A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE SCA

Welcome to the Society for Creative Anachronism; also known as the Society or the SCA. Prepare to step into a world of chivalry, art, and camaraderie – a world shared by over 100,000 others who seek the same dream you do. Armored knights are locked in combat on the list field, artisans under brightly-colored pavilions are painting illuminated manuscripts, and friends nearby put the finishing touches on their newest gowns, all with Renaissance music playing softly in the background.

What is the SCA? The SCA was incorporated in 1968 as a 501(c)3, not-for-profit educational organization. It is part of the "living history" movement, which means that SCA members have a "hands-on" approach to history, engaging in activities that help them to explore the culture, arts, and sciences of ages past. The SCA period encompasses pre-17th century Western Europe, with an emphasis on the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

The most visible focus of many SCA events is our martial activities. Many SCA members recreate the armored chivalric combat of the High Middle Ages, wearing replica metal or leather armor, carrying shields and using rattan weapons that have the balance and handling properties but not the lethal effect of the originals. There are also those who strive to recreate Renaissance fencing techniques using various styles of rapiers and fencing equipment.

Less immediately obvious to new members are all the other period activities people do in the SCA. The range of arts and sciences, everyday skills, and technical knowledge is enormous. Period activities range from bardic performances (poems, songs, music, or stories) to arts and sciences (cooking, glass work, armor making, dancing, needle work, herbalism, calligraphy, brewing, and vintning, among many others). In addition, there are a variety of technical and social skills that help establish the ambiance of life in a pre-17th century royal court, including dance and heraldry.

Please visit www.ansteorra.org or Austin's local chapter website http://bryn-gwlad.ansteorra.org, for more information on the SCA or tear off one of these tickets to contact someone about the SCA group in our area!

For more info:
hospitaler.bryngwlad@gmail.com or visit
http://bryn-gwlad.ansteorra.org

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