

Web Resources for Demos

Demos are a common activity in many SCA groups. They are a means to educate the public about life in the Middle Ages, to recruit new members, and to show off the crafts and skills that SCA participants have learned. Someone is always asking “How do I plan this type of demo?”, “What are some different activities we can plan?” or “How can we make our demos more effective?”

There are a number of “hidden” resources for planning and doing demos, some with detailed steps for putting on each type of demo, suggestions on follow-up activities, and personal conduct guides for those representing the SCA to the public. The hospitaller or chatelain of a group is often the officer in charge of organizing a demo. So, for the novice demo coordinator or the experienced officer, here is a list of currently webbed handbooks which contain a wealth of material about demos. Some of the sources are only one page long; others are large, detailed handbooks. Explore and enjoy!

An Tir: Go to http://www.antir.sca.org/Offices/chatelaine_handbook.pdf and scroll down to “Demos”. You will find seven pages of material on types of demos, promotional material, personal conduct, etc.

Atlantia: Go to <http://chatelaine.atlantia.sca.org/> and click on the *Chatelaine’s Handbook*. Look for Chapter 3 on demos. Includes types of demos, ideas for organizing them, guidelines for participation, handout suggestions, displays, activities and post-demo follow-up.

Avacal: (a Principality of An Tir) Go to http://avacal.antir.sca.org/officer/chat_files/thetome.pdf and locate page 9 for a summary of points. There is more detailed information in the *Demo Handbook* at http://avacal.antir.sca.org/officer/chat_files/principality_demo_handbook.pdf

Caid: Go to www.sca-caid.org/chatelaine/publicat.htm for a *Demo Coordinator Handbook* filled with items such as types of demos, guidelines, letters of introduction, topic guidelines and a questionnaire.

Meridies: Go to <http://www.meridies.org/chatelaine.htm> and click on *Chatelaine’s Handbook* to download a Word document. While there is little specifically on demos, there is information on handouts, flyers and brochures as well as recruitment and publicity suggestions.

Drachenwald: Go to www.drachenwald.sca.org/files/chatelaine/index.html for information on how to do a display. Appendix 1 contains ideas for demos.

East: <http://www.eastkingdom.org/chatelaine/handouts/handbook.doc> includes goals and types of demos; then details how to plan for each, items to bring, how to set up the demo, expectations during and after the demo as well as a suggested list of demos.

Northshield: http://www.northshield.org/officers/seneschal/Chatelaine_Handbook-1.pdf includes five pages on how to put on various types of demos and displays, especially educational and recruitment. Also includes information on developing handouts (content, format, artwork and newcomer packets).