

This is your life; This is your SCA life...

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Part 1: Writing an SCA Resume

With the ever-present need for volunteers, it's often required that someone applying for an office provide some sort of written history of their time within the SCA. At the start, this may seem daunting. Sometimes, no matter how long we've been involved, it's often difficult to quantify what we've done and how well we've done it. Thankfully, there are many examples out there that can provide a starting point which can be turned into your very own.

First, google "SCA resume". Go ahead. I'll wait.

Ok? Welcome back.

So, what sort of things did you see? What did you like?

Now, take that and mix it up. That's how you write an SCA resume. There's no finely tuned formula because each one of us has a unique experience in this game; we each associate with different people, join at new and equally exciting times, focus on various activities and aspects of history.

Like professional resumes, individuality can be your strength, as long as it shows passion, understanding and positivity. In addition, you will need to change your resume based on what it's being used for or the changes that you've experienced in your time in the SCA.

Most resumes I've seen in the SCA include a combination of the following:

- *A brief overview - introduction, photo, how long you've played, persona story, device (picture as well), motto, any affiliations (student, households, fealty,) membership number, expiry date and contact information.

- *Service: Offices held, length in office, published articles, events either as a steward or as a volunteer in other areas, classes, demo participation and projects for royalty etc, websites hosted for SCA

- *Recognition: Awards and references. I prefer to include these at the end because honestly previous awards will not get you an office but they do indicate the length of involvement or, inversely, a desire to get more involved.

- *Interests: current research or projects, future plans, guild associations, contests entered/won, bardic performances, attendance at events & local gatherings. This may not seem applicable to applying for offices but it does indicate a level of involvement and a willingness to experience the game in different ways.

- *Related professional/real life experience: computer skills like database or web

design, education, writing, teaching - any experience that can be applied to the office in question. For example: When I was applying to the seneschal's office, I mentioned that I am required to write a monthly sales report for work so it was clear that I understood the importance of deadlines and that I could write reports.

*If it's a resume created for a specific office, it's also nice to include goals for that office.

Obviously, very few people can include all of these items. Some of these activities can fall into more than one category. These are just suggestions but, hopefully, suggestions that you may not have thought to include. It's a starting point to help establish the details you want to highlight. Then the key is to make it your own.

Now how is that done? Once you have the details, consider what you want to emphasize. This could be influenced by what office you're applying to and who may be reading it. For example, if it's your first time applying for an office you may want to show an overall involvement, length of involvement or how you've been working up to the position. To do this the details could be organized according to areas of interest, chronologically or by responsibility. Other ways to personalize your application include using different types of fonts, colours, and pictures. You can even hand write the resume, much like a medieval letter, as long as it's readable.

Lastly, please remember, not holding an office or official position before in the SCA is not necessarily detrimental to you as the applicant. Not only are there many people available for you to learn from or a team of people at all levels which you will work with and can rely on, often real life experience can mean more than SCA experience. In the end the main criteria for an office is a willingness to learn, understand and do what is required.

The exercise of writing your SCA resume can be helpful for more than just applying to an SCA office. It can be uploaded to your personal website, the An Tir Wiki, help others with details for recommendation letters and, as the next issue of the Avantgarde will show, can highlight how your hobby can be translated into marketable skills for your real life career.

Examples online

<http://www.larsdatter.com/sca-resume.htm>

<http://www.justsomechick.org/OdetteResume.html>

<http://www.blazingsword.com/resume.htm>

<https://santiagosgrimoire.wordpress.com/my-sca-resume/>

<http://research.fibergeek.com/about/sca-resume/>

Part 2: Using the SCA in your real life resume

I can tell you from personal experience that all we do in the SCA can help anyone reach their personal or professional goals; that volunteering, running an event, holding an office, being royalty or working on an A&S project can translate to real world skills. Skill employers are looking for.

First task: Stop thinking of this as a game. It's a hobby that we should be proud of, a part of your much faceted life. If you volunteered at the SPCA, would you hesitate to put that your resume? No. The SCA is not that different. Although we are not a charity, our focus of education, working as a group and creating an experience for others is no less important or less transferable.

In addition, we have stats to back this up: almost 50 years of existence, global membership numbers, and uncounted medieval events.

Second: Forget the SCA Jargon. Consider what potential employers are looking for. No matter what we call it, SCA experience falls under two categories: Team member/Leadership and individual/self-directed. The two can often overlap. Your focus may depend on what job you are applying for.

Below is a chart with just a few of ways to translate our experience into real world terms.

SCA Office/Experience	Real life terms	Team member/Leadership	Individual/Self-Directed
General Branch or Principality officer/Pelican	Volunteer	Project management, management team for the administration of local branch,	Reporting, Year End Reports,
Event related	Event Co-ordinator or volunteer Committee organizer or member. Banquet head.	Team Management including creating schedules, selecting volunteers and delegation.	Event planning such as arranging vendors, signing contracts, site evaluation, insurance set up, creating progress reports, menus, budgets and final event wrap up reports.
Royalty	Chapter or Regional Director Ceremonial head	Team Management, project and ceremony development.	Reviews and creates policy,

Seneschal	President or Administrative officer	Oversees the chapter volunteers, signs legal contracts	Reports, policy review, one on one performance evaluations.
Exchequer	Treasurer	Oversees and records the branch expenditures	Budgeting, Reports,
Peerage	Lifetime organization award.	Coaching, mentoring, advisory	Expertise in organization and medieval skills
Martial Arts/Knights	Sports member.	Teaching, Mentoring, Coaching, Advisory	Developed physical skills.
A&S projects/Laurel	Artistic re-creator	Teaching, Mentoring, Coaching, Advisory	Research, documentation,

Other links:

<http://www.calafia.org/library/Officers.html>

<http://www.slideshare.net/kmfife/making-the-sca-work-for-you>