



Equestrian Newbies

How To Get Involved

1. Please read the Society and Calontir Equestrian Handbooks. They have safety guidelines for clothing needed and equipment regulations that you will need to be aware of before coming around the horses.
2. Come on by and get to know the equestrians! We are generally very welcoming and always wish to include more people in equestrian activities. Just remember, there are strict regulations about mixing horses and the populace, so unfortunately, you'll have to come to us, on most occasions. We officially invite you to come check it all out!
3. Just like with other SCA activities, you can always get involved with equestrian activities at events by volunteering to help out. By volunteering to be a grounds-person, you can immediately help reset equipment and also help with weapon exchanges during the activities. There is always room for more time keepers and heralds, as well. Volunteering is a wonderful way to get to know the veteran equestrians and also get a foot in the door.
4. Try to get to know people with horses at the event. Society rules prohibit us from renting horses for individuals, but that doesn't mean that if you don't have a horse you cannot do equestrian activities! There are many equestrians who will share their horses at an event or will help you get going in the equestrian activities. Please remember, using another person's horses are usually a private agreement between parties. Please understand that it is the right of the owner to deny someone the use of their horse.
 - There can be many reasons for someone saying no to you using their horse:
 - If someone has a green (untrained), broken, or very young horse, they might say no because the horse is still learning, too.
 - The horse may be very high-spirited and only a few experienced riders would be able to control that horse safely in the event areas.

NOTE – Please try not to take a denial to ride a specific horse personally. 9 times out of 10, there is a good reason behind the denial. Also, do not give up! There are probably more horses on the field that may be available for newer riders, etc.

5. Don't always expect a free ride. Bringing horses to events is a lot of work, so if you want to ride, an offer to help with the work will go a long way to a horse owner agreeing to let you ride. Some examples of ways you can offer to "earn a ride" are:
 - Helping the owner to brush the horse before or after the day's event.
 - Helping muck out their stall or pen area.
 - Walking their horse around for cool down time.

6. Keep asking questions! Equestrians are known for wanting to share their experiences and knowledge with the populace. Some good ideas for questions are:

- Asking about a specific breed or type of horse.
- Asking about equestrian garb.
- Riding styles.
- Saddle styles.
- Armor that would be worn in period.
- Competitions.
- Jousting.
- Simply asking for more information about any topic relating to equestrian activities.

Be open to a new experience! Be honest if you're intimidated or scared. We will try our best to make you as comfortable as possible.

-Master Madoc Ap Llewellyn