

State of the USA SCA Equestrian Program Pennsic

7-19-07

Greetings to All,

My words come your way through Lady Eleri Vwyn who generously organized this social Meet and Greet for equestrians & non-equestrians alike attending Pennsic. Please enjoy each other's company and know that I am there in spirit.

We equestrians are unique children in our big family of reenactors, and sometimes are looked upon as elitists. This may be because we are usually relegated to the back 40 and tend to stay to ourselves, out of sight. I have heard comments from some of our cousins across the known world who say that we only *do* equestrian; and we don't branch out to the other arts and sciences that make up the entirety of our society. This is far from true. Perhaps it is time to break out of the back 40 not only with our arts and sciences projects but with the horses too. Looking authentic in garb and demonstrating authenticity in our horsemanship and skill-at-arms in full view of the populace proves we equestrians are an integral part of our reenactment society.

This actually happened at Gulf Wars where a group of highly skilled mounted fighters demonstrated a mounted melee at the opening of the last battle. Word spread far and wide on electronic news boards of this and has changed the perception of equestrian activity in the SCA.

With the introduction of the newer mounted military games, we have raised the bar in our level of play. This obviously means we must raise the bar in our level of training as well.... training in playing, training in marshaling and training in safety. This, as well as serious research into our history, will change our reputation not only within our society but also within other reenactment organizations. I know that there are many of us who make the effort toward authenticity, yet some are still playing horsey games in costume while using the wrong weapon per game. If you are making a commitment to raise the bar in your level of play, then research your persona too. Try to make it right.

That said, we are about to embark on a new direction with our game in the SCA. Our new handbook was submitted for review by the Board of Directors. If it is passed, you as an equestrian will be held liable for your training, equipment, level of horsemanship and safety. If you come to the field untrained, cause danger by acting in an unsafe manner or hassle the Marshal in Charge, you will be asked to leave and may get your card jerked.

We must live up to our honor, and be courteous to those who work hard to keep our program alive. Get involved through volunteering. It takes the load off of those who stepped up to oversee *your* program. Volunteering is the **ONLY** way we can exist in our community. The spirit of community is the **ONLY** way we can continue to thrive. Try to remember these two important facts as we advance into the future.

Here are some statistics reported up through the 2nd quarter report:

We have 19 kingdoms reporting.

With 124 Eq. Marshals

957 Authorized Adults

47 Authorized Minors

We hosted 2 interkingdom and 25 kingdom events with equine activities.

We have an average of 65 horses who play in the SCA per event, and an average of 68 riders who show up to play in the SCA per event.

There have been 5 accidents reported due mostly to equipment failure or spooked horse syndrome.

Most kingdoms *get it* on how to use the Equestrian Waivers, Signage and when to order the Equestrian Insurance Certificate. However, I have found a few who have had some difficulties understanding these vital procedures. Please know that it is highly possible that our program could be shut down across the USA if these procedures are not followed. If *you* fail at one of these, *you* may be the one who causes a total suspension statewide. Support your community by complying with the requirements for equestrian activities in the SCA.

I leave you with one word: **Community**. This is *your* community, make it a great place to play and a safe place to learn.

Thank you for your ears,

In Service to the Equestrian Dream,

Yaasamiin

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Mu'Allemah Yaasamiin al-Raqqasa al-'Alaa'iiyya OL, OP
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