality Level” Arts and Sciences or Bardic project with minimum 5-10 page documentation	4 credits
Steward an Event	2-4 credits depending on event
Co-steward an event	1-2 credits depending on event
Successfully complete a term as officer at any level	1-4 credits depending on the office and length of term served
Complete a negotiation scenario in persona, about a legal or cultural matter your persona may have encountered.	2 credits
Complete an SCA negotiation scenario involving a real world problem you might encounter as a Courtier or Officer in the SCA.	2 credits

**Other projects or service of your choice can be applied to the Elective Requirements with the agreement of the Baron and a majority of the Order of the Courtier.**

## **5. Meet and Greet**

Candidates must be available on Friday evening of Trials weekend to briefly introduce themselves to the populace, including:

- their name
- the specialty area that they are testing for
- a brief explanation of why they have applied and are testing

Applicants are encouraged to remain after the Meet and Greet to engage and socialise with the populace.

## **6. Test of Persona Development**

Persona development enriches the medieval experience within the SCA. Candidates are expected to demonstrate the time they have taken to research, develop, and define a chosen persona. Candidates must submit a text of at least one page (typed or hand-written), and be able to answer questions, describing the culture, time period, daily life, family connections, occupation, and possessions specific to their persona.

## **7. Test of Heraldry**

### **A. Book Heraldry**

Candidates must have created and submitted their own heraldic device to the College of Heralds prior to the trials weekend. Each candidate will also display their chosen device on some personal item such as a shield, armour, clothing or banner. In addition, the candidates must:

1. Be able to identify the following: Arms of An Tir, Arms of Tir Righ, the Barony of Lions Gate, the personal arms of the Baron and Baroness of Lions Gate, the Principalities within An Tir and the Branches within Tir Righ.
2. Be able to identify at least 4 out of 5 arms out of a selection of prominent Peers of An Tir and of Tir Righ.
3. Be able to recognize a number of devices of the Courtiers, past and present.
4. Be able to identify the badges of the Kingdom, Principality, and Baronial Offices.
5. Be able to answer questions about basic heraldry; colours, metals, furs, field divisions, and charges.
6. Blazon their own device, that of Lions Gate, and three others selected by the tester.

### **B. Voice Heraldry**

1. Each candidate shall perform some duties of either a field or court herald at some time during the candidacy period. Candidates will need to announce to the Baron their intended event, as the heralding **MUST** be witnessed by the Baron or an appointee. Adequacy of the performance will be judged by the Baron (or appointee) and the Royalty being served, or the Senior Marshal involved.

## **8. Test of Protocol**

Each candidate will demonstrate their ability to:

1. Correctly organise the order of thrones for court, given a selection of theoretical Royals and Nobles.
2. Organise the series of toasts that would occur at a banquet or feast. Candidates may be expected to provide a sample toast, as if a particular toaster has never participated previously.
3. Understand and explain the Grand March Order for the Principality of Tir Righ

To further demonstrate matters of protocol, candidates must identify the regalia of, and

the forms of address for, the following ranks:

1. King and Queen
2. Crown Prince and Princess
3. Prince and Princess
4. Duke and Duchess
5. Count and Countess
6. Viscount and Viscountess
7. Baron and Baroness
8. Peers of the Realm

The performance of these tasks may be accomplished at any point during the candidacy period but **MUST** be witnessed by the Baron or an appointee.

## **9. Test of Geography**

Members of the Order of the Courtiers must be knowledgeable in the geography of the Known World. Candidates must:

1. Be able to locate the Kingdoms of the Known World on an outline map.
2. Be able to locate a majority of Principalities and Baronies of An Tir on an outline map.
3. Be able to locate a majority of other branches of Tir Righ on an outline map.

## **10. Test of Chivalry, Courtesy and Etiquette**

Members of the Order of the Courtier are expected to be exemplary models of chivalry and courtesy. This behaviour is not only expected during the testing period, but at all times. The Baron & Baroness will host a chivalry court where the candidates' behaviour, courtesy, and service to the Barony and its populace will be discussed and reflected upon.

These standards will be guidelines for this judging:

1. The courteous person knows their worth. They have no false modesty. They are quick to praise others but not themselves untruly.
2. The courteous person on their honour will not break their word and thus never give it lightly. They speak the truth or remain silent.
3. The courteous person speaks gently and with respect to others.
4. The courteous person is always the first to offer their help to those who

require it.

5. A courteous person is always ready to offer hospitality, be it ever so meagre and to receive with grace the hospitality of others.

## **11. Test of Gaming**

Candidates must demonstrate an understanding of games from their time period, as well as from the time period encompassed by the SCA. This includes:

1. Setting up a chess board; identify the pieces and their moves.
2. Demonstrating an understanding of the game by playing at least ten moves with the games tester.
3. Playing a game of Nine Men's Morris to demonstrate tactical strategies.
4. Playing and instructing others in a game of your choice appropriate to your persona.
5. Naming and describing the characteristics of at least 4 other games played prior to the 16th century.

## **12. Test of Dancing**

As examples of well-rounded members of medieval society, the Courtiers must show their familiarity with the art of dance. Candidates must be able to:

1. Instruct the Baron's Bransle
2. Instruct two other dances (ideally a Court dance and a Country dance, one of which relates to your persona)
3. Participate in the dances of other candidates

Please inform the Baron and the Dance Tester of which dances you will be demonstrating well in advance of the Trials date to ensure the necessary music will be available.

## **13. Test of the Bardic Arts**

To demonstrate knowledge of Music and Literature Candidates must:

1. Perform from memory a piece of Period Music or Period Poem, Story or Play
2. Write and perform a piece in period style.
  - This may be a poem, story, morality play, simple song, round, or music.
  - Language and/or style should reflect the spirit of the Middle Ages
  - Modern slang and filks are unacceptable.

Pieces must be performed before Their Excellencies and the Bardic Testers

Pieces can be performed on Friday evening (excluding during the Meet & Greet) or on the Saturday of the Trials weekend.

#### **14. The Baron's Challenge**

The final challenge of the Courtier's Trial requires the candidate to stand before the Baron and his advisers to answer a question of his choice. It will require the candidate to explain his/her position clearly and argue in support of the ideal. The Baron may ask follow-up questions. The candidate will be expected to be able to discuss and comment upon the central values of the Society, such as Honour, Responsibility, Courtesy, Fealty, Humility, Courage, Chivalry, Service, Loyalty, and Charity.

### **V. Testing**

One may not test or sponsor a family member, squire, protege, apprentice, or any other member of a personal or fealty relationship. They may however participate in the testing process in an advisory capacity.

The Trials are tough, and challenge Candidates to their limits, but positive attitude and an understanding of service within the society are rewarded and opportunities for extra points exist throughout. What a Candidate may slightly lack in an area may be partly made up by additional effort, such as outstanding results in another area.

### **VI. Conclusion**

It is the hope of the Baron of Lions Gate that this overview of the process of becoming a member of the Order of the Courtiers has been both instructive and inspiring. The requirements are demanding and require much commitment and preparation to pass them successfully, but a place in this venerated and time-honoured tradition is worth all the more for it having been hard-won.

The goal is that the testing will challenge each candidate to step out of their normal routine and explore new areas of knowledge and gain new skills.

Engagement in the Courtiers of Lions Gate truly is a worthy goal and brings honour to all who aspire to it. Candidates are encouraged to bear all of this in mind as they prepare for candidacy.