

Charter for the Barony of Southron Gaard (Updated 8/12/08)

This document outlines certain aspects of the organisation of the Barony of Southron Gaard which are not directly covered under Kingdom Law or Corpora. It is intended to outline the criteria and forms of selection for candidates for Baron and/or Baroness, and traditions in the running of the Barony.

Name: The Barony of Southron Gaard.

Heraldry: The arms of the Barony shall be: *Gules, a tower Or within a laurel wreath, in chief three mullets argent, all within a bordure embattled Or, as an augmentation on a canton azure, four crescents conjoined in saltire horns outward argent.*

Territory: the territory will consist of all parts of New Zealand with an 03 area code, including the South Island, Stewart Island, the Chatham Islands and the NZ Antarctic Territories.

Term length: There shall be no set maximum Baronial term; the Baron and/or Baroness serves at the pleasure of the Crown of Lochac under SCA and Lochac Law.

Populace Survey: Populace Survey: In order to assist the Baron and/or Baroness in their role, facilitate their understanding of the concerns of the populace, and provide information for their reports to the Crown, a survey shall be held every second anniversary of their investiture. The survey shall include a request for feedback regarding the performance of the incumbents, as well as feedback regarding any general concerns, suggestions and long-term aspirations. The survey shall be conducted by the Seneschal, with all results available to both the Seneschal and the Baron/Baroness. Respondents may mark their responses to be read by the B&B or Seneschal only. Anonymous feedback shall be permitted.

Baron & Baroness Exemption: Southron Gaard's Baron and/or Baroness will be exempt from standard entry fees to events held within the Barony, though not those hosted by a dependent group unless its own Council so decides. Such exemptions will include feast costs, but not optional meal plans or other "extras", and will apply to the Baron and/or Baroness only, not to members of their family or entourage.

Baronial Selection Process

Requirements for Candidacy:

- A. Anyone may be nominated for the position of Baron or Baroness provided they intend during the term of their reign:
 1. To remain living with the territory of the Barony;
 2. To maintain a financial membership in the SCA (NZ) Inc, (they must be a member at the time of nomination) and in accordance with Kingdom Law at least one of them must be a subscribing member.
 3. To swear fealty to the Crown of Lochac and to remain in fealty during the entire term of their reign. They must re-affirm that fealty during each coronation ceremony of the Kingdom, either in person or by missive.
 4. To submit reports to the Crown as required by Kingdom Law. In lieu of that report, the Baron and Baroness may leave their office.
 5. To fulfill all other Kingdom and Society requirements of the position; and
 6. To the best of their ability, to maintain a high level of involvement in the society at all possible levels, both locally and further a field.
- B. Any nominee will have the option of running either as a part of a couple or pair, or individually (but not both).
- C. Candidates running as a pair may be a couple, or a partnership of friends. The main requirement is their ability to work together, and with the people of the Barony.
- D. If a single individual is chosen as Baron/ness, he or she will rule solo. No person who was not chosen by the Crown will reign. Thus, the partner or significant other of a solo Baroness X does not become Baron Z.

Submissions of candidacy:

People may nominate themselves as candidates or be nominated by others. Nominations must be confirmed with the nominee(s) before they can be considered official.

Selection process:

Selection will be made by the Crown. The preferences of the populace will be made known to Them by a combination of written submissions to Their Majesties and a Poll.

- A. Written submissions: The populace will be encouraged to write letters to the Crown, expressing their opinions and impressions of the candidates. These letters are preferably to be sent directly to the Crown by individuals. Alternatively, they may be sent to the person appointed to collect the poll forms, to be sent (unopened) on to the Crown with the poll.
- B. A Poll of the populace: A form will be made available which lists all of the Baronial candidates. Individuals will be asked to rank the candidates in order of preference. These forms will be returned to a central point, to be mailed (unopened) en masse to the Crown. They will then be tabulated and the results considered by the Crown. The Crown is by no means bound to consider the results of the poll as if it were an election – it is simply one source of information among the many available to Them. The poll will be tabulated and analysed according to the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system, which ranks candidates in order of preference,

(most preferred to least preferred). The tabulated poll produces a compromise result, rather than a simple numerical majority. This method is designed to pinpoint the candidates(s) acceptable to the majority of the populace.