

SCA 2020 Census – Part 1

You are invited to participate in the 2020 Census Survey for the Society for Creative Anachronism. In this survey, we ask you to respond to questions about membership, participation, events, and your experiences in the SCA. This is the first part (of three parts) of the SCA 2020 Census. In this part we will ask you about your experience in the SCA, and your thoughts on various SCA-related issues. This survey should take 20-25 minutes to complete.

Your membership number is not used, and your answers will be anonymous. We are asking for this information to help us determine how the SCA is changing over time, and what the membership is looking for in the organization.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. Your privacy is important, and we advise participants to not include personal details in responses. There are no foreseeable risks associated with this project. However, if you feel uncomfortable answering any questions, you can withdraw from the survey at any point. It is very important for us to learn your opinions.

Your survey responses will be strictly confidential and data from this research will be reported only in the aggregate. Your information will be coded and will remain confidential. We have put together an FAQ to give you more information about the SCA 2020 Census.

You can find the SCA 2020 Census FAQ here: <https://www.sca.org/sca-census-2020-faq>. If you have further questions about the survey, you may contact census@sca.org. Thank you very much for your time and support.

Please start with the survey now by clicking on the Next button below.

1. Have you ever participated in the SCA?

- I currently participate in the SCA, SCANZ, SCAA, SKA Nordmark, SKA, VCA, GIG, CIC, or SCA-Austria.
- I do not currently participate in the SCA or one of the affiliate organizations, but have participated in the past.
- No, I have never participated in the SCA or one of the affiliate organizations.

Selection Options

1. Participants who respond as currently participating will continue to the full survey.
2. Participants who respond that they are no longer participants, will have access to a shorter survey relevant to questions pertinent to their discontinuation
3. Participants who have never been active in the SCA will be thanked, and directed to the SCA homepage

We're going to start by asking you a few questions about your involvement in the SCA.

1. How long have you participated in the SCA?

- Less than 2 years
- 2-4 years
- 5-9 years
- 10-14 years

- 15-19 years
- 20-24 years
- 25-29 years
- 30-34 years
- 35-39 years
- 40-44 years
- 45-49 years
- 50 or more years

2. If you can remember, in what year did you first begin to participate in the SCA?

- Drop-down menu, from 1966 until 2020, plus I don't remember.

[We have both these questions because the second question has a fairly high rate of non-answer, but gives rich data]

3. How many kingdoms have you lived in while you've been active in the SCA, including your current kingdom)? If you lived in a principality that later became a kingdom, please only count it as one.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6 or more

3. Which SCA kingdom do you currently live in? (Drop-down menu)

- Æthelmearc
- Ansteorra
- An Tir
- Artemisia
- Atenveldt
- Atlantia
- Avacal
- Caid
- Calontir
- Drachenwald
- Ealdormere
- East
- Gleann Abhann
- Lochac
- Meridies
- Middle
- Northshield
- Outlands
- Trimaris
- West
- I'm not sure

5. Which other kingdoms have you lived in?

- None - I've only lived in one kingdom
- Æthelmearc
- Ansteorra
- An Tir
- Artemisia
- Atenveldt
- Atlantia
- Avacal
- Caid
- Calontir
- Drachenwald
- Ealdormere
- East
- Gleann Abhann
- Lochac
- Meridies
- Middle
- Northshield
- Outlands
- Trimaris
- West

6. What is the highest level of award you have received in the SCA? Please answer according to the award from which your precedence arises, not necessarily the one you prize the most.

- I have not received an award in the SCA
- An award without an Award of Arms (AoA) attached (non-armigerous), like a baronial award
- An Award of Arms or AoA level award
- Grant of Arms (grant) or grant level award
- Court Barony
- Peerage (Chivalry, Pelican, Laurel, Defense/MoD)
- Royal peerage (Viscount/ess, Count/ess, Duke/Duchess)
- I Don't know

7. Which of the following awards have you received (understanding that not all kingdoms or local groups give all of these awards)? (If you are unsure of any of these awards, speak with your local herald)

| | A&S | Service | Armored (Heavy) Combat | Rapier (Light) Combat | Other award |
|------------------------------|-----|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| AoA (armigerous) level award | | | | | |
| GoA (grant) level award | | | | | |
| PoA (peerage) level award | | | | | |
| Baronial/local level | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| award (armigerous or non-armigerous) | | | | | |
| Principality award | | | | | |
| Kingdom award (non-armigerous) | | | | | |

8. Have you ever served as any of the following? Check all that apply.

- Territorial (including Palatine) Baron / Baroness
- Prince / Princess of a principality
- King / Queen
- None of these

9. How many SCA events did you attend in 2019 (the last calendar year)?

(A formal SCA event is one at which garb / costumes are required and which is published in a newsletter as an event, i.e., not a fighter practice, guild meeting, business meeting, or demo.)

- None
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-6
- 7-9
- 10-12
- 13-18
- 18-24
- more than 24
- I'm not sure

10. How often on average did you attend the following local SCA activity in 2019?

| | I haven't attended one | Once or twice in the past 12 months | Once every two to three months | Once a month | 2-3 times a month | At least once a week | Not sure |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Business Meeting | | | | | | | |
| Fighter Practice | | | | | | | |
| Other martial activity | | | | | | | |
| A&S or guild meeting | | | | | | | |
| SCA Demo or recruitment event | | | | | | | |
| Local SCA informal gatherings or get-togethers | | | | | | | |

11. What offices or positions do you hold, or have you ever held, including as a deputy? (check all that apply)

| | Local | Regional/ Principality | Kingdom | Society/ Corporate |
|--|-------|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Seneschal | | | | |
| Exchequer | | | | |
| Herald | | | | |
| A&S Minister | | | | |
| Marshal - Adult | | | | |
| Marshal - Youth | | | | |
| Chronicler | | | | |
| Web minister | | | | |
| Social media | | | | |
| Children's officer/YAFA | | | | |
| Scribe/Signet | | | | |
| Guildmaster/mistress | | | | |
| Other officer | | | | |
| BoD (for any org within the SCA) committee member | | | | |

12. Please tell us a little bit about your persona: What region is your persona from? (If you do recreation from multiple areas, check all that apply)

- I don't really have a persona or I'm not sure
- Western Europe
- Eastern Europe
- Scandinavia
- Southern Europe
- Middle East and North Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- India
- Central Asia and Mongol
- East Asia or Southeast Asia
- Latin America
- North America (outside of Latin America)
- Other (please specify) _____

13. What time does your persona date to? Again, if you recreate multiple periods, check all that apply.

- 1650 CE or later
- 1600-1650 CE
- The Renaissance (roughly 1450-1600 CE, depending on where)
- High Middle Ages (roughly 1000-1450 CE, depending on where)
- Early Middle Ages (roughly 500-1000 CE, depending on where)
- Classical Roman period (300 BCE - 500 CE, depending on where)
- Classical Greek period (1000 - 300 BCE)
- I don't really do a period or I'm not sure.

- Earlier (please specify) _____

14. In which SCA activities do you currently participate? (check all that apply)

- Armored combat / Heavy / Hard suit fighting
- Fencing / Rapier / Light fighting
- Cut and Thrust style fencing or other similar fighting
- Target archery
- Combat archery
- Equestrian activities
- Thrown weapons
- Siege weapons
- Holding an office
- Event stewarding
- Heraldry
- Running children's activities
- Cooking / Brewing
- Costuming / Making garb
- Calligraphy / Illumination
- Performance (music, bardic, storytelling, etc.)
- Dancing
- Craft: Fiber arts
- Craft: Metalwork
- Craft: Woodwork
- Craft: Stonework
- Craft: Leatherwork
- Craft: Ceramics/pottery
- Craft: Glasswork
- Craft: Other material not mentioned
- Games
- Outdoor activities, like hounds, hunting, etc.
- Revels / Parties
- Researching Renaissance / Medieval life
- Teaching classes / Universities
- Writing newsletters, maintaining websites, social media
- Merchunting
- Retaining, working for royals
- Other (please specify) _____

Next, we're going to ask you some questions about how you got involved in the SCA and what you do now.

15. How did you first hear about the SCA?

- From someone I knew (for example: friend, acquaintance, family)
- At an event (for example: Renaissance/Medieval fair, convention, college fair, an SCA demo, or just stumbled across it by chance)
- From communications or marketing (for example: radio, newspaper, website, social media, flyer, including SCA publications)
- From another recreational/social group (for example: another re-enactment group, LARP)

- Other (please specify) _____

16. What were your primary reasons for participating in the SCA when you first started?

(check all that apply)

- Personal interest (in history, arts and sciences, etc.)
- Entertainment (it looked fun)
- Social reasons (being a part of the SCA community; friends and family are in the SCA)
- Interested in medieval romance (e.g., medieval dress, combat activities, tournaments, chivalry)
- Other (please specify) _____

17. What keeps you involved in the SCA now? (check all that apply)

- The relationships I have (e.g., household, friend, family, a mentor, or dependents)
- Arts and Science activities
- Service activities (e.g., holding an office, helping out)
- Martial activities (e.g., armored combat, fencing, archery, thrown weapons, or other combat activities)
- The romance of medieval history
- The recognition system is motivating
- Attending events or regular local activities
- Other (please specify) _____

18. Have you ever gone through a period (or multiple periods) when you were less active in the SCA than you are right now?

- Yes (*selecting this response will prompt related questions*)
- No (*selecting this response, the participant will skip related questions*)

18a. What led to the decrease(s) in your activity level in the SCA? (Check all that apply)

- Children
- Other commitments outside of the SCA reducing time available (work, school, family)
- Lack of money
- Declining health or injury
- Personal conflicts
- Experienced discrimination (e.g., homophobia, racism, poor accessibility)
- Other hobbies have become more of a priority
- Disagree with SCA mandates and/or policies
- Lost interest or engagement
- Taking a short break to recharge after holding an office/role
- Other (please specify) _____

18b. What made you become more active again? Please check all that apply

- Communication from the local group inviting you back
- Communication from the kingdom or Society level inviting you back
- The local group becoming more active
- Changes in the leadership of your local group
- Finding a new SCA activity to focus on
- Having more time
- Having more money
- Improved health

- Receiving recognition (formal or informal) for what I did
- Encouragement from friends
- Making new friends
- Change in personal relationships (children got older, start of or end to relationship)
- Encouragement from a mentor
- Missing SCA activities, friends, etc.
- The desire to return to a specific SCA activity
- Relocation to a new area
- Resolution of local issues or interpersonal conflicts
- Change in group politics
- Improvement in accessibility issues in selecting meeting sites, event planning, etc.
- Other (please specify) _____

18c. If you have suggestions as to how to improve the experience of being in the SCA, please feel free to express them here.

[text box]

19. How often do you read your kingdom's e-newsletter at least in part?

- I don't receive the newsletter, so I can't read it
- Every month
- Every few months
- Only once or twice a year
- I don't ever read it

20. What would make the kingdom newsletter easier to use?

[text box]

The next section asks questions about how we receive information within the SCA.

21. What SCA social media platforms do you use? (check all that apply)

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Meetup.com
- YouTube
- Zoom/Teams/other meeting software
- Discord/Slack/other chat software
- None
- Other (please specify) _____

22. Do you participate in any of the following types of email lists? (check all that apply)

- Your kingdom's main e-mail list (including announcements lists)
- Your local branch's e-mail list
- An e-mail list about an SCA specialty activity or office (like dance, heraldry, scribal activities, seneschals, etc.)
- An order or award e-mail list/online group

- The Board's Announcements e-mail list/online group
- Unofficial email lists such as SCA humor, stories, lifestyles, etc.
- Other (please specify)

23. If you use Facebook for SCA, what types of groups/pages do you use? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Official Kingdom Group/page ▪ Official Local Group/page (Shire, College, Canton, Barony, Principality, etc.) ▪ Official Group/page for a kingdom or local group other than where you live ▪ Official Group/page for an Award/Order ▪ Official group/page for Officers ▪ Official group/page for event staff ▪ Official group/page for a specific event such as a war or tournament | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Official group/page for arts and sciences activities ▪ Official group/page for martial activities ▪ Unofficial group/page for a household or warband ▪ Unofficial group/page for a Kingdom/Barony/Shire, etc. ▪ Unofficial group/page for a specific event ▪ Other (please specify) |
|--|--|

24. How often did you use social media for the SCA in 2019 (reading or posting)?

- Multiple times a day
- Daily
- More than once a week, less than once a day
- Once a week
- More than once a month, less than once a week
- Once a month
- A few times a year
- Never

24. During the COVID-19 pandemic, did your social media SCA activity level change?

- It increased
- It decreased
- It neither increased nor decreased

25. How did social media influence your participation in the SCA in 2019?

- A very positive impact
- A moderately positive impact
- Neither positive nor negative
- A moderately negative impact
- A very negative impact
- My lack of involvement in social media has affected my ability to be active in the SCA
- It has not affected my participation

25. How has social media influenced your participation in the SCA during the pandemic?

- A very positive impact
- A moderately positive impact
- Neither positive nor negative
- A moderately negative impact
- A very negative impact
- My lack of involvement in social media has affected my ability to be active in the SCA
- It has not affected my participation

26. What are some of the ways SCA social media has affected your participation in the SCA? (check all that apply)

- I feel more connected to what is going on in my area
- I have more day-to-day interaction with the people in my SCA group
- I feel more left out of what is going on in my local group because I don't participate in SCA social media
- I interact with people online that I would not otherwise have had much contact with in-person
- There are more opportunities for community building
- There is more information available about events or activities going on near me
- I attend fewer in-person events than I used to
- I attend more in-person events than I used to
- There is more pleasant interaction with other SCA members
- There is more unpleasant interaction with other SCA members
- There has been more discourteous and unchivalrous behavior
- Online bullying has made participation in the SCA more difficult
- Increased social media activities have caused a larger generation gap between younger and more senior members of the SCA
- Disorganized posting of information online has made it more difficult to find accurate information about what is going on
- Other (please specify)

27. What SCA websites do you use? Please check all that you use.

- The main corporate/society website
- Your own kingdom website
- Other kingdom websites
- Your local branch website
- Other local branch websites
- Event websites
- Specialty websites - heraldry, A&S, martial activities
- Other (please specify)

29. Where do you go to get SCA news or information? (check all that apply):

- Print newsletter
- Electronic newsletter
- Website
- Email list
- Facebook
- Other social media platform, such as Twitter
- Message boards
- Word of mouth/from friends
- In-person at meetings or events
- Other means not listed (please specify)

30. How would you prefer to get SCA news or information? (check all that apply):

- Print newsletter
- Electronic newsletter
- Website
- Email list
- Facebook
- Other social media platform such as Twitter
- Message boards
- Word of mouth/from friends
- In-person at meetings or events
- Other means not listed (please specify)

31. How can the SCA improve how we communicate?

[text box]

We'd like to ask you about children's activity in the SCA.

32. Do you have any children under the age of 18? If so, how many?

- None (*selecting this option, the participant will skip all child-related questions*)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6+
- My children are over the age of 18, but I have raised my children within the SCA

32a. For each child, give their age and activity level.

| | Age (between 1 – 17) |
|---------|----------------------|
| Child 1 | |
| Child 2 | |
| Child 3 | |
| Child 4 | |
| Child 5 | |
| Child 6 | |
| Child 7 | |
| Child 8 | |
| Child 9 | |

32b. Please provide the activity level for each child.

| | Activity Level (drop-box Very active, somewhat active, not at all active) |
|---------|---|
| Child 1 | |
| Child 2 | |
| Child 3 | |
| Child 4 | |
| Child 5 | |
| Child 6 | |
| Child 7 | |
| Child 8 | |
| Child 9 | |

32c. What things have positively affected your child(ren)'s activity level?

- A formal youth program (e.g., YAFA, Pages' program)
- SCA community is supportive of families with children
- Family rates make it possible for families to afford ongoing activities
- Wide range of educational opportunities and mentoring for child(ren)
- Child(ren) learning about commitment and service in the SCA

32d. What things have negatively affected your child(ren)'s activity level?

- Increased cost for events and activities
- Few to no activities for families with young children
- Few to no activities for families with older children
- Accessibility limitations for child(ren) or parent/adult
- Concern for safety or legal issues involving children
- Commitments at events make it difficult to effectively supervise child(ren)
- Other (please specify)

32e. Do any of your children participate in:

| | Yes | No, I was not aware of the program | No, they're not interested | No, program does not exist in our area/kingdom |
|---|-----|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Youth armored combat? | | | | |
| Pages' Guild/Program? | | | | |
| Youth and Families Activity (YAFA) Program? | | | | |

Now we'd like to ask you a few questions about the SCA awards system.

33. Do you think there are people who should be peers but remain unrecognized because their specific endeavor is not covered by an existing peerage?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

34. Thinking of such a person, please describe their work and how they act that make them worthy of the peerage.

[text box]

35. Are there activities or endeavors that you do in the SCA that you feel are not adequately covered by the existing award structure? Please describe those activities and how they might be better recognized.

[text box]

36. Do you think that the standards for peerage level awards has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same over the years?

- The standards have increased
- The standards have decreased
- The standards have stayed about the same
- It takes longer but the standards are about the same
- It depends on the peerage
- I don't know
- Other

37. Now we'd like to ask about specific martial activities and how they might be recognized within the peerage system.

For each of the following, rank how you think they should be recognized. *(Drop-down options include: Do not recognize at the peerage level, Recognize within the Order of the Laurel, Recognize within the Order of the Chivalry, Recognize within the Order of Defense, Recognize within the Order of the Pelican, Recognize within a new peerage order for this activity alone, Recognize within a new peerage order shared with other activities on this list)*

| | Select option from drop-down |
|---|------------------------------|
| Combat and target archery | |
| Target archery alone | |
| Combat archery alone | |
| Equestrian | |
| Thrown weapons | |
| Siege Weapons | |
| Other martial activities not currently recognized | |

38. Various people have suggested changes to the SCA. For each of the following, tell us how desirable you would consider such a change.

| | Very Undesirable | Somewhat Undesirable | Neutral / No Opinion | Somewhat Desirable | Very Desirable |
|--|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Increase the focus on authenticity | | | | | |
| Decrease the focus on authenticity | | | | | |
| Make events more focused on a single historical time and place | | | | | |
| Make the SCA experience and activities more similar around the world | | | | | |
| Reduce the focus on armored combat/heavy fighting | | | | | |
| Reduce the power of the Crown | | | | | |

38a. Various people have suggested changes to the way the SCA conducts its business. For each of the following, tell us how desirable you would consider such a change.

| | Very Undesirable | Somewhat Undesirable | Neutral / No Opinion | Somewhat Desirable | Very Desirable |
|--|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Eliminate all corporate governance and move to kingdom-based governance only | | | | | |
| Improve recruitment efforts and/or care and feeding of newcomers | | | | | |
| Make decision making more transparent | | | | | |
| Reduce bureaucracy and reporting requirements | | | | | |
| Reduce number of required officers | | | | | |
| Reduce the services available to members to cut costs | | | | | |
| Remove the requirement for paid membership to serve in office (including as Crown) | | | | | |
| Remove the member discount for events | | | | | |
| Require a paid membership to attend events | | | | | |
| Require a paid membership to be authorized for martial activities | | | | | |
| Require a paid membership to receive an award | | | | | |
| Rework the awards system to make a clearer connection between accomplishment and award | | | | | |

39. What things are working well in the SCA? (If you have no opinion, feel free to leave the comments box blank.)

[text box]

40. What things are not working so well in the SCA or would you like to see change? (If you have no opinion, feel free to leave the comments box blank.)

[text box]

41. Are you currently a paid member of the SCA, Inc. or one of its affiliate organizations? (Please ignore brief lapses, such as for the COVID-19 pandemic)

- Yes (*selecting this response will skip the next few questions regarding lapsed membership*)
- No (*selecting this response will continue to the next question*)

41a. For how long have you been a paid member? Please ignore brief lapses, such as forgetting to renew your membership for a few months. If you let your membership lapse for a year or more, count from the most recent renewal.

- less than one year
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years
- 20-25 years
- 25-30 years
- 30 years or more

41b. For what reasons are you a paid member? (check all that apply)

- Because I think it's important to support the organization
- Because if I am going to participate, I should be a member
- To receive publications like my kingdom newsletter, TI, and CA
- To hold an office or other position
- To participate in certain activities (martial or otherwise)
- To have IKAC scores counted
- To receive awards
- To retain group status (to have enough paid members in our local group)
- To help pay for the SCA's insurance policy
- Because I was encouraged (or told) by another member to do so
- To pay the member discount price at events
- To not have to do paperwork at events
- Other (please specify)

41c. Is there a specific additional benefit to membership or other change that you would really appreciate as a paid member?

[text box]

41d. Why have you currently chosen not to be a paid member? (check all that apply)

- It costs too much money / Too expensive

- I just haven't gotten around to it
- I don't want to give money to the corporate level
- I don't like joining organizations
- I'm not active enough to make it worthwhile / Don't need one
- The politics
- One isn't required
- I disagree with corporate policies
- There aren't enough benefits to membership
- Other (please specify)

41e. Have you been a paid member in the past?

- No
- Yes

41f. Would you be interested in becoming a paid member at some point in the future?

- Definitely
- Probably
- Unsure
- Probably not
- Definitely not

41g. Is there a specific additional change (policy change, additional benefit to membership) that would make it more likely that you would be interested in becoming a paid member in the future?

[text box]

Thank you for completing the first part of the SCA 2020 Census. Click [here to proceed to Part Two.](#)