



Welcome to the Shire of Cúm an Iolair !

The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) began in 1966. It has grown into an international, not-for-profit, educational organization dedicated to the study, research, teaching, preservation and re-creation of pre-17th century European culture, known as the Middle Ages and Renaissance eras.

The SCA is similar to many of the Civil War re-enactment groups, but simply covers a different (and wider) span of time and a larger number of countries.

Our organization's name explains a lot about us. An anachronism is something that is out of its proper time frame. In this case we're re-creating the Middle Ages in the modern world. The creative part comes from how we're approaching this re-creation. It has been said that the SCA recreates the Middle Ages "as they should have been". And while it's true that we forego things like plagues, inquisitions and fleas and do utilize modern indoor plumbing; a better description is that we *selectively* recreate medieval culture, choosing elements of the culture that interest and attract us.

The SCA is perhaps best described as a living history hobby organization, as we take an approach different from many study groups. Rather than just reading about history or just viewing artifacts in a museum, we research aspects of history and attempt to produce the items associated with the research. For example, after researching armor, we then make actual replicas of the armor, which we use in re-creation of combat. We also offer classes to our members of various topics dealing with our studies and research in the arts, crafts, technologies and sciences of the Middle Ages.

In emulation of the Middle Ages, the SCA has divided the world into regions known as Kingdoms. The Kingdom of Calontir consists of Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, and part of Arkansas. Within these kingdoms are local chapters or groups of members (called shires, cantons, strongholds, baronies, etc).

The Shire of Cúm an Iolair, covering southern Johnson and Miami Counties in Kansas, is one of three SCA groups in the Kansas City Metro area. The Barony of Forgotten Sea and the Canton of Aston Tor are the other two groups. Cúm an Iolair means "Valley of Eagles" and thus our heraldic device contains an eagle. For additional information on the group's focus, its activities and history, peruse the Shire webpage at: <http://www.shireofcai.org>

Like other clubs, the local chapters of the SCA have various meetings and activities. Many of these are held "in garb", meaning that members wear clothes made like those from the Middle Ages. The larger activities (called events) that are held usually focus on re-creating a day at a medieval faire, royal tournament or special feast day.

There is a wide variety of arts, sciences and crafts that are practiced in the SCA. Just a few of these are:

Archery, Bardic Arts & Story-Telling, Equestrian Activities, Blacksmithing, Brewing & Vintning, Bookbinding, Calligraphy & Illumination, Pottery, Clothes-making (including accessories), Combat Fighting, Armour-making, Chainmail, Weaponsmithing, Glasswork, Cooking, Fishing, Drawing & Painting, Heraldry, Jesters & Foolery, Herbalism, Leatherwork, Metalwork, Woodworking, Fiber Arts, Needlework, Embroidery, Lace-making, Knitting, Weaving, Spinning & Dyeing, Jewelrywork, Games & Toys, Tent-making, Performance Arts (Dance, Music, Singing, & Theatre), Candlemaking, Soapmaking, Papermaking as well as Children's Activities.

If a craft happened in the Middle Ages, you will probably find someone in the SCA doing it! For further info on these activities, please visit this webpage: <http://www.modaruniversity.org/interests.htm>

If you want more information on the SCA, the times & locations of meetings or how to get involved, please contact either:

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