

Midrealm Demo Policy

(Adapted from the Society Demo Policy)

What Is a Demo?

1. A demo ("demonstration") is an organized educational effort to teach and/or display activities of medieval interest in general, and SCA interest in particular, to the general public. Demos are just one way of introducing and finding new recruits for the SCA. However, not all demos are the type that results in new members. An elementary school demo is fun, but the likelihood of recruiting new members is low. A university or Renaissance Fair demo is more likely to attract new members, but does not necessarily contain the educational information of a school demo. Both are important, and a group should find a balance between them, if possible.
2. At a demo, groups may restrict who represents them to the public. Restricting participation should be done with extreme caution and care. However, it is often beneficial to have representatives available for a particular demo's demographics (college-aged students for college demos, families at a family-friendly events, etc.).
3. A demo may also be an "event" if it meets the requirements for an event as outlined in Corpora (see below). At any demo, a paid SCA member must be present and in charge of the demo.
 - a. A. Society Events Defined (from Corpora)
 - i. The term "Society event" refers to tournaments, feasts, and other activities whereby participants can display the results of their researches into the culture and technology of the period in an environment which evokes the atmosphere of the pre-17th-century European Middle Ages and Renaissance. It also refers to educational activities involving either one-time classes or ongoing Society university organizations, and meetings where participants share skills or discuss the business of the group. All Society events must be sponsored by official branches of the Society, registered with the Seneschal of the sponsoring branch, publicized at least to the members of that branch, and conducted according to Society rules.
4. There is no SCA policy that prohibits an SCA group from charging a "demo" fee to the organization requesting the demo. However, most SCA groups accept donations rather than charging a set fee. With either a donation or a "demo" fee, all monies should be

in the form of a check, payable to the "SCA, Inc., [group name]." Under no circumstances should an individual receive cash or a check made out to them personally. SCA site fees may not be charged at a demo unless the demo is held as part of an SCA event.

5. To improve successful recruitment activities, it is important to collect data on potential newcomers. Those in charge of the demo should provide marketing/recruitment flyers and information pertaining to the SCA and should also have a place to obtain personal information from interested parties. After a demo, the Chatelaine or other designated person should make contact with those interested parties, and help them find out information about the local group, activities, events and so forth.

Activities and Safety

6. In order to be covered by SCA insurance, demos must be approved by the sponsoring group's Seneschal.
7. Since observers of SCA demos are generally not familiar with SCA combat activities, special care for safety must be taken. Boundary ropes are strongly recommended, and sufficient safety personnel must be provided to ensure safety of combatants and observers. Authorized marshals are excellent for this role, as are experienced heralds.
8. A member of the SCA may not hit a member of the public with any weapon regardless of whether the member of the public is in armor and gives consent. Adult members of the public who wish to try armored combat should be referred to the nearest SCA group for instruction.
9. With specific safety restrictions, supervised children age 12 and under may hit an armored SCA fighter with youth combat weapons, **not** rattan weapons. Waivers are not needed from the parents of children who take part in "fight-a-knight" activities. Minimum safety standards include keeping unarmored observers at least 10 feet away from the armored fighter and child.
10. Care should be given to protect the safety and well-being of all spectators, but particularly children should be supervised, especially when trying any interactive arts or sciences (or martial activities - see above.) If a waiver must be signed for participation, only the legal guardian or parent may sign these waivers.

11. Assuming appropriate safety precautions are in place, and with any necessary instruction, participation is a highly effective method of educating the demo guests—and fun for both the SCA member and guest. Always try to gear a demo towards potential recruits, and have hands-on activities available, when possible. Utilize good communication skills and make your primary focus your “audience”, not each other.

Organization and Legal Requirements

12. Demos, where there are no combat-related activities, do not require waivers unless they are held as part of an SCA "event." Therefore, if there is no combat, and the demo is not held at an SCA event, waivers are not required.
13. It is not required that spectators at demos sign waivers, as long as they don't become participants. Participants that are required to sign a waiver are those people who are in direct contact with martial activities (armored participants, target archery, or on the list/range, such as marshals, heralds, fighters, archers, water bearers, etc.). If a participant has a blue card on file, this disregards the necessity to sign a waiver; however a roster-style sign-in is needed for reporting purposes. Waivers may be completed individually, or a roster waiver may be used for adults.
14. As with all martial activities, an authorized marshal of whatever weapon forms are being displayed must be present if there is fighting at a demo. SCA combatants must be authorized in that form/style of weapon in order to perform at the demo.
15. Demo organizers should pay particular attention to site/host restrictions regarding SCA and live steel weapons. In general, it is not a good idea to allow the general public to handle live steel weapons at a demo, and live steel weapons must never be left unattended. SCA weapons (non-live steel) must not be left unattended, and they should not be left in plain sight within easy access of the public. (They may be stored unattended in tents, trucks, etc.)
16. Whenever a demo is performed with children present, a minimum of two unrelated adults must also be in attendance at that demo. "Children" refers to anyone under the age of legal majority.
17. No one may bring weapons of any kind onto the grounds of a school without prior knowledge and consent of the school officials.

If you have specific needs or questions, please contact your Kingdom Chatelaine at midrealm.chatelaine@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Adapted from SCA Demo Policy by Mistress Giovanna Adimari

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