

Kingdom of The East
Kingdom Youth Activities Guidelines for Local SCA
Groups
October 2004

Whereas the Society of Creative Anachronism understands parents ultimately know what is best for their individual children, the Kingdom of the East also holds the safety and encouragement of children in the SCA as our paramount concern. So we find that rules must be established in the Kingdom of the East to reasonably guarantee the safety and well being of the youth population in our lands, and protect adult youth officers and others against personal risk and liability. With the consent of the Crown and Kingdom Seneschal of the East, the below listed guidelines shall be enforced as Kingdom Policy by all SCA local groups in the Kingdom of the East.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN AT SCA EVENTS

1. Parents/guardians remain responsible for knowing where their children are and what their children are doing at all times while at SCA functions.
2. Parents must not expect other adults to supervise, monitor, or otherwise control children who are wandering unaccompanied at events. Parents/guardians may arrange for a responsible adult or older teen to supervise young children when necessary.
 - a. At SCA events/activities
 - i. All children under the age of five should be supervised at all times by their parents/guardians or a responsible adult or older teen designated by the parents/guardians.
 - ii. Children between the age of 5 and 12 should not be allowed to wander freely without some level of supervision.
 - iii. Whether in the care of a responsible person, or supervised while attending youth activities, all youth under the age of 18 should be checked on periodically by parents or guardians to ensure their continued safety and suitable behavior.
 - b. Children under 12 are not considered suitable baby-sitters for younger children.
3. When children need adult supervision in a bathroom (due to age or illness), it is up to the parent/guardian to provide that supervision, or (if a parent feels it is acceptable), the parent must designate others to accompany the child to a bathroom in their absence. Children who are ill must remain in the care of the parent or responsible person and should not be brought to youth activities.
4. If a child is endangering themselves or others, or causing excessive

problems at an event, the autocrat, children's activity coordinator, or other concerned person must approach the parent concerning the problem. This should be done with tact and courtesy and with the expectation that the situation will be remedied in a timely and appropriate manner.

PARENTAL CONSENT FORMS

Parent(s) who allow their minor child(ren) to attend an SCA event without them may wish to complete two copies of the following form for each child:

1. An official **Temporary Guardianship Form** designates a responsible adult who can act for the parent on the behalf of the child. The duration of this form can be event specific, or for a specific period of time, generally no longer than 6 months.
2. A medical form authorizes the designated adult to seek medical treatment as needed.

SCA SPONSORED YOUTH ACTIVITIES AT SCA EVENTS

In the Kingdom of the East official SCA groups are encouraged to offer organized SCA Youth activities as a positive outlet for children to participate and become actively involved in the SCA. However, these activities CANNOT be construed as a babysitting service for members of the populace, and the following guidelines shall apply:

1. Official SCA groups shall ensure that all SCA children's activities in the Kingdom of the East are approved by the Baron and/or Baroness (where applicable), the Local Group Seneschal, and at least one other Local Group Officer (Youth Minister, A&S Minister, etc.).
2. SCA Children's Ministers/Officers, and the adults supervising children's activities, shall have no authority to restrain children other than their own, unless the child is in immediate danger of hurting themselves or others. Therefore, Children's Ministers/Officers and the adult supervisors may not be held responsible for the whereabouts of children, or for correcting their conduct.
3. Official SCA groups shall ensure that all SCA children's activities in the Kingdom of the East are administered with a "Two Deep Leadership" model. This means that:
 - a. Youth activities may only take place when two unrelated adults are present, and the two adults must be in attendance at all times for the duration of the activity. The two adults may include two adult member/leaders, or one paid adult member/leader and one other adult, as long as both adults are

- 21 years of age or older.
- b. Youth ministers/officers are responsible for ensuring that sufficient leadership is provided for all activities, and have the right and responsibility to cancel activities when the necessary two adults are not available.
 4. Whenever practical, organized SCA children's activities must be offered within the eyesight of other adult parent(s) and guardians. Caution, such as open doors, should be exercised when activities are offered in a separate room of the event facility.
 5. No SCA Children's Officer may accompany an individual child into a bathroom, although groups of children may be escorted to the facility building. When children need EMERGENCY adult supervision in a bathroom, adult leaders/facilitators must observe the "two deep" model as stated above and/or make use of a partially or completely open door.

SCA SPONSORED YOUTH ACTIVITIES AWAY FROM SCA EVENTS

When a children's meeting is announced and held at an officially sanctioned SCA event or fighter practice, it is covered by SCA waivers, and subject to all Kingdom and Society laws. Outside of those activities, SCA groups should not routinely schedule SCA youth activities in any member's private residence, since anything planned "unofficially" at a private residence reaches beyond the jurisdiction Of the SCA. Meetings/activities in a private home will only be considered "official" if it has been appropriately published and approved by the necessary officers. (These include Baron and/or Baroness (where applicable) Local Group Seneschal, and at least one other Local Group Officer Youth Minister, A&S Minister, Knight Marshal etc...) Unofficial gatherings and classes are not covered under SCA policy.

An official SCA group may choose to make exceptions to this rule when an activity primarily directed in support of SCA youth activities CANNOT reasonably be held at an officially sanctioned SCA event.

When "official" events are approved to be held in private homes or settings, the following guidelines MUST then be enforced for activities in a home:

1. Children under the age of 12 must attend the activity with a parent or legally authorized adult.
2. Children over the age of 12 may attend at the parents' discretion.
3. In ALL cases, the two unrelated adult leadership model is to be strictly enforced, and two adults must be in attendance as long as children are present. Spouses do not qualify as the necessary two adult leaders in these cases.

SCA CHILDREN MINISTERS/OFFICERS

Organized SCA Youth activities are offered as a positive outlet for children to participate and become actively involved in the SCA. These activities CANNOT be construed as a babysitting service for members of the populace.

1. SCA Youth Ministers/Officers shall have no authority to restrain children other than their own, unless the child is in immediate danger of hurting themselves or others. Therefore, Children's Ministers/Officers may not be held responsible for the whereabouts of children, or for correcting their conduct.
2. SCA Youth Ministers/Officers must be familiar with (and must enforce) the guidelines in this document and the Handbook for Chancellors Minor / Ministers of Youth for the Kingdom of the East for all SCA sponsored youth activities.
3. SCA Youth ministers/officers are responsible for ensuring that sufficient leadership is provided for all activities, and have the right and responsibility to cancel activities when the necessary two adults are not available.
4. In order to be a Youth Minister/Officer in the Kingdom of the East, please see: The Handbook for Chancellors Minor / Ministers of Youth for the Kingdom of the East for requirements, duties and responsibilities.

Deviation to this Policy

Any deviations from the guidelines set forth in this policy need to be approved by the East Kingdom Chancellor Minor, prior to the need for the deviation.