

Chapter 9: Awards

This section is only a general introduction to Arts and Sciences related awards and making award recommendations. New Kingdom awards are created from time to time; check with your local Herald for a complete list of the Kingdom and SCA awards

Everyone likes to be recognized for their achievements. As a Minister of Arts and Sciences part of your duty is to see that people who deserve recognition receive it. Almost everyone enjoys having their work shown off at a meeting, event, or written about in the local newsletter. However, these measures represent only local recognition. The next step is to nominate the worthy individuals for a Kingdom award. Remember, you may recommend anyone for an award at any level.

Consider what other awards the recommended person has (if any) and decide which award is most appropriate. If they don't have any awards, then the Award of Arms (AoA) is probably most appropriate. AoAs are given to recognize the service and participation of those who have been active in the Society for a year or so. This length of time is relative—some people work hard and deserve them right away, others linger on the fringes of the Society for years without doing anything.

If the recommended person has an AoA and is working hard at an Art or Science, a Willow or Silver Oak may be more appropriate. If the person has Willow or a Silver Oak and is teaching and doing research it could be time to recommend them for the Order of the Evergreen. Make sure the Art or Science in question is actually period: a chainmail hauberk is period, a chainmail bikini is not. We want to encourage and recognize gentles that have shown skill in a medieval Art or Science. In other words, quality is more important than quantity.

Award of the Silver Acorn: This award is given to the youth of the kingdom who have displayed enthusiasm and effort in the arts and sciences.

Order of the Willow: This Order recognizes those who have shown great skill, but not quite mastery, in a Medieval Art. This includes researching how the item was made or used in the Middle Ages, recreating it to the best of their ability (skill), and a willingness to share their information with others (or to learn from others).

Order of the Silver Oak: This Order recognizes those who have shown great skill but not quite mastery, in a Medieval Science. This includes researching how the item was made or used in the Middle Ages, recreating it to the best of their ability (skill), and a willingness to share their information with others (or to learn from others).

Award of the Grove: This Award recognizes a group of people (a performing group, a guild, a shire, a barony, a household, etc.) for their skills and activity in the Arts and Sciences.

Order of the Evergreen: Given to those who have both taught and shown excellence in one or more of the arts, sciences or research.

Order of the Laurel: The Order of the Laurel is a Peerage, granted by the Crown, of people who have mastered a particular art or science. Although you can recommend a person for this Order, the recommendation usually goes through the Laurelate to the Crown. If you know of someone whom you think is a master of an art or science you may bring them to the attention of a Laurel, and they can let the other Laurels know and then discuss it with Their Majesties.

Recommendation Letters: Write a letter to Their Majesties explaining who the recommended person is, specifically what they have done and what award you'd like to recommend them for. In your letter include the recommended person's SCA and legal names and upcoming events you

know they will be attending. You may include more than one recommendation per letter, but don't get carried away. It's a good idea to get many people in your group to sign the letter so Their Majesties know there is a general consensus, but multiple letters are also acceptable. Mail the letter at least four weeks before the event so a scroll can be prepared. If you are making a recommendation near the end of a reign, you may also want to send a copy of the letter to Their Highnesses.

You can also make use of the on-line recommendation form that can be found on the Middle Kingdom website. It is located at www.midrealm.org under the heading of "on-line recommendation". Once you have reached the page, just follow the instructions. In recent years Their Majesties have preferred this method.

Don't be too disappointed if the award is not given the first time you nominate someone. The King and Queen are very busy people and don't always have time to give an award for every nomination they receive. They also must be careful to spread out awards over the kingdom during the course of Their Reign. You can always nominate the person again during the next reign.