

SERGEANTRY

REQUIREMENTS FOR

**SERGEANTS, YEOMEN, GALLANTS
LANCERS & COURTIERS**

**WITHIN THE
PRINCIPALITY OF AVACAL**

Revised: January 2012

FOREWARD

The positions of Sergeant, Yeoman, Gallant, Lancer and Courtier within the Baronies of the Principality of Avacal have been developed to allow individuals the opportunity to demonstrate the martial prowess, commitment to service, pursuit of the arts and sciences and dedication to the chivalric qualities and developmental ideals esteemed within the Society for Creative Anachronism. The goal of the Sergeantry is to provide leadership within Avacal and their local group and exemplify commitment to service to the populace of the Barony to which they swear fealty.

It is our hope that the Sergeantry will be worthy of respect as ambassadors for all who they interact with and particularly serve as mentors to newcomers to the society. We hope to establish a tradition as vital contributors to the social and education aspects of the group in addition to the traditional military duties. The Sergeantry is responsible for the security and safety of the Barony and will serve as the Honour Guard for the Baroness in battle.

It is expected that individuals who declare their intent to be Sergeants, as part of their commitment to being leaders and ambassadors to those who are new to the SCA, will swear fealty to the Barony they reside in or that Barony nearest their local group. If the candidates desires to do otherwise, it must first be discussed with and approved by the Baronesses. Candidates must declare which Barony they intend to be a Sergeant of in their Sergeantry petition.

Those individuals who successfully complete the requirements for Sergeantry will swear fealty to the Baroness, and through that oath to the Barony they choose to serve, the Coronets of the Principality of Avacal and the Crowns of the Kingdom of An Tir and. They will earn the right to wear the buckle that denotes this baronial position and accept the obligations of the Sergeantry as outlined in the following pages.

An unsuccessful applicant may re-apply in a subsequent year, but must satisfy the requirements current at the time of the new selection trials. There shall be no minimum or maximum number of Sergeants, Yeomen, Gallants, Lancers and Courtiers.

As the Sergeantry in Avacal follows a common model, the Baronesses collectively oversee the Sergeantry and the testing process used to evaluate candidates. All modifications to testing or to the Sergeantry Privileges and Obligations are to reflect the consensus of the Baronesses of Avacal. A Sergeant represents not only the Barony and Baroness they are sworn in fealty to but also is ambassador of the Principality of Avacal. It is expected that Sergeants will conduct themselves accordingly.

Engagement in the Sergeantry of Avacal is a worthy goal, and brings honour to all who aspire to it. Bear all of this in mind as you prepare for you candidacy.

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I. Obligations

The Obligations of the Sergeants, Yeomen, Gallants, Lancers and Courtiers are:

1. To assist, protect and support the Baroness in her role within the Society for Creative Anachronism. This will require you to swear fealty to the Barony through the Baroness, and through that oath to the Coronets of the Principality of Avacal and the Crowns of the Kingdom of An Tir.
2. To protect and defend by skill at arms the Barony and, through the Barony, the Principality of Avacal and the Kingdom of An Tir. You will be expected to fight with the baronial army during specified battles and lead fighters on the field if necessary. For those members of Sergeantry who are not able to take the field, they are expected to support the Baronial Army in some meaningful capacity such as marshalling, heralding or waterbearing.
3. To champion 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 bring to the attention of the Baroness those who are deserving of recognition, be that of a baronial nature or otherwise.
6. To maintain an acceptable level of competence in all fields involved in the testing of the Sergeantry.
7. To remain active within the position in accordance with the requirements of this station to the best of one's ability and purse.
8. To actively promote the Sergeantry and its worth to the Barony and assist the Baroness in organizing future Sergeantry trials and sponsored tournaments.
9. To attend the Sergeantry tournaments, meetings, functions and baronial events given the limits of one's purse and modern obligations.
10. 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.
11. To maintain membership in the SCA at all times.

II. Privileges

The privileges of the Sergeants, Yeoman and Gallants are:

1. To wear a Sergeantry buckle as an appropriate token of this accomplishment.
2. To receive written certification that one has been duly tested and admitted into the Sergeantry.
3. To take on and train Men-at-arms by permission of their Baroness. Men-at-arms are not automatically candidates for testing nor are they required to submit to test.
4. To be recognized as the Honour Guard of the Baroness, serving her both on the field of battle and within the Baronial Courts and other appropriate occasions.
5. To fly Sergeantry banners at events to promote the Sergeantry.

III. Guidelines for the Sergeantry

1. The Sergeantry shall be self-administering and the members shall elect one leader or Captain. All codes of conduct and regulations specific to the Sergeantry shall be developed with the approval of the Baronesses and enforced by the Sergeantry and the Baronesses. Such codes and regulations shall not conflict with the Corpora of the Society for Creative Anachronism, the laws of the Kingdom of An Tir, the laws of the Principality of Avacal, or the rules and customs of the Baronies of Avacal.
2. In all matters regarding the Order of Sergeantry, the Baronesses collectively have the authority of final judgment over any decision reached.
3. Under the direction of the Baroness, the active Sergeantry shall:
 - a. Organize the annual event whereby candidates for the Sergeantry will be tested
 - b. Provide commentary to the Baronesses regarding and modifications deemed necessary to the testing criteria.
 - c. Observe candidates upon the submission of the Letter of Intent.
 - d. Assemble and verify all judging results.
4. There are four statuses within the Sergeantry of Avacal, Sergeant, Provost, Emeritus and Retired.
 - a. **Provost:** A member of the Sergeantry who is active in all respects, but unable to fulfill their duties in the Core Focus for which they tested, must inform the Baroness and request the status of **Provost**. The Provost is an active and valued member of the Sergeantry, providing wisdom, guidance and leadership despite their inability to be active in there are of Core Focus.
 - b. **Emeritus:** 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 Sergeantry must inform the Baroness, and request the status of **Emeritus**. If the Emeritus Sergeant requests to return as an active Sergeant within two years, retesting may be waived at the Baroness' discretion. For a lapse of greater than two years Emeritus Sergeantry shall be asked to retake the Sergeantry trials in order to be restored to their former position. Retesting is always at the discretion of the Baroness.
 - c. Upon becoming a member of the Order of Chivalry, Laurel, Pelican, White Scarf, Grey Gooseshaft, or Lion et Lance, a Sergeant may choose to resign, ask the Baroness to be released from fealty and return the Sergeant's belt and banner. They may request the status of **Emeritus**.
 - d. **Retired:** This status denotes those individuals who are no longer active. Any Sergeantry who has not been in contact with the Baron, the Baroness, the Captain or any other member of the Sergeantry for three years shall be considered **Retired**.
 - e. In the event of a change in Baroness, all of the current Sergeants are obliged to contact the new Baroness prior to her stepping up and declare their chosen status within the Sergeantry. If a member of the Sergeantry has not declared their intentions by the investment of the new Baroness they shall be considered to be **Emeritus**. If they have had no contact with the Baroness within the first year of her reign, their status shall be changed to **Retired**.
5. A member of the Sergeantry may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of currently active Sergeants, if just cause is shown. The sanctioned member may appeal the decision to the Baroness, who reserves the right to final judgement.
6. A Baroness may remove a Sergeant at her discretion for gross failure in their commitment to the Sergeantry or violation of the Obligations of the Sergeantry. No according title is bestowed to a

Sergeant so removed. The sanctioned member may appeal the decision to the council of Avacal Baronesses, who reserve the right to final judgement.

IV. Requirements for Selection

1. **Candidacy**

- a. At Avacal November Coronet, the Baronesses will issue a **Call for Petitions** for the Sergeantry of Avacal.
- b. Potential candidates will then have three months to submit their petition personally to the Baroness. In order to be considered a viable candidate, the petitioner must:
 - Possess a paid membership in good standing
 - Be a certified Jr. Marshal in at least two martial pursuits (heavy, rapier, archery, equestrian or youth combat)
- c. Submit their complete petition to the Baroness at the appropriate major Baronial event – confirm the chosen event with your intended Baroness.
- d. During court at an appropriate event, the Baronesses will announce the candidates for Sergeantry to the populace and invite the populace to provide commentary on the candidates to her.
- e. The Avacal Sergeantry Trials will be held at the end of the summer war season, exact date and place to be determined annually. Candidates will be scrutinized throughout the process.

2. **Letter of Intent and Petition**

- a. All candidates that wish to participate in the Avacal Sergeantry Trials must submit a **Letter of Intent** and **Petition** to the Baroness as per the schedule noted above.
- b. The **Letter of Intent** must contain:
 1. Your SCA and modern name,
 2. Address, phone number, email address, membership number & expiry date.
 3. A summary of your persona, including place of residence and year.
- c. **In addition to the initial Letter of Intent, two month prior to the testing, the candidate must provide the following additional details of the Letter of Intent.**
 1. A written account of your persona, giving as many actual historical and geographical references as appropriate, including at least culture, era and social status. The applicant is expected to have general knowledge of various aspects of their persona's existence during the Middle Ages (history, people, geography, religion, social customs, etc in an approximate 100 year span of their own timeframe). The candidate shall be prepared to talk about what is interesting to him or her in this area.
 2. Identify the two Games and two Dances you will perform
 3. A description of your intended Bardic performance
 4. A description of the two entries for the Test of Arts & Science

d. **The Petition**

1. The Petition shall be a hand calligraphed petition requesting permission to participate in the testing.
 2. The petition is to demonstrate a familiarity with a calligraphy hand suitable in both time and place to the candidate's persona. The quality of the execution of the scroll shall not be a criterion for judging the candidate's suitability. If this scroll is in the language of the candidate's persona, a written English translation must be provided. Petitions may be executed in some other means than a calligraphed scroll if it is suited to the candidate's persona with supporting documentation and by permission of the Baroness.
- e. Any applicant who finds it impossible to attend the trials must inform the Baroness by letter as soon as possible.
- f. The Baroness reserves the option to require revision of the elements of a petition.

3. Test of **Skill in Core Focus**

Skill at Arms

a. Sergeant: Concerning martial skills and knowledge, each applicant must:

- (1) Own full harness, shield and at least one weapon. All items shall be complete, suitable and in good repair and must meet the standards for combat in the Kingdom of An Tir and the Principality of Avacal and must be of period appearance. At least one item shall be of the applicant's own making.
- (2) Be prepared to fight in whatever challenges are deemed necessary to display their skill at arms, fulfill their obligations and serve the Baroness.
- (3) Show a proficiency in fighting, both offensively and defensively, in at least two fighting styles.

Examples:

- Weapon and shield
 - Two Weapon
 - Spear
 - Mass Weapon
 - Two-handed weapon
- (4) Display a practical knowledge of tactical deployment of a group tactics in armoured combat, both in attack and defence. Possible example: Small group war scenario's can be witnessed prior to testing weekend at the discretion/approval of the Baroness.
 - (5) Give evidence of an ability to conduct fighting practices and to train beginning fighters.
 - (6) Establish oneself as challenging to fight in at least one fighting style in the opinion of both the opponents on the field as well as those fighters witnessing the combat.
 - (7) Be courteous, generous and chivalrous in the Lists, regardless of your opponent's behaviour.

b. Yeoman: Concerning martial skills and knowledge, each applicant must:

- (1) Own complete armour as required for combat archery that shall be complete, suitable, in good repair and meet all the standards for combat in the Kingdom of An Tir and the Principality of

Avacal and must be of period appearance. At least one item shall be of the applicant's own making.

- (2) Be prepared to fight in whatever challenges are deemed necessary to display their skill at arms, fulfill their obligations and serve the Baroness.
- (3) The Applicant must also have sufficient supply of weaponry for one of the three styles of missile combat:
 - Bow weapons - A bow, twelve war arrows and twelve target arrows.
 - Crossbow weapons – A crossbow, twelve war bolts and twelve target bolts.
 - Thrown weapons - Four thrown weapons appropriate to the war field, and two thrown weapons appropriate to the thrown weapon target range. May include javelins, axes, knives and slings.
- (4) Shoot a 40-point Royal Round in a maximum of three attempts (may be accomplished at any point during the candidacy period -MUST be witnessed and signed off by Senior Marshal /TAM).
- (5) Give evidence of an ability to conduct fighting and/or archery practices to train beginner fighters. The applicant must exhibit knowledge of archery range safety.
- (6) Be courteous, generous and chivalrous on the field or the range, regardless of your opponent's behaviour.

NOTE: Target archers who do not meet the requirements of the Yeoman Class are recommended to apply as a Courtier, offering their depth of archery knowledge and skills as meeting either the requirements of Artisan or Steward.

c. Gallant: Concerning martial skills and knowledge, each applicant must:

- (1) Own full harness and at least one weapon. All items shall be complete, suitable and in good repair and must meet the standards for war combat in the Kingdom of An Tir and the Principality of Avacal and must be of period appearance. At least one item shall be of the applicant's own making.
- (2) Be prepared to fight in whatever challenges are deemed necessary to display their skill at arms, fulfill their obligations and serve the Baroness.
- (3) Show a proficiency in fighting, both offensively and defensively, in at least two fighting styles.

Examples:

 - Rapier & Dagger
 - Rapier & Buckler
 - Rapier & Cloak
 - Rapier & Baton
 - Pistol
- (4) Display a practical knowledge of tactical deployment of a group tactics in rapier combat, both in attack and defence. Possible example: Small group war scenario's can be witnessed prior to testing weekend at the discretion/approval of the Baroness.
- (5) Give evidence of an ability to conduct fighting practices and to train beginning fighters.

- (6) Establish oneself as challenging to fight in at least one fighting style in the opinion of both the opponents on the field as well as those fighters witnessing the combat.
- (7) Be courteous, generous and chivalrous in the Lists, regardless of your opponent's behaviour.

d. Lancer: Concerning martial skills and knowledge, each applicant must:

- (1) Own full harness and at least one weapon. All items shall be complete, suitable and in good repair and must meet the standards for war combat in the Kingdom of An Tir and the Principality of Avacal and must be of period appearance. At least one item of tack or barding (for the horse), and one item of the weaponry shall be of the applicant's own making.
- (2) Be authorized at the games and participate regularly at a canter showing safe control of the horse and self.
- (3) Show a proficiency in martial and non-martial equestrian skills, including ground work, beheading an enemy, ring tilting, and basic horsemanship. (may be accomplished at any point during the candidacy period -MUST be witnessed and signed off by Senior Marshal).
- (4) Display knowledge of how to maintain horse in a healthy manner (i.e., proper weight, trimmed hooves, no untreated wounds) and keep all equestrian equipment in safe working order
- (5) Be courteous, generous and chivalrous in the game, regardless of your opponent's behaviour or the behaviour of your or your opponent's horse.

Conclusion of Skill of Arms Testing:

Upon the completion of the trial tournaments for the above respective test of Skill at Arms, the Baronesses will convene a council consisting of the Baronesses and Barons, the presiding Marshals, witnessing Sergeants and any Members of the Order of Chivalry, White Scarf, Grey Goose Shaft and Lion and Lance (as appropriate to the Skill at Arms undertaken) present. The Sergeantry candidates will be required to give a testimonial of their experience in the tournament, as well as giving their evaluation of the conduct of other candidates before the council. The Baroness will pass or fail the candidates Skill at Arms with the advice and judgment of the council.

Skills of Artistry or Service

e) Courtier: Artisan Requirements:

- (1) Arts and Science testing will include review of works with documentation and the ability to teach the basics of your Art or Science to a novice.
- (2) Submit two period projects in either Arts or Sciences. They must be from different disciplines, with all of them having full documentation. Entries made in previous SCA competitions may be used as well as ongoing projects and works in progress. These projects are judged as the Core Skills and will be judged based on being a "Threat in Arts and Science".
- (3) Display the two selected projects and present and discuss the projects and the processes involved with the judges.
- (4) Submit a SCA resume crafted to show leadership in A&S, such as organizing A&S events or evenings, judging or coaching others. This should include a record of all classes instructed and copies of all class handouts created.

(5) Entries crafted to meet the Artisan Requirements are in addition to the Arts and Sciences components required of all Sergeantry candidates and may not be used to meet these core requirements.

(6) Note that Courtier candidates are required to be a junior marshal in a least one additional form above the base requirements for the Test of Marshalling & Rules of the List.

(7) In the conclusion of the testing of Skill of Service the candidate must give a testimonial of their experience as well as giving their evaluation of the displays of other candidates before the council.

f) Courtier: Steward Requirements:

(1) Service testing will include review of previous service on the staff of events held within and without the Barony and any offices held in any capacity in the SCA.

(2) Submit a SCA resume including record of service.

(3) Display at the Trials one ongoing service project, and present and discuss the entire process with the judges.

(4) Teach one workshop class on a topic of Service-(may be accomplished at any point during the candidacy period -MUST be witnessed and signed off by the Baroness or her appointee).

(5) Recognition of equivalent service or special circumstances must be approved prior to testing by the Baroness.

(6) It is important to note that the level of service expected of candidates is to be well above and beyond that which is expected of all members of the SCA.

(7) Note that Courtier candidates are required to be a junior marshal in a least one additional form above the base requirements for the Test of Marshalling & Rules of the List.

(8) In the conclusion of the testing of Skill of Service the candidate must give a testimonial of their experience as well as giving their evaluation of the displays of other candidates before the council.

NOTE: Target archers who do not meet the requirements of the Yeoman Class are recommended to apply as a Courtier, offering their depth of archery knowledge and skills as meeting either the requirements of Artisan or Steward.

Conclusion of Skill of Artistry or Service Testing:

Upon the completion of the assessment for the above respective test of Skill of Artistry or Service, the Baronesses will convene a council consisting of the Baronesses and Barons, the presiding Marshals, witnessing Sergeants and any Members of the Order of Laurel and Pelican (as appropriate to the Skill of Artistry & Service undertaken) present. The Sergeantry candidates will be required to give a testimonial of their experience as well as giving their evaluation of the displays of other candidates before the council. The Baroness will pass or fail the candidates Skill of Artistry or Service with the advice and judgment of the council.

4. Test of **Marshalling & Rules of the List**

All Candidates must be, at minimum, warranted junior marshal in two martial combat forms by the date of the Trials. Note that Courtier candidates are required to be a junior marshal in a least one additional form. Each candidate will”

- Be tested on the Rules of the Lists for their declared forms of combat.
- Be expected to demonstrate knowledge of An Tir armor, weapons and equipment standards by performing a standard pre-combat inspection in their martial areas.
- Each candidate must :
 1. Own a marshalling staff. Shall be complete, suitable, in good repair, meeting the standards for marshalling in war, combat and tourney in the Kingdom of An Tir and the Principality of Avacal. Candidate must also be able to identify and know how to utilize marshalling gauges in their respective martial forms. Note - candidates are not required to own a marshalling kit and gauges however will need to demonstrate the ability to use them properly
 2. Be prepared to Marshall in whatever challenges are deemed necessary to display his/her skill at arms, fulfill his/her obligations and serve the Baroness.
 3. Show a proficiency in marshalling in at least the 2 martial pursuits you are a Jr. Marshall in.
 4. Give evidence of an ability to conduct fighting practices and to train beginning fighters.
 5. Be courteous, generous and chivalrous in the Lists, regardless of your opponent’s behaviour.

The adequacy of the candidates’ knowledge will be judged by the Baroness or her appointee, appropriate Marshalls, Members of the Order of Chivalry, White Scarf, Grey Goose Shaft and Lion and Lance and the Sergeantry will appraise Candidate knowledge in these areas. In the Letter of Intent to participate in the Sergeantry trials, the candidate must indicate the combat forms they have chosen.

5. Test of **Persona Development**

- a. Candidate must demonstrate familiarity with details of everyday life and general knowledge appropriate to their persona
- b. It is acceptable to observe a Candidate’s fighting technique and choice of weaponry as part of determining the extent of their persona development.
- c. Historical knowledge and research is strongly encouraged.
- d. The candidate will be quizzed on their persona

In the Letter of Intent component submitted two months prior to the Sergeantry trials, the candidate must provide a full written account of their persona giving as many actual historical and geographical references as appropriate, including at least culture, era and social status. The applicant is expected to have general knowledge of various aspects of their persona’s existence during the Middle Ages (history, people, geography, religion, social customs, etc in an approximate 100 year span of their own timeframe). The candidate shall be prepared to talk about what is interesting to him or her in this area and answer questions on this content.

The adequacy of the candidates’ persona development will be judged by the Baroness or her appointee.

6. Test of **Heraldry**

- a. **Book Heraldry:** At some point during the Sergeantry trials, the candidate will be required to take a written exam, graded by the Principality and/or Baronial Herald, in Book Heraldry consisting of the following components:
- 1) To demonstrate the candidate's knowledge of Heraldry, the candidate will be required to know the basic rules of heraldry and blazoning, laws of colours and metals, predominant colours, metals, basic fields and divisions. The candidate will be required to reasonably blazon two devices presented to them on the exam.
 - 2) The applicant shall be required to identify a selection of devices from the following list:
 - The Kingdom of An Tir and its King and Queen
 - The Principality of Avacal and its Prince and Princess
 - The Baronies of Avacal and its Baron and Baroness
 - Other Principalities and Baronies of An Tir
 - Active Sergeants, Yeomen and Gallants of the Baronies of Avacal
 - Badges of active households in the Baronies of Avacal
 - Other kingdoms in the SCA
 - Offices of the SCA
 - 3) Each candidate must be in the process of submitting both name and device to the An Tir College of Heraldry for registration. No applicant shall be penalized for being unable to register such a device due to conflicts as found by the College of Heraldry. In the written exam, the candidate will be required to blazon her own device.
- b. **Field & Court Heraldry:** Each candidate shall perform some duties of either a field or a court herald during the event at which the Sergeantry Trials are held. Adequacy of the performance will be judged by the Royalty being thus served. Multiple candidates may have to share duties (to be coordinated by the Sergeantry Captain, at the discretion of the Royals served -may be accomplished at any point during the candidacy period -MUST be witnessed and signed off by the Baroness or her appointee).

7. Test of the **Arts of Leisure: Games & Dance**

Should the populace, the Coronets, or Their Majesties require entertainment, a member of the Sergeantry should be able to provide such, at least to a minimum level. To this end, a Sergeantry candidate must exhibit his adequacy in the Arts of Leisure.

(1) Games:

The candidate must exhibit the capacity to engage in TWO Medieval Games, one of which must accord with their persona culture and era-must provide supporting documentation. For both games, the candidate must explain the rules, teach the game and then play the game with a judge.

(2) Dance:

- (a) All candidates are expected to perform at least two dances. Adequacy will be judged by the Baroness or her appointee.

In the Letter of Intent component submitted two months prior to the Sergeantry trials, the candidates must indicate which games and dances they intend to perform. The adequacy of the candidate's ability to provide entertainment will be judged by the Baroness or her appointee.

8. Test of **Bardic Arts**

A courteous and gentle candidate should make an attempt to entertain others, particularly when long hours of waiting make the need for entertainment obvious. To demonstrate this quality as well as knowledge of the Bardic arts of music and literature, the candidate shall be required to entertain the populace at some point during the Trial.

- The candidate may perform a poem, song or story, either instrumentally or vocally (or both).
- All work performed must be either from the medieval period or written in as historically correct a manner as possible. Filks are acceptable with the prior approval of the Baroness.
- The subject may be historical or creatively anachronistic. Content related to the history of the SCA, Kingdom of An Tir, Principality of Avacal or the Baronies is encouraged. Other performers may accompany the candidate.
- It shall not be the quality of the work that is judged but his or her confidence and ability to perform in a pleasing and entertaining manner. The applicant's familiarity with music of Middle Ages and the SCA is emphasized.

In the Letter of Intent component submitted one month prior to the Sergeantry trials, the candidate must indicate what sort of Bardic performance they intend to present.

The adequacy of the performance will be judged by the Baroness or her appointee.

9. Test of **Arts & Sciences**

The candidate must be able to provide useful service to the Baroness, above and beyond martial duties. Each candidate must be able to exhibit developed skills in two areas, of their choice. Basic documentation is to be provided- Who, What, Where, Why and How – documentation will not be judged but used for information purposes. Ideally, the arts displayed will be appropriate to the candidate's persona. The following categories are suggested, but alternative projects may be pursued with the approval of the Baroness:

- Culinary Arts: prepare a medieval dish, or brew some mead, etc.
- Scribal Arts: prepare an authentic scroll, illumination, bookbinding, etc
- Academic Arts: write a research paper on a medieval topic
- Fibre Arts: craft a period garment or needle work
- Armouring: create an authentic article of armour
- Jewelcraft: create an authentic article of medieval jewellery, metalwork, beadwork, etc
- Woodcraft: create a piece of medieval furniture, or woodwork
- Survival Skills: perform practical period skills, such as fire-starting, navigation, etc.

Both entries will be judged by the Baroness or her appointees and Members of the Order of Laurel and member of the Sergeantry.

In the Letter of Intent component submitted two months prior to the Sergeantry trials, the candidate must indicate what arts and sciences projects they intend to pursue.

Projects relevant to persona culture and era are highly recommended.

10. Test of **Military Sciences**

A Candidate is expected to demonstrate knowledge of military sciences in the following areas by written or oral testing:

- Armour construction and styles.
- Weapons construction and styles, including identification of basic archery and equestrian equipment.
- Basic castle and fortification structures.
- Siege warfare tactics and equipment.
- Battlefield tactics and strategy, including small squad tactics, defence of set positions (hills, bridges, etc.), and terrain considerations.

The Baroness, appropriate Marshalls, Members of the Order of Chivalry, White Scarf, Grey Goose Shaft and Lion and Lance and the Sergeantry will appraise Candidate knowledge in these areas.

11. Test of **An Tirian History, Geography and Culture**

The candidate must be a well rounded member of the SCA with a clear knowledge of not only the history of our unique groups and culture but also an understanding of the development and geography of the SCA. Although these are not matters of medieval history, as a resource to the Principality, the candidates understanding of these matters is essential.

- Give a presentation on the History of An Tir, with special focus on the history of Avacal and the Barony they are testing to serve.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the history of the Barony they are testing to serve including the dates of its founding and branch status elevations and the names of past Baronial Coronets.
- Be familiar with the branch geography of An Tir and the other Kingdoms of the SCA. Candidates will demonstrate their knowledge by correctly identifying the locations of selected Kingdoms, Principalities, and Baronies on a line map of An Tir and of the SCA.

The Baroness or her appointee, past Baronial Coronets, peers of the Baronies and the Sergeantry will appraise Candidate knowledge in these areas.

12. Test of **Courtesy**

To judge the courtesy and gentle behaviour of the candidates, the Baroness will preside at a **Court of Courtesy** to which the populace of Avacal will be invited. The candidates will not be present. The candidates shall be judged by the populace by their behaviour their ability to demonstrate the following:

- a. Their efforts towards acting with chivalry and courtesy; in particular the cultivation of a noble and gentle manner with all persons. The Court of Chivalry should evaluate the candidate according to the following VIRTUES:
- **Respectfulness:** The candidate must treat the Royalty, Peerage, Officiate and Sergeantry with the respect that they have earned, in an appropriate manner for the medieval period. All members of the populace should be afforded due respect. By acting in a respectful manner, the Sergeant serves as an example for other members of the Barony.
 - **Generosity:** Service to the Barony is an integral duty of the Sergeant. To this end, the candidate must exhibit industrious service to those in need, and stand ever ready to lend a helping hand.
 - **Temperance:** A Sergeant is expected to comport herself with dignity. As such, wanton drunkenness, aggressive sexual behaviour, indiscriminate use of profanity and indulgence in illegal substance abuse indicates that the candidate is not worthy for the Sergeantry.
 - **Humility:** The Sergeant places the needs of the Baroness and the Barony before himself. Braggarts, boasters and blowhards have no place in the Sergeantry. One may acknowledge accomplishments without seeking aggrandizement.
 - **Friendliness:** A Sergeant should never act in an intentionally hurtful manner. There is room for jest and frivolity, so long as it is without malice or meanness of spirit.
 - **Hospitable:** It is easy to get caught up in your own affairs, and forget what it is like for newcomers trying to participate in the Dream. It is the duty of a Sergeant to afford hospitality to newcomers, and help them find a way to play.
- b. It is important for the integrity of the Society for Creative Anachronism that we seek to behave in a manner appropriate to the medieval period. The candidates should exhibit the desire, willingness and ability to appear and deport themselves in a truly medieval manner, given the limitations imposed by one's talents, purse and contemporary morality.
- c. Note that this evaluation of courtesy takes place from the moment a candidate is announced. Commentary and guidance may be provided to the Baroness by any member of the populace at any point in the process.

13. The Baroness' Challenge

The final challenge of the Sergeantry Trial requires the candidate to stand before the Baroness and her advisors and answer a question of her choice. It will require the candidate to explain his/her position clearly, and argue in support of the ideal. The Baroness 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. Judging

1. In each of the testing categories, candidates shall be graded on a scale of 0 – 10 points.
 - 7 – 10 points is a **Passing** score.
 - 5 – 6 points indicates a **Marginal Performance**.
 - 0 – 4 points denotes a **Need for Further Study**.

2. To be considered as successful in meeting the membership requirements for the Sergeantry, candidates must receive at a **Passing** score in both the Test of Courtesy and the Test of Skill in Core Focus.
3. If a candidate receives a **Needs Further Study** score in any Test, they will fail the Sergeantry Trials.
4. If a candidate receives a **Marginal Performance** score in two or more Tests, they will fail the Sergeantry Trials.
5. A **Needs Further Study** or **Marginal Performance** score may be appealed, in writing, to the Baronesses and their council of Sergeants. The Baroness' decision is final.
6. One may not judge a family member, squire or man-at-arms. They may however participate in the testing process in an advisory capacity.

The Trials are tough and are there to 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.

Because not everyone can be masters of all the skills that are needed in this society Candidates may be granted one "boon" which may be applied at the start of the Trials to a single category of the Candidate's choosing except for the primary skill for their rank. The "boon" will raise a **Marginal** score in the selected category to a **Passing** score. It cannot raise a category from **Needs Further Study** to **Marginal**. The granting of a boon will be at the discretion of the Baronesses.

In the final tally of all extra points and the boon, each category must be completed with a passing final score for a Candidates attempt at the Trials to be considered successful. All Candidates will be welcome at the trials however only successful candidates will be taken as a member of the Sergeantry.

VI. Attaining multiple classes in Sergeantry

While an individual may belong to multiple classes within the Sergeantry, the Trials for each class must be undertaken one at a time. Should an individual wish to attempt additional Trials for a second or even third class:

- The Candidate may not be required to reattempt all categories, but will at minimum be required to undertake the categories relevant to the attempted class of Sergeantry.
- The determination of which categories must be satisfied for additional classes will be determined by the Baroness upon assessment of the candidate and the testing process by which they initially were evaluated.

VII. Conclusion

It is the hope of the Baronesses of Avacal that this overview of the process of becoming a member of the Sergeantry 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 Sergeantry of Avacal 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.

The Baronesses of Avacal

Appendices

This section includes appendices on

Appendix A- Sergeantry Candidate Checklist

Appendix A- Sergeantry Candidate Checklist

Sergeantry Candidate Check List

Note: This in no way replaces the details of the Handbook; it only summarizes them for easy reference. When in doubt – check the Handbook.

(Y / N) Letter of Intent to Baroness

Deadlines

Montengarde - 12th Night

Myrganwood - Feb Investiture

Borealis - Winter War

(Y / N) Find Sergeant Sponsor/ Mentor (optional)

The sponsor is intended as a contact available for support, questions, etc.)

(Y / N) Petition to Baroness & Sponsor (includes details on persona and fields of testing)

Deadline: June 1st

(Y / N) Current Membership

_____ & Exp _____

(Y / N) Current Authorization & Marshal status

(Y / N) Submitted Name and Device

Heraldry

Book Heraldry

- Understand the basic rules of blazoning and be able to do so for their own device and two others
- Identify important devices of An Tir including Avacallian Baronies, Peers, Baronesses, Sergeants, Offices and others found in the provided Guide

Field / Court Score (0-10)

- Herald for a tourney
- Be heard as a Crier
- Perform as Court Herald including taking business, acting as voice, reading scrolls

Art & Science

- Demonstrate two A&S Skills

Skill #1 _____

Skill #2 _____

Games & Dance

- Able to play and teach two games

Game #1 _____

Game #2 _____

- Able to perform two dances (teaching a bonus)

Dance #1 _____

Dance #2 _____

Bardic

- Demonstrate confidence in presenting an entertainment before an audience.

Persona Development

- Shows familiarity with everyday life, what would be of interest within persona
- Candidate has a general knowledge of history and major events within a hundred years of persona's lifetime
- Choice of fighting style and weaponry can also be cited as persona development

History / Geography / Customs of Avacal and An Tir

Must be familiar with the following:

- History of Barony (founding, succession of Baronesses, etc.)
- History of Avacal and An Tir
- Geography of Avacal, An Tir, and Known World
- Culture of Avacal & An Tir (names of current royals, forms of address, major events, etc.)

Military Science

Must be familiar with and demonstrate knowledge of:

- Armor construction & styles
- Weapon construction & styles (inc. basic archery & equestrian equipment)
- Basic castles & fortifications
- Siege warfare tactics & equipment
- Battlefield tactics (small unit, defending a position, terrain considerations)

Skill of Arms (non Courtier)

- Own fight kit in good repair and of period appearance; at least one piece of candidate's own making
- Show proficiency offensively and defensively in at least two styles

Style #1 _____

Style #2 _____

- Demonstrate practical knowledge of melee tactics in form of combat
(*e.g. Winter War, AT War, Quad War*)
- Able to conduct a fight practice and train new fighters
- Be challenging in at least one fighting style
- Be courteous and chivalrous in the lists

Marshalling

- Know the Rules of the Lists
- Demonstrate knowledge of standards for arms and armour
- Be familiar with how to use marshaling equipment (inspections, staff)
- Own a marshaling staff
- Be warranted as at least a junior marshal in at least two forms (three for Courtier)

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

Courtier (Service) application

- The expectation is for service above and beyond the norm
- SCA Resume demonstrating a path of service
- Present a current service project
- Have taught a workshop related to service
- Received recognition for service (i.e. Baronial service award)

Courtier (Arts) application

- Able to instruct others in at least one A&S
- SCA Resume of leadership in A&S (organizing classes, officer posts, judging, etc.). Copies of class handouts encouraged.
- In addition to the two A&S skills as part of basic expectations, an Arts Courtier is expected to present two period projects suitable for competition entries (scored elsewhere in Testing)

Skill of Arts & Science (Courtier Only)

- A knowledgeable resource in both skills
- Be of skill level comparable to Baronial Champion in at least one.
- Appropriate documentation, display, and personal presentation of both entries

Skill #1 _____

Skill #2 _____

Courtesy

Candidates must be prepared to have their courtesy discussed by the populace with specific attention to being Respectful, Generous, Temperate, Humble, Friendly,