

Charter of the Baronial Guard of Bryn Gwlad

Purpose: To raise and establish an organization of Guards to provide the following:

- * A service unit to operate as interactive support staff at Baronial events (to aid the general populace and event stewards with minor duties);
- * A military unit to operate in the Line of Battle as the Baronial bodyguard or as an Ad Hoc unit raised for a specific event;
- * Ceremonial support during Court and Processions;
- * Escort to the Coronet and Foreign Dignitaries, as required;
- * Provide Sentries/Wardens for meeting areas;
- * Act as good will ambassadors for the barony at events and demos;
- * Other duties as assigned.

Organization

The initial establishment will consist of one Company. Provision will be made to raise and establish additional Companies as necessary or available. The following Table of Organization shall apply to the Company (ies):

If one company:

- * 1 x Captain
- * 1 x Lieutenant
- * 1 or 2 x Sergeants
- * 1 x Quartermaster
- * .. x Musicians
- * 1 x Standard Bearer
- * .. x Messengers
- * .. x Other Ranks

If more than one company is formed:

First Company:

- * 1 x Colonel
- * 1 x Lieutenant -colonel
- * 1 or 2 x Sergeants
- * 1 x Quartermaster
- * .. x Musicians
- * 1 x Standard Bearer
- * .. x Messengers
- * .. x Other Ranks

Second Company:

- * 1 x First Captain
- * 1 x First Lieutenant
- * 1 or 2 x Sergeants
- * .. x Quartermaster
- * .. x Musicians
- * .. x Standard Bearer
- * .. x Messengers
- * .. x Other Ranks

Third (and etc) Company:

- * 1 x Second Captain
- * 1 x Second Lieutenant
- * 1 or 2 x Sergeants
- * .. x Quartermaster
- * .. x Musicians
- * .. x Standard Bearer
- * .. x Messengers
- * .. x Other Ranks

Membership Structure and Entrance Requirements

A prospective candidate must be a person of known honor and dedication. Entrance to the Rolls of the Baronial Guard shall be gained through letters of application (one to the Coronet and one to the Captain) that is written in a manner that is proper for the applicant's time and culture. In this letter, the candidate is to introduce themselves to the Coronet, the Captain and the Guard and explain their merits, qualities and qualifications for membership in the Guard. The letter will be presented for approval by the Membership.

There are three general categories of membership in the Baronial Guard. These categories are Guard, Candidate and Retired/Reserve.

Guard and Junior Guard

A Guard is classed as an individual who meets the requirements set forth in this Charter and has been inducted into the Baronial Guard with the approval of the Coronet.

A Junior Guard is someone who meets most of the qualifications and is still legally a minor.

Requirements

In order to maintain guard status in the Baronial Guard the following requirements must be met:

- * Be an active member of the barony of Bryn Gwlad for the past six months
- * Be a current paid member of the Society.
- * Take the Guard's Oath of Service at activation, to renew that oath at least once a year at the Candlemas Celebration and whenever required to do so by the Captain or Coronet.
- * Provide their uniforms (insignia and rank provided by the Guard) and wear the appropriate uniform when on duty.
 - * Maintain authorization in the following:
 - o Armored Combat Marshal
 - o Rapier Combat Marshal
 - o Chiurgeon (as an Alternate to one of the above)
 - * Attend a minimum of 2 SCA activities per month (i.e.: Fighter Practice, Events, Populace Meetings, etc.)
 - * If a fighter, own all of their fighting equipment and weaponry.
 - * Be willing to act as a sponsor to prospective Guard members.
 - * Regularly attend the monthly Guard Meeting, which is to be held at the Tuesday night fighter practices following the monthly business meeting.
 - * It is highly encouraged that guards maintain one or more of the following Fighting/Non-Fighting

Authorizations:

- o Armored Combat
- o Rapier Combat
- o Combat Archery/Missile Weapons
- o Water Bearer (Non-fighting)
- * Carry the Bryn Gwlad standard and other such regalia in procession and in court.
- * Wear the appropriate uniform when on duty.
- * Dress appropriately when in uniform.

Candidate

A candidate is classed as an individual who meets the requirements set forth in this Charter and has the potential to be inducted into the Baronial Guard. The prospective member will serve in a training capacity for a period of about 9 months.

Requirements

- * Accept sponsorship from a Guard
- * Be an active member of the barony of Bryn Gwlad for the past six months
- * Be a current paid member of the Society or acquire membership during their candidacy.
- * Be able to obtain authorization in the following: (to be completed within the first 6 months)
 - o Armored Combat Marshal
 - o Rapier Combat Marshal
 - o Chiurgeon (as an Alternate to one of the above)
- * Attend a minimum of 2 SCA activities per month (i.e.: Fighter Practice, Events, Populace Meetings, etc.).
- * If a fighter, be able to own all of their fighting equipment and weaponry.
- * Regularly attend the monthly Guard Meeting, which is to be held on the Tuesday night fighter practices following the monthly populace meeting.
- * It is highly encouraged that candidates maintain one or more of the following Fighting/Non-Fighting

Authorizations:

- o Armored Combat
- o Rapier Combat
- o Combat Archery/Missile Weapons
- o Water Bearer (Non-Fighting)
- * Carry the Bryn Gwlad standard and other such regalia in procession and in court.
- * Uniform loaned by the Guard. Wear the Candidate's uniform when on duty.
- * Dress appropriately when in uniform.

Retired/Reserve (see also the Termination of Service section below)

A Guard who has served adequately for at least two years may elect to take a Retired Status. This individual is no longer required to fulfill the requirements as a guard but may elect to serve on an Ad Hoc basis when available and when there is a need. Retired Guards must maintain their own uniforms or be able to borrow such when needed.

A Guard who has served adequately for at least one year may elect to take a Reserve Status if he must leave full time service for a time but intends to return to full duty in the foreseeable future. This status may be classified as either Active Reserve or Inactive Reserve depending in the needs of the individual and arrangements acceptable to the Captain and the Coronet. A Reserve Guard must maintain his own uniforms.

Sponsorship

Active members in the Guard will be expected to act as sponsors for prospective members. A sponsor is to act as an advisor/mentor to a prospective member and help them in the matters of the entrance requirements such as dress, duties and responsibilities of Guard members as well as the letter of application and other aspects of the Guard as necessary.

Uniforms

Guards

Guard uniforms must meet the following requirements:

- * The uniform must be of one of the historical designs created by the Coronet or an alternative that has approval of the Coronet and Captain.
- * A member's court uniform must be made of the standard materials set forth in the Handbook or by alternate materials that have been approved by the Coronet and Captain.
- * See the Guard's Handbook for a current list of approved designs and materials.
- * All members of the Guard are responsible for providing their Guard uniform at the time of their induction. Each member must provide and maintain two uniforms: one black for winter or cold weather, and one white for summer or hot weather. Each uniform shall bear the roundels and halberds of the guard insignia.
- * The Captain's uniform is to be trimmed in gold.
- * The Lieutenant's uniform is to be trimmed in red.
- * The Sergeant's uniform is to be trimmed in royal blue.
- * The Retired Guard may display a gray band upon their uniform (location dependent upon uniform design - actual location to be approved by the Coronet and the Captain.
- * Any former Officer may display a portion of their former rank on their current uniform (location dependent upon uniform design - actual location to be approved by the Coronet and the Captain.
- * A Reserve guard will maintain his uniform as it was when he left full service or may elect to display only a portion of their rank.

Junior Guard uniforms must meet the following requirements:

- * The uniform must be of one of the historical designs created by the Coronet or an alternative that has approval of the Coronet and Captain.
- * All members of the Guard are responsible for providing their Guard uniform at the time of their induction. A junior Guard must provide and maintain a single uniform of combined black and dove gray.
- * A Guard's court uniform must be made of the standard materials set forth in the Handbook or by alternate materials that have been approved by the Coronet and Captain.
- * See the Guard's Handbook for a current list of approved designs and materials.

Candidates

- * Candidate uniforms will consist of a dove gray short cape bearing the roundel badge of the Guard on the left

shoulder or an alternative design that has approval of the Coronet and Captain.

* A Candidate's court uniform must be made of the standard materials set forth in the handbook or by alternate materials that have been approved by the Coronet and Captain.

* A Candidate's uniform is provided by the Guard and remains property of the Guard.

* See the Guard's Handbook for a current list of approved designs.

Induction into the Guard

Once a prospective member of the Guard has met the requirements set forth in this charter and is deemed worthy to join the Guard by the Captain and the Coronet, the prospective member shall undergo the induction ceremony. In this ceremony, the prospective member shall give an oath of service and be presented with their guard uniform. New members may only be inducted by the Coronet with the Captain and other Guard members present.

Guard's Oath of Service

We will stand together

in the Service and Defense of Bryn Gwlad and her baronage
against all malefactors and invaders.

We will serve with Loyalty and Honor

to faithfully carry out our duties,
to uphold the laws of the barony and kingdom
and to maintain the traditions of the Baronial Guard.

Length of Service:

Standard Guard Membership: A person joining the Guard is understood to volunteer their service in the membership of the Guard for at least one year. Guard Members may resign from the Guard at any time after that year of service.

Candidate: A prospective member is expected to commit to the period of approximately 6 to 9 months. After a Candidate has been inducted into the regular membership, the standard length of service will apply.

Officers: The term of service for an officer is for two years. Officers will be allowed to seek consecutive terms as an officer if they so choose. Officers may also serve for less than two years at their discretion or upon being relieved of their duties by the senior chain of command.

Field Operations

In order for the Baronial Guard to function properly as a unit in the field, be it in the Line of Battle or operating as a separate unit, the Captain may appoint a field commander. Multiple field commanders may be appointed if necessary. (An example of the need for a field commander would be if the Guard Company were fighting not only in the Line of Battle but forming an ad hoc Archer Company with guardsmen and militia. An additional field commander would be appointed to command the archers.)

Termination of Service

Resignation - Any Guardsman or Candidate may resign at any time by giving notice (preferably written) to his/her Company Commander or in their absence to the senior officer present.

Retired - Any Guardsman who has completed at least one year or more of active service and does not wish to be placed on the Reserve List may petition the Coronet and Guard Captain for permission to retire from service.

Reservist - Any Guardsman who has been active for over a period of one year or more and is unable to meet the qualifications for Active Guard Member as set forth in this Charter may submit a request (preferably written) to the Coronet and Guard Captain to be placed on the Reserve List in either an Active or Inactive status.

A guardsman may request Active Reserve Status if he is able to perform the functions of an active guardsman at

some functions but is unable to meet the requirements for full status. The Active Reserve List shall be comprised of those Guard members who will make themselves available for Court functions at events where the Guard will normally be present. He will have available the proper uniform for the season and make his willingness to aid in Court functions be known to the Officer in Charge present at that time. He may only wear his uniform when available and accepted for full duties.

A guardsman may request Inactive Reserve Status if he is unable to fulfill the requirements of his membership for a foreseeable period of time as stated in his request. He may not wear his uniform nor participate in official Guard functions during his Inactivity. He may, however, continue to participate in social and other unofficial functions with the guard. Upon his desire/ability to return to Active Duty, he may petition the Coronet and Guard Captain.

Dismissal - Should circumstances require a non-voluntary separation from service; the Captain will have the responsibility and authority to dismiss an individual from service upon consultation with the Coronet and the officers of the Guard.

Payment of the Guard

The Coronet is responsible for the payment of the Guard. This payment is to be made once a year at the Candlemas celebration.

Elevation to Officer Rank

In order to be eligible to serve as an officer, a guard member must serve in the Guard in good standing for at least one year as a full guard. Service as a Junior Guard is not eligible.

The Captain of the Guard is to be elected by vote of the entire Guard, once every two years. This vote is subject to the approval of the Coronet. Said election is to take place at the Guard meeting for the month of January with the new Captain installed at the following Candlemas celebration. Only active members of the Guard are eligible for election as Captain.

The Lieutenant(s) of the Guard are to be appointed by the Captain of the Guard with approval from the Coronet. Lieutenants need not be appointed at the same time as the Captain.

The Sergeant(s) of the Guard are to be appointed by the Captain of the Guard. Sergeants need not be appointed at the same time as the Captain and the Lieutenants. The position of Sergeant may also be assigned as a temporary position (i.e.: Sergeant of the Watch for an event or to handle Guard supervision if Officers are not present.

Authority/Responsibility of Position

Captain

- * To over see all Guard activities.
- * To distribute pay to the Guard on an annual basis.
- * To oversee the election of the next Guard Captain.
- * To organize ceremonial activities of the Guard for court.
- * To lead the Guard in war or appoint a commander(s) as needed.
- * Over see removal of Guard members as needed
- * Assign an Officer of the Watch or Sergeant of the Guard for each Bryn Gwlad event. (The OW or SoG will work closely with the event steward to coordinate the Guard's service for the event.)

Lieutenant

- * To work with the Captain to organize shifts of duty, both service and ceremonial while at SCA events.
- * To appoint sponsors to aid in the induction of new members of the Guard.
- * To aid in the training of new Guard members and Guard Candidates.

Sergeant

- * To work with the Lieutenant(s) to organize shifts of duty, both service and ceremonial while at SCA events.
- * To appoint sponsors to aid in the induction of prospective members of the Guard.
- * To aid in the training of new Guard members and Guard Candidates.

Rights of the Coronet (Coronet)

As the Bryn Gwlad Baronial Guard is the personal guard of the Coronet of Bryn Gwlad, the Coronet reserves the right to personally command the Guard, request service of the Guard, require Guard members as escorts or otherwise make similar requests of a reasonable nature. The Coronet also reserves the right to reverse decisions of the Captain regarding additions of or removals of Guard members. The Coronet may require any or all Guards to renew their Oath of Service at any time.

Be it known that the Bryn Gwlad Baronial Guard has been re-chartered this 16th day of February, AS XXXII, being 1998 by the Gregorian calendar by Their Excellencies Sir Pendaran Glamorgan and Mistress Jehanne D'Avignon, Coronet of Bryn Gwlad with Sir Lyonel Oliver Grace, Captain of the Baronial Guard and Lord Alaric Styrr and Lord Brian Aaron Cameron, Lieutenants of the Guard.

Be it known that the Bryn Gwlad Baronial Guard Charter has been revised this 7th day of December, AS XXXVII, being 2002 by the Gregorian calendar by the Guard Membership and approved by Their Excellencies Sir Pendaran Glamorgan and Mistress Jehanne D'Avignon, Coronet of Bryn Gwlad with HL Duncan MacConacher of Dunheath, Captain of the Baronial Guard and Baroness Claire Shayhan and Lady Catalina Ana de Salamanca, Lieutenants of the Guard.

Be it known that the Bryn Gwlad Baronial Guard Charter has been revised this 10th day of June, AS XLI, being 2006 by the Gregorian calendar by the Guard Membership and approved by His Excellency Master Thomas of Tenby, Baron of Bryn Gwlad with Baroness Claire Shayhan, Captain of the Baronial Guard, Lord Alfred Huddlestone, Lieutenant of the Guard and Lord Rurik the Red, Sergeant of the Guard.

x *Thomas of Tenby*

Baron

x *Claire Shayhan*

Captain

x *Alfred Huddlestone*

Lieutenant