

## SPONSORSHIP

### 1. What is sponsorship?

Strictly speaking, "sponsorship" is a relationship between a recognized branch of the SCA of any size and any unrecognized group (proto-incipient, Incipient, guild, household etc.) within the SCA. It exists when the recognized branch (**sponsor**) agrees to oversee an event hosted by the unrecognized group (**client**) and assumes responsibility for its conduct according to SCA rules. In practice, "sponsorship" can mean many things, ranging from one time nominal oversight of an event to a close, long term mentoring and guidance, and usually applies to relations between established branches and new branches rather than to guilds or households.

### 2. How does a new group get a sponsor?

Usually, the new group will ask the nearest **FULL STATUS** branch in the Kingdom to sponsor them, especially if they are forming as an independent shire. It is generally expected that baronies will sponsor their own cantons, and/or that another canton within the barony will provide sponsorship.

It is essential that both the new group and prospective sponsor clarify their expectations before committing to the relationship. It's very bad if one party thinks it is sponsoring a single event while the other thinks it has acquired a long term partner. The sponsor needs to decide if it will donate or lend money to the client group; if they do, then terms and conditions must be firm before the money changes hands.

Groups requesting sponsorship of events, either as a one time deal or as a part of an ongoing relationship, must understand that the sponsor is assuming responsibility for the safe and lawful conduct of the event. Therefore, the client group has an obligation to **CLEAR THE DATE WITH THE SPONSOR BEFORE RESERVING IT, AND GET A WRITTEN COMMITMENT. THE GROUP MUST BE WILLING TO MODIFY THIER PLANS IF NECESSARY TO INSURE THE EVENT IS SAFE.**

### 3. Who may be a sponsor?

Any **FULL STATUS** branch at any level within the kingdom may sponsor an event for an unrecognized (proto incipient) group. The branch need not even be local, as long as the appropriate officer of the sponsoring branch can make it to the event.

Any full status branch (in practical terms, at barony / provincial level or below) may become a sponsor in the broader sense as well. The key is for the sponsoring group to find out what kind of help its client group desires and do what it can without over committing itself. Sponsorship of the "mentoring type" works best if the groups are close enough to allow occasional visits between them.

Note that although incipient branches **MAY NOT SPONSOR** other groups, they can offer guidance, training, and general support to newer groups.

### 4. What can a sponsoring (full status) group do to help?

- Sponsor events
- Help group plan for its first few events
- Provide teachers, trainers, marshals, and other resource people
- Train officers
- Help with finances
- Assist at demos
- Provide training opportunities for would be-autocrats, through involvement in sponsoring groups' event
  - Lend equipment, garb.
  - Help with new member orientation
  - Help new group pick a name

#### 5. Are new branches required to have a sponsor?

New groups **MUST** have sponsors for their events, whether or not they are advertised in The Pale. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO HAVE A SPONSOR IN ORDER TO HOLD BUSINESS MEETINGS OR SEWING CIRCLES.** Really new groups, particularly those made up of SCA novices are advised to seek a close relationship with a well established branch. At the very least, they should find one or two groups who will answer their questions and give advice. Stable branches that have been incipient for awhile and are just waiting to be recognized can be very important to very new groups. Usually they are more than willing to offer help and advice to fledgling groups. The sponsorship form ( included), **must be filled out BY THE RESPECTIVE PARTIES and sent to THE PALE EDITOR (ADDRESS LISTED IN THE PALE) WITH FLYER OR EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT CANNOT BE RUN IN THE PALE WITHOUT IT!!!!**