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Award Recommendations

How to Brag on Your Friends

We all see amazing acts at SCA events. From bards who grant us an exceptionally moving performance, to the fighter who steps out to help get a newcomer into armor, or that one Herald who roams camp every morning to give daily announcements - there is so much that happens at any event that often goes missed by those able to recognize great works. The Crown and Baronage of any group relies heavily on award recommendations to ensure their populace is properly recognized. Hopefully, by the end of this session, you will know how to help them in that endeavor.

What are the awards I can recommend?

Just about any award that exists so long as the individual lives in or has done service for the group that registered the award. It is important to make sure that the award matches the service. (example: It would not be productive to recommend a fighting award to someone who tried heavy/rapier a few times and decided it wasn't for them). It is also important to not be preemptive in your recommendations. Submit a hopeful's name after they have completed the awesome works, but not because you know they will. There are a few that are designed specifically for the Crown to issue at Their discretion. These will be pointed out later on.

How do I know what awards there are?

The awards registered by Unser Hafen, and so able to be awarded by our Local Baronage, are quite easy to find.

[unserhafen.org \(https://unserhafen.wixsite.com/unserhafen\)](https://unserhafen.wixsite.com/unserhafen)

→ Hover over 'Court & Officers' to see link to 'Baronial Awards'

- ◆ This page offers a great visual reference for what awards belong to Unser Hafen.
- ◆ The website also has Baronial email contacts under 'Court & Officers' and 'Court'. To submit a Baronial recommendation, simply email the details to Their Excellencies.

For Kingdom awards you would have to visit a more detailed website. The Outlands has a Wimble Herald whose sole duty is to maintain a website that tracks Kingdom precedence, rank based on what awards have been issued and when.

<http://www.outlandsheralds.org/>



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- Precedence & Awards (<http://wimble.outlandsheralds.org/>)
- “Awards By Kingdom or Barony”, on the left hand side, will take you to a page where the Kingdom and every Barony within has a link which lists the awards for that specific group. Some even have a link to their charter, which is a mini constitution that details the requirements to receive said award.
- Please note, there are awards that can be issued to children as well as long time players.

How do I know what awards a person already has?

From the same Wimble website as listed above, please go to the left again and find “All Awards and Orders for the Outlands and Baronies”. This will show all awards listed under their respective group which will link to a roster of every person who has received that award in the past.

Please note: there is ONE PERSON assigned to keeping this website updated, and they rely on Court Heralds from the Crown and Baronies to send email updates of what awards have been issued. Sometimes there are delays in updates to Wimble.

How do I submit an award recommendation?

Start with a visit to the Kingdom website - <https://www.outlands.org/>

- Login/Logout - Yes. You will have to create login credentials to have access to the Awards Recommendation link. It does not take much, and it allows the system to send you a confirmation email once your recommendation is complete. A submitter does not have to be a paid SCA member to sign up for this website.
- “Award Recommendations” is the first link under Outlands Quick Links on the right
- “Review Kingdom Award Info” will open another tab to the Wimble website where all Precedence and Awards are documented.
- “Submit an Award Recommendation” opens the form needed to do just that.
 - ◆ All required fields have red stars
 - ◆ Note that you do not have to know much of the hopeful’s information but having a name and the local group where they reside will go far in helping the Crown find the person you have submitted
 - ◆ There is another handy link in the middle of the form, “Outlands Awards Descriptions”, that will take you to the Awards by Group list on the Wimble page.



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- ◆ Once you submit a recommendation, the information will be entered in a massive database that the Crown has access to.

When should I submit an award?

An award means that the Crown or Baronage will need to request a scroll from their scribes. This process can take two to three months so please be sure to look ahead when planning your submissions.

For Baronial submissions you can go to unserhafen.org and visit the “Calendar & Events” tab.

For Kingdom events go to www.outlands.org and find “Events” along the top. While there, pay attention to the “Royal Progress” column that shows which events Their Majesties plan to attend.

Can I recommend someone who does not live in my local group?

Yes! You can recommend people from outside your local group to your own Baronage, you can recommend people from outside your local group to their own Baronage, and you can recommend people from within your local group to a different Baronage. As with all recommendations, it will take a little research to make sure you send your words to the appropriate person.

www.outlands.org

- Scroll down on the main page to see a listing of local groups within the Outlands and access their websites
- Each Baronial website will have email contact available for the current Baronage, their Seneschal or their Head of Household.

Can I recommend someone who does not live in my Kingdom? Yes! Just as with making recommendations within the Outlands but it does take a bit more research time. Using a Google search on a Kingdom name should bring up their website or you can visit sca.org and use the link “Find your Kingdom”. Each Kingdom is required to maintain a Heraldry page similar to our own. There is also the option of simply emailing the current Crown or Baronage (whichever you know) with words of your recommendation.

Can I recommend someone for a Peerage? Absolutely! As with all things, consider the timing of your recommendation. A fighter brand new to the SCA and showing incredible grace



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and talent on the field may have every quality you expect to see in a Peer of the Realm - but most awards come with some level of responsibility so submit them for an AOA level award first.

What does 'armigerous' and 'non-armigerous' mean?

Armigerous awards carry with them an Award of Arms. When an armigerous award is given, the recipient automatically becomes a Lord/Lady/Noble of the Realm if they had not been granted an Award of Arms previously. Non-armigerous awards, then, do not carry an AoA. Sometimes listed as a 'Baronial AoA Order', the Crown can put a stay on when armigerous awards are issued depending on how They choose to manage their Court.

What awards should I NOT recommend? Count/Countess, Duke/Duchess, or Viscount/Viscountess cannot really be submitted by the average SCA member. These are elevations that are granted only at the end of a reign to the individuals stepping down from being Crown or reigning over a Principality. There are awards specifically designed for the Crown to issue based on personal service and exemplary grace during a reign (Cordon Royal, Queen's Cypher, Queen's Grace). Unless a player was part of that Royal retinue, and had witnessed such acts themselves, it's difficult to give an honest account of why a hopeful should be awarded.

Why hasn't the award I've submitted ever been given?

There are a few instances that can delay or even prevent an award from being given.

1. A recipient must be a paid member. While there are non-armigerous awards at the Baronial level that allows a bit of wiggle room, lack of membership will result in the recommendation being left for a later time.
2. The recipient already has the award but the Wimble website has not yet been updated.
3. The Crown had already commissioned a scroll be made for a different award. Most of the time (there have been exceptions) the Crown tries not to 'stack' multiple awards on one person at one event. Sometimes the Crown will ask their Baronage to delay a local award in light of a Kingdom one being issued. Worry not, your recommendation stays in the database if that award has not yet been issued.
4. A scroll has already been requested for that award. This only could possibly occur for an award like Walker of the Way, which is only issued once per reign. Should the Crown already have a person in mind (and scroll in progress) your recommendation may be left for the next reign to consider.



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5. "At the discretion of the Crown" is in effect. Please remember, during any reign the Crown does get a final say on what awards will be issued at the Kingdom level. They can even put restrictions on what awards may be issued at the Baronial level: if the Crown instructs that they want all Award of Arms to be granted from their hands only, then members of the Baronage are not able to issue their own armigerous awards without first getting permission.

That's it! Some time, internet searching and one login is all you need to submit recommendations. Go forth and brag, but feel free to reach out if you have any questions!