

An Important Note on the On-Line Edition of the:



Middle Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire Judging Criteria



The Middle Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire Judging Criteria have been placed on-line in an effort to provide a secondary method of accessing the information they contain. The on-line edition of the Criteria in no way supersedes or replaces the printed edition available to all through the Kingdom Publications Office and, in the event that a conflict should be found between the printed publication and the on-line publication [due to printing, transmission or other errors], the printed version, as distributed by the Kingdom Publications Office shall be deemed to be the correct version. Any questions regarding the accuracy of this document should be referred to the Middle Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences.

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In addition, although many in the Middle Kingdom have the technology to access this document, it should be remembered that not everyone does. Therefore, in the spirit of our Society, I would ask all those who would use these pages to, as a service to others, to lend their assistance by providing access if asked.

In Service to the Middle Kingdom -

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Middle Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences

[On to the Criteria!](#)



The Middle Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire Judging Criteria



Table of Contents

* Denotes Mail-in Category

[General Rules for Participation](#)
[District & Kingdom Pentathlon](#)
[Championship Rules](#)
[District & Kingdom Rules](#)
[Youth Division Rules](#)

[Rules for A & S Faire Judges](#)
[General Guidelines for Using the Criteria](#)
[Prohibited & Restricted Herb List](#)

Division I: Performing Arts and Letters	Division II: Textile and Needle Arts
Bardic Recitation Dance: European Dance: Non-European Dramatic Performance Juggling & Tumbling Music Composition* Music Composition: SCA Culture Style* Music Performance: Mixed Ensemble Music Performance: Percussion Instrument Music Performance: String Instrument Music Performance: Vocal Music Performance: Wind Instrument Original Choreography: European Original Choreography: Non-European Poetry* Prose and Playwriting* Riding Performance: Equestrian* Demonstrating Period Activities	Applied Beadwork: Embroidery Applied Beadwork: Costume Costume: Accessories Costume: Children Costume: 600-1100 c.e. Costume: 1101-1350 c.e. Costume: 1351-1450 c.e. Costume: 1451-1600 c.e. Costume: Non-European Costume: Single Component Dyeing Knitting/Nålbinding Knotted Work Lacemaking Needlework: Counted Thread Needlwork: Free-Form Needlework: Miscellaneous Spinning Weaving: Loom Weaving: Tablet Weaving: Tapestry and Rugs
Division III: Technological Sciences	Division IV: Studio Arts and Sciences
Armor: Mail Armor: Non-Metal Armor: Plate Casting Clockwork & Clockwork Mechanisms	Bookbinding Calligraphy Ceramics & Pottery Decorative Metalwork Drawing

<p> Ironwork & Tool making Miscellaneous Technological Sciences Music Instrument Making: Metal Winds Music Instrument Making: Strings 600-1450 Music Instrument Making: Strings, Keyboard Music Instrument Making: Woodwinds Research * Scientific Instruments Siege Engines - Scale Skeletal Materials Weapon-Making Wood Construction - Joinery Wood Embellishment Wood Turning </p>	<p> Beadwork: Free Form Glasswork: Blown Glasswork: Other Glasswork: Stained Illumination Lapidary Leatherwork Miscellaneous Studio Arts and Sciences Painting Papermaking Sculpture & Stone Carving </p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Division V: Domestic Arts and Sciences</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Appendices - A & S Faire Forms</p>
<p> Animal Accouterments Animal Husbandry * Basket Weaving Brewing & Vinting Cooking: Subtleties, Sotelties, & Illusion Foods Cooking: Multiple Dish Cooking: Single Dish Herbcraft Miscellaneous Domestic Arts and Sciences </p>	<p> Entrant's Registration Form A & S Entry Tracking Form Entry Ticket Pentathlon Entry Ticket Pentathlon Tracking Form Divisional Tracking Form Judge's Registration Form Judge's Score Sheet B & V Judge's Score Sheet: Beer B & V Judge's Score Sheet: Wine B & V Judge's Score Sheet: Specialty Beverages Judges Tracking Form (in Microsoft Word) </p>

General Rules for Participation in the Middle Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire Regional and Kingdom Level

1. The Middle Kingdom Arts & Sciences Faire is open to all SCA participants.
2. All entries must represent the period 600 to 1600 Common Era (C.E.) and be derived from a European culture or another culture which had documentable contact with Europe during that period.
3. In order to be eligible for participation, an entry:
 - must have been completed (but not started) within the previous two years.
 - may not have been entered in any previous year's regional or kingdom level faire. An entry may have been entered in any other competition, show or display either in or outside the Middle Kingdom.
 - must comply with the General rules for the Faire as well as the particular category rules the entry is placed under.
4. Participants may submit their work for critique and advancement to Kingdom Finals in any regional faire, but participants in the Pentathlon or must submit their work for the Pentathlon in the region where they reside.
5. Participants may choose to submit their work for critique only (no placement is given) in any district faire; however, such a piece may not be entered elsewhere or at any other time for scoring, and will in no case be advanced to Kingdom Finals.
6. Entries must be as anonymous as possible. The entrant's name, the name of the person the entry was created for, or an SCA group name, should not appear on the documentation or entry ticket. (except in the case of face-to-face judging).
7. Face-to-face judging is allowed at the regional level as long as all judges and the entrant agree to it. It is the entrant's responsibility to coordinate with all the judges for the face-to-face judging. Face-to-face judging is not allowed at the Kingdom Finals.
8. Each entry must be accompanied by one entry ticket and three expendable copies of documentation. It is strongly recommended that once an entry number has been assigned to an entry, the participant should record that entry number on all copies of the entry's documentation.
9. The amount and style of documentation provided is at the participant's discretion, but excessive length is discouraged.
10. A participant should do his or her own research; however, the participant may have help in preparing the written documentation, provided that such assistance is indicated on the entry ticket. In such case, there will be an automatic deduction of one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) point from the documentation score for the entry. This **does not** include proofreading or suggestions.
11. Entries must be physically present the day of the regional or kingdom level faire. Performance entries must be live. Since the categories of Riding Performance, Equestrian and Animal Husbandry are mail-in categories and videotapes and DVDs are acceptable.
12. Substitutions of modern alternatives for products derived from endangered plant, animal, and insect species, and materials that may be toxic or hazardous will not be penalized.
13. Participants may enter as many categories as they wish, however, they may not enter more than three items in a single category.
14. A group submission may be entered in any category provided that all responsible individuals are listed on the entry ticket. An individual may enter a group project for individual critique only if their work is clearly distinguishable. In this case, s/he must submit a separate entry ticket and documentation. Specific written entry lengths and running time limits for performances are set forth in the rules for those categories.
15. Mail-in category entries must be received by the mail-in category deadline, which is set by the Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences and announced in the Middle Kingdom newsletter *The Pale*.
16. Materials used in the creation of entries may be modern if they resemble period materials. An entrant may procure period materials, such as hand woven, naturally dyed cloth, from another source. An entrant is not required to produce these materials, but they are welcome to do so.
17. Any beverage, foodstuff, or herbal entry must conform to the Prohibited and Restricted Herbs list. Any herb used in an entry must be listed in the documentation by its Latin botanical name. Entries produced from kits are not eligible for entry. The use of templates is permitted.

18. If appropriate, an entry may be cross-entered in only one other category. A separate entry ticket and documentation must be submitted for the cross-entry. Any entry that is entered as a suite of items may not be broken up into individual components to cross enter into other categories. The entry maybe cross-entered as a suite into only one other category. An entry's score will be the average of scores given to it by the judges in that category. Each entry will receive a placement based on its average score, rounded to the nearest whole number as follows:

First Place: 24.5 to 30 Points.

Second Place: 18.5 to 24.4 Points.

Third Place: 12.5 to 18.4 Points.

Honorable Mention: 12.4 or fewer Points.

19. All entries which are placed within the First or Second Division at the regional level are eligible for advancement to the Kingdom Finals.

20. The regional and kingdom level faires will operate on the honor system. Any person who deliberately submits false information or claims works which have not been done by them (with the documentation exception detail in rule #10), will have all entries disqualified and will be barred from participation the following year.

21. Entries may not be reproduced or severely altered between the Regional and Kingdom level faires. Documentation may be enhanced between the Regional and Kingdom level faires to include new information or incorporate comments and information from the regional level judges.

22. The Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences reserves the right to open new faire categories if there is interest in the kingdom to warrant new categories.

23. The Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences reserves the right to make exceptions to the General Rules on a case-by-case basis.

General Guidelines for Using The Middle Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire Judging Criteria

All entries in the Middle Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire will be scored on a scale of 0 to 30 points. The point breakdown is described below.

Documentation (0 to 4 points): In this section, the judge rates the quality and comprehensiveness of the documentation, as well as how well the entrant has made use of the sources obtained. Although minimal documentation is required, extra points may be awarded if the entrant discusses:

- Precedent or rationale for original work or deviations from period norms.
- How the entry fits into the entire period's style.
- Appropriateness of the entry to a specified occasion, person, use or period environment.
- Primary source references.
- Sources used in documentation include:
 - Primary sources, which are works from period, artifacts in museums, buildings and statuary that are still in existence, paintings, description of performances, books and manuscripts written in period.
 - Secondary sources are books and articles which were written with reference to primary sources.
 - Tertiary sources are books which rely on secondary sources, such as most college-level history books.
 - Direct experience by the entrant when working with materials and processes. All four elements are important in documentation and the best entries will have all four elements significantly represented. Clear, typed, well-organized and concise documentation is preferred and outline form may be helpful.

All the categories will use the following criteria to judge documentation:

- 0: No documentation provided with entry.
- 1: Minimal information consisting of time, place and style.
- 2: As in #1, plus use of general sources; emphasis on tertiary sources with perhaps one second source (ex: use of encyclopedia articles with a possible additional use of a book or article that refers to a period source.).
- 3: As in #2, plus a developed discussion making use of critical references; sources are largely secondary (ex: sources refer to period references; documentation discusses, compares, and contrasts the source's views).
- 4: As in #3, plus explanation of original research/experiment and relation of source material to it. Primary sources, if available, are emphasized (ex: sources used are from the appropriate period for the entry, such as period manuscripts, paintings or artifacts).

Methods and Materials (0 to 4 points): In this section, the judges will rate how "period" the entry is, in terms of materials and methods of manufacture. A piece will score lower if the entrant uses non-period elements or combines period elements in a manner which is illogical to the specified period. The judges will always assume modern tools and materials unless the entrant says otherwise in their documentation. The entrant is also advised to justify material substitutions and non-period methods of the entry's authenticity in the accompanying documentation.

All the categories will use the following criteria to judge authenticity:

- 0: Entry is completely modern with no relationship to period elements or practices.
- 1: Use of modern materials and methods to produce an item or performance that would not be accepted in period but either bears some relationship to an authentic work or which might be useful within SCA Culture.
- 2: Use of both modern material and methods to produce a work that looks, feels or sounds authentic to the time period it purports to be.

- 3: Use of either modern material or methods to produce a work that looks, feels, or sounds authentic.
- 4: Use of totally authentic materials and methods.

Scope (0 to 6 points): In this section, the judges will rate the ambition, not the success of the entry. In most cases, the judges assign a ranking in a number of broad areas, such as the scope of the endeavor, the techniques required, the variety of elements combined, etc., and averages the rankings for the entry's total Scope score. The judges are instructed to judge each entry within its time period, so the assumption of earlier period (600-1100 c.e.) works are automatically easier than later period (1400-1600 c.e.) works is invalid since although the techniques involved in earlier period works are often simple, the amount of research required to create the entry is often far greater due to lack of extant artifacts.

Skill (0 to 6 points): [Formerly called "Workmanship"] In this section, the judges will rate how well the entry was made. In most cases, the judges assign a ranking in a number of broad areas, such as how well the entry does what it was meant to do, how well it's various elements work together, how skillfully the details are handles, etc. and averages the rankings for the entry's total Skill score.

Creativity (0 to 4 points): In this section, the judges rank the extent of originality and innovation shown by the entrant, but the creativity shown must be in a period context, such as the substitution of one logical element for another or the substitution of materials within period context.

Judge's Observations (0 to 6 points): In this section, the judges rank the entry as a whole. How well do all the separately judged parts fit together? The entry's overall effect is judged in this section. This is the only section of the Criteria where the judge may allow her/his personality, private opinions and personal preferences to influence scoring.

Regional and Kingdom Pentathlon Championship Rules

1. Contestants must be residents of the Middle Kingdom, either by physical residency or by treaty. Contestants in a regional championship must physically reside in that region.

2. All of the General Rules of Participation in the Middle Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire apply.

3. Scores received on a mail-in category may be applied toward the championship. The mail-in entry due date will be designated by the Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences and announced in the Middle Kingdom newsletter, *The Pale*, but this date will be before the date of the first regional faire. A mail-in entry will only be judged **once** and the score applied at **both** the regional and Kingdom Faire.

4. A maximum of two (2) research papers may be used as entries with in the Regional or the Pentathlon Championship. Research papers dedicated to a clear criteria division and category may be applied as an entry within that criteria division. General research papers will be applied within the Research criteria category, as is normally done.

5. Only those entries used in scoring a Pentathlon entry at the regional level may be used in the Kingdom Pentathlon Championship.

6. The Pentathlon Championship will be determined as follows:

- Each contestant will be allowed only one Pentathlon entry consisting of no more than seven (7) entries and no less than five (5).
- The contestant must have scores in five categories drawn from at least four separate divisions, with entries in no more than two categories in any one division.
- Should a contestant have more than two categories per criteria division, the two highest scores in that division will be applicable.
- The highest possible cumulative combination of scores on only five categories, as specified herein, will be used to determine the Pentathlon Championship. All entries used in a regional Pentathlon championship must score higher than 19 points to be eligible to participate at the Kingdom Pentathlon Championship.
- The five entries that receive the highest possible combination of scores at the regional level will be the entries allowed at the Kingdom Pentathlon. Should there be more than 5 entries, these can continue on to the Kingdom Faire as individual entries providing they receive a score higher than 19 points as set down in the General Rules of Participation.

District and Kingdom Divisional Championship Rules

1. Contestants must be residents of the Middle Kingdom, either by physical residency or by treaty. Contestants in a district championship must physically reside within that district.
2. All of the General Rules of Participation in the Middle Kingdom Arts and Science Faire apply.
3. All entries for a Divisional Championship must be submitted at the same regional Arts and Sciences Faire within the same criteria division.
4. Divisional and Pentathlon entries may not overlap competitions.
5. Entrants may enter multiple criteria divisions, so long as the requirements for the Divisional Championship Rules are met for each criteria division.
6. Scores received on a group-submitted entry may not be applied toward the Championship.
7. Scores received on a mail-in category may be applied toward the championship. Mail-in entries must be submitted at least one month before the date of the district faire they are to be used in or by March 1st, whichever is earlier. A mail-in entry will only be judged **once** and the score applied at **both** the district and Kingdom Faire.
8. A maximum of two (2) research papers may be used as entries within each Divisional Championship. Research papers dedicated to a clear criteria division and category may be applied as an entry within that criteria division. General research papers will be applied within the Research criteria category, as is normally done.
9. There may be no more than 6 entries for a contestant within a criteria division for each Divisional Championship attempt.
10. The Divisional Championship will be determined as follows: The contestant must have scores in three unique categories within one criteria division. If an item is entered in two categories (cross entered), only 1 category may be used for scoring purposes within the Divisional Championship. The highest possible cumulative combination of scores on only three categories, as specified herein, will be used to determine the Divisional Championship. All entries used in a District Divisional Championship must score higher than 19 points to be eligible to participate at the Kingdom Divisional Championship.

Youth Division of the Arts & Sciences Rules

1. All of the General Rules of Participation in the Middle Kingdom Arts and Science Faire apply, except that the entry fee is waived in lieu of the requested donation below.
2. All persons entering this division must be 12 years of age or younger.
3. To enter, the parent is requested to supply the Crown with a small gift for their child, appropriate for their interests. This gift should be inexpensive and have the child's name attached to it for Their Majesties.
4. Judging of entries will be done using the Criteria of the Middle Kingdom Arts & Sciences Faire. There will be no numerical scores given within the Youth Division.
5. If present, parents are expected to assist in the judging, though they will not judge their own child's entries.
6. At their discretion, the Crown or Their representative may choose to recognize exceptional entries.

Rules for Middle Kingdom Arts and Science Faire Judges

1. A judge may not enter and judge the same category in the same district. A judge may enter in the category in one district and judge in another.
2. Since entries are to be as anonymous as possible, the judge should not reveal the identity of an entrant in any way. The judge should also not permit the knowledge of the identity of the entrant to color their judging.
3. Face-to-face judging is permitted only at the district level. The entrant and all judges must agree to face-to-face judging before any anonymity is removed.
4. All judges must follow the Middle Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire Judging Criteria when judging entries. If the judge disagrees with the Criteria, they may submit their comments in writing to the Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences to be used in future revisions of the Criteria.
5. Judges must read the documentation with the entry carefully. The judges should also check the back of the entry ticket for possible documentation.
6. Judges must not rank the entries within a category. All entries are judged against the Criteria.
7. Judges are invited to confer with one another while evaluating an entry. Judges should not confer while scoring and writing critiques.
8. Judges may use 0.5 but no other fractions in scoring.
9. If an entry exhibits the aspects of two scores, for example between 2 and 4 points, the judge is encouraged to award the median score.
10. Judges must not deduct points for reasonable wear on an entry unless the wear is due to poor construction.
11. Judges will phrase all critiques in a positive manner and are strongly encouraged to write critiques under each section of the scoring sheet. Be sure to write legibly and read the critique carefully before turning in the score sheet.
12. All score sheets must include the judge's S.C.A. name, regular name, address, e-mail (if applicable) and telephone number (if desired). All information on the score sheet must be legible.
13. All completed score sheets will be turned into the official faire runner or left in a designated location.
14. Performance, Costume and Armor judges will have one half hour to complete judging each entry in their respective categories. The entries in these categories are scheduled by the District or Kingdom MOAS or their designate.
15. The judges will evaluate the entry's Scope within the entry's time period. That is, the judge will not assume that earlier S.C.A. period (600 - 1100 c.e.) works are automatically simple in Scope while later S.C.A. period (1400 - 1600 c.e.) works are automatically difficult in Scope.
16. Judges should register with the Judge's Coordinator and notify the Judge's Coordinator of any address changes.
17. Brewing and Vinting judges must be age 21 years and older. Brewing and Vinting judges must be able to supply a photo identification which provides proof of age.

Prohibited Herbs - Do Not Use.

Aconitum napellus (Monkshood)
Aethusa cynapium (Dog Poison)
Anagallis arvensis (Red Pimpernel)
Apocynum androsaemifolium (Dogbane)
Arisaema triphyllum (Jack-In-The-Pulpit)
Artemisia absinthium (Wormwood)
Atropa belladonna (Belladonna)
Bryonia alba (White Bryony)
Bryonia dioica (Red Bryony)
Cannabis sativa (Marijuana)
Caulophyllum thalictroides (Blue Cohosh)
Chelidonium majus (Celandine)
Chenopodium ambrosioides var. Anthelminticum (Wormseed)
Cinchona spp. (Jesuits' Bark)
Claviceps purpurea (Ergot)
Conium maculatum (Poison Hemlock)
Convallaria majalis (Lily Of The Valley)
Corydalis cava (Corydalis)
Cyclamen europaeum (Cyclamen)
Cytisus scoparius (Scotch Broom)
Daphne mezereum (Mezereon)
Datura stramonium (Jimson Weed)
Digitalis purpurea (Foxglove)
Dryopteris filixmas (Male Fern)
Gelsemium sempervirens (Yellow Jessamine)
Helleborus foetidus (Stinking Hellebore)
Helleborus niger (Hellebore)
Helleborus viridis (Green Hellebore)
Hyoscyamus niger (Henbane)
Linaria vulgaris (Yellow Toadflax)
Lobelia inflata (Lobelia)
Mandragora officinarum (European Mandrake)
Mercurialis perennis (Dog's Mercury)
Paeonia officinalis (Peony)
Podophyllum peltatum (American Mandrake)
Phoradendron flavescens (Mistletoe)
Phytolacca americana (Pokeweed)
Sanguinaria canadensis (Bloodroot)
Solanum dulcamara (Bittersweet Nightshade)
Solanum nigrum (Deadly Nightshade)
Spigelia marilandica (Pinkroot)
Taxus baccata (Yew)
Thuja occidentalis (Arborvitae)
Urtica dioica (Stinging Nettle)
Varonicastrum virginicum (Black Root)
Veratrum viride (American Hellebore)

Restricted Herbs - Use With Caution.

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (Bearberry)
Buxus sempervirens (Boxwood)
Cimicifuga racemosa (Black Cohosh)
Euonymus atropurpureus (Wahoo)
Galega officinalis (Goat's Rue)
Hedeoma pulegioides (American Pennyroyal)
Heracleum lanatum (Masterwort)
Ilex aquifolium (English Holly)
Ilex opaca (White Holly)
Ilex vomitoria (Emetic Holly)
Ledum palustre (Marsh Tea)
Leonurus cardiaca (Motherwort)
Lycopodium clavatum (Club Moss)
Melilotus officinalis (Yellow Sweet Clover)
Mentha pulgatum (European Pennyroyal)
Oxalis acetosella (Wood Sorrel)
Rhamnus frangula (Buckthorn)
Ricinus communis (Castor Bean)
Ruta graveolens (Rue)
Sambucus canadensis (American Elder)
Sambucus racemosa (Red Elder)
Sisymbrium alliaria (Hedge Garlic)
Vaccinium Myrtillus (Bilberry)

Prohibited Herbs List for

The Middle Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire Judging Criteria

The following herbs are either **prohibited** or **restricted** for use in the Middle Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire. If an herb is prohibited, it may **not** be used in any beverage, foodstuff or herbal entry. **Use of the prohibited herbs will automatically disqualify an entry.** If an herb appears on the restricted list, it must be used with caution and its presence must be noted prominently in the documentation or the entry will be disqualified. This is not an exhaustive list of herbs that could potentially cause difficulties, so all herbs must be specifically listed in the documentation by their botanical names.