

Sergeantry and Courtier Program



Sergeantry

The position of Sergeant-at-Arms of the Barony of Terra Pomaria and the specialized equivalent ranks of Yeoman, Gallant, and Lancer (hereafter referred to as “Sergeantry”) were developed to allow individuals the opportunity to demonstrate military and chivalric skills with the goal of becoming qualified military leaders of the Barony. With the passage of time, the Sergeantry has also come to be respected as role models for all who interact with the Barony, and they are valued as vital contributors to the social aspects of the group in addition to the military. The Sergeantry is responsible for the security and safety of the Barony, and its members form the Guard of Honor for the Baronial Coronets.

Additionally, many ceremonial and service obligations are the sole domain of the Sergeantry. Those individuals who successfully complete the trials will be required to swear fealty to the Barony of Terra Pomaria through the entities of the Baronial Coronets and will have the right to wear the buckle of this rank and any other tokens that the Baronial Coronets may decide. The Sergeantry are in primary service to the Baroness of Terra Pomaria.

Courtiers

The position of Courtier shall be equal in rank and privilege to that of the Sergeantry of the Barony of Terra Pomaria. As with the members of the Sergeantry, Courtiers have come to be respected as role models for all who interact with the Barony, and they are valued as vital contributors to the social aspects of the group as well as to the “Gentler Arts.” The Courtiers are responsible for the nurturing and development of the Arts & Sciences within the Barony, and its members are granted places of honor within the Courts of the Baronial Coronets.

Additionally, many ceremonial and service obligations are the sole domain of the Courtiers, along with the members of the Sergeantry. Those individuals who successfully complete the trials will be asked to swear fealty to the Barony of Terra Pomaria in the form of the entities of the Baronial Coronets and will have the right to wear the regalia of this rank and any other tokens, as the Baronial Coronets may decide. The Courtiers are in primary service to the Baron of Terra Pomaria.

Membership Requirements

Those wishing to become a Sergeant or Courtier of Terra Pomaria must submit a Letter of Intent, participate in the Sergeantry Trials as laid out by the seated Baronial Coronets, and swear an oath of fealty to the Barony of Terra Pomaria.

Letter of Intent

Any individual wishing to compete in the Sergeantry/Courtier Trials must submit a Letter of Intent expressing their desire to attempt the trials at an event determined and announced by the Baronial Coronets, prior to the preparation program beginning. Late candidates may be accepted at the discretion of the Baronial Coronets.

This petition to enter the order must be in the candidate’s own hand; although no grade will be given for this entry, attempts at period illumination and calligraphy are appreciated. This letter is meant to be a means by which potential candidates may be recognized and thereby avail themselves of assistance (if desired) from the Baronial Coronets, Courtiers and Sergeantry, and

populace of the Barony in preparing for the trials. The Letter of Intent must include an introduction of the candidate and state why they are pursuing entrance into the Sergeantry/Courtiers of Terra Pomaria.

The Letter of Intent may be in any form, but a physical record of some kind must be submitted to the Baronial Coronets, stating the candidate's name and the position for which they are striving.

The Trials

The Trials will last over a minimum of six months including classes, special activities, assignments, etc., and will conclude with a Final Trials Event. Throughout the Trials, candidates for this rank (both Sergeant and Courtier) will be tested and assessed for their growth in the required skills. The currently active Sergeantry/Courtiers of the Barony will be charged with the responsibility of judging the candidates' fulfillment of the requirements of the rank. If no Sergeantry/Courtiers are available at the time of the tournament/trials, a group comprised of the Baronial Marshal and Baronial Coronets (or their representatives) and any other person they deem needful will assemble to adjudicate the requirements. The Baronial Coronets or their representatives are responsible for the assembly and verification of the results of the Sergeantry/Courtier Trials.

Both Sergeantry & Courtier candidates will be tested in a variety of areas through Trials designed to increase the candidates' understanding of their place in the SCA and their skills as a valued member of the Barony.

The Oath of Fealty

Should they succeed in their personal trial for Sergeantry (Sergeants, Yeomen, Gallants, and Lancers) and/or Courtiers will be asked to vow an oath of fealty to the Barony of Terra Pomaria in the form of the entities of the Baronial Coronets.

Multiple Qualifications

A given individual may compete in a Sergeant Trial for only a single rank. Should an individual wish to compete for a dual, or even triple rank, they are required at minimum to re-test in: the new area of emphasis, Marshalling, Final Court, Bardic, and Arts & Sciences areas. On the advice of the Sergeantry, additional re-testing may be asked of the individual by the Baronial Coronets.

An individual wishing to compete for the rank of Courtier after obtaining a rank within the Sergeantry may do so. They will be required at minimum to re-test the Trials and, on the advice of the Sergeantry, additional re-testing may be asked of the individual by the Baronial Coronets.

Privileges, Obligations, and Administration

With the rank of Sergeant, Yeoman, Gallant, Lancer, and Courtier come both privileges and responsibilities.

Sergeantry

All members of the Sergeantry are considered equals whether they are Sergeant, Yeoman, Gallant, or Lancer. All codes of conduct and by-laws will be developed and enforced by the Sergeantry themselves.

There will be no more than one chance per year for a new Sergeantry to be inducted into the ranks. An unsuccessful applicant may re-enter another time, but must abide by the current testing standard and requirements. There will be no minimum or maximum number of Sergeantry.

With the rank of Sergeantry, there also come privileges and obligations:

Privileges of the Rank

- ❖ To become qualified to fight in the Crown lists of An Tir, at the discretion of the Crown (provided membership obligations are current).
- ❖ To wear a special belt and buckle or other token of this rank as determined by the Baronial Coronets.
- ❖ To recommend to the Baronial Coronets changes to the requirements for this rank should they be needed.
- ❖ Such other privileges as are appropriate.

Obligations of the Rank

- ❖ To protect and defend the Barony and its Baronial Coronets, to whom the Sergeantry's fealty is sworn, and through it, the Crown of An Tir.
- ❖ To protect the populace of Terra Pomaria in any manner that is required by the Sergeantry's honor and the Code of Chivalry.
- ❖ To uphold the ideals of Chivalric behavior as embodied in the SCA.
- ❖ To maintain a level of competence in accordance with the requirements of this rank.
- ❖ To support and aid in the training of novice fighters, not only in skill at arms, but in all manner of thoughtful and courteous behavior; remembering at all times that the Sergeantry embodies an ideal as well as a rank.
- ❖ To be available for service and ceremonial functions as required by the Baronial Coronets.

Courtiers

All members of the Courtiers are considered equal in rank and privilege to the members of Sergeantry. All other codes of conduct and by-laws will be developed and enforced by the Courtiers themselves.

There will be no more than one chance per year for a new Courtier to be inducted into the ranks. An unsuccessful applicant may re-enter another time, but must abide by the current testing standard and requirements. There will be no minimum or maximum number of Courtiers. With the rank of Courtier, there also come privileges and obligations:

Privileges of the Rank

- ❖ To wear the special regalia as a token of this rank.
- ❖ To recommend to the Baronial Coronets changes to the requirements for this rank should they be needed.
- ❖ To have a place in the Baronial Courts of Terra Pomaria
- ❖ Such other privileges as are appropriate.

Obligations of the Rank

- ❖ To nurture and develop the "Gentler Arts" within the Barony and to act as council as required by the Baronial Coronets, to whom the Courtier's fealty is sworn, and through it, the Crown of An Tir.
- ❖ To be an example of Honor and the Courtly Graces
- ❖ To uphold the ideals of Chivalric behavior as embodied in the SCA.
- ❖ To maintain a level of competence in accordance with the requirements of this rank.
- ❖ To support and aid in the education of the populace of the barony, not only in the arts and sciences, but in all manner of thoughtful and courteous behavior; remembering at all times that the Courtier embodies an ideal as well as a rank.
- ❖ To be available for service and ceremonial functions to the Baronial Coronets.

Administration of the Orders

Both the Sergeantry and Courtier Orders will be self-administrating and the members shall elect, for administrative purposes, their own leader that best epitomizes the ideals of the rank. The annual recognition of the Sergeant Major and the Grand Courtier shall be granted by the Baronial Coronets to the individual. All other codes of conduct and by-laws shall be developed and enforced by the Sergeantry/Courtiers themselves. No holder of this rank may be removed from this position save by a two-thirds majority vote of the active Sergeantry or Courtiers of the Barony AND by action of the current residing Baronial Coronets.

If a member of the Sergeantry/Courtiers is elevated into a Peerage, they may resign from their rank to the currently residing Baronial Coronets. They may be given the title *Emeritus*, and are allowed to sit in consultation with the other members of the Sergeantry. While, they cannot vote on any issues, they may be called upon to judge should a tie occur.