



Tir Righ Arts & Sciences Championship Handbook

Rules and Regulations

When and Where is it?

The competition will be held at the second annual Investiture at the hosting branch site. The competition will be held on the Saturday of the event with the outcome announced at the Saturday evening Court.

What is an A&S Champion?

The Arts & Science Champion is expected to be an inspiration and role model for encouraging others to become more interested in the Arts and Sciences and to be a beacon for anyone willing and desirous of historical knowledge. You are expected to continue to grow, develop and contribute to help make this Society the best it can be.

You, as Champion, will be representing the Principality through your leadership and by your example. The Champion has a public presence in promoting the Arts and Sciences. This can include activities such as setting up A&S Displays at events and teaching classes during your year tenure.

The Champion will show a breadth of skills, and will be ready and able to judge, teach and guide with gentleness and compassion. Your role is to lead by example and help others.

The Champion will play a major Ceremonial role in helping putting together the next year's contest to choose his or her successor. This includes promoting the contest, recruiting contestants and judging. The Champion is also entitled to wear the regalia of their position as a Champion of Tir Righ A&S, to be near the Coronets of Tir Righ, an invitation to sit at the Head Table if available and to be present behind the Storm Thrones during court.

Requirements of the Competition:

- Each entrant must have proof of membership in the SCA on the day of the competition.

- An entrant must submit a letter of intent to the Coronets of Tir Righ and the Arts & Science Minister four weeks prior to the competition but ideally before the second coronet of the same year. This is to ensure suitable judges can be located prior to the event. The email (or letter) should include your name, home branch, any fealty ties (if you're a squire, a protégé or an apprentice for instance), whether you are entering a full entry, single or multiple entries (entering more than one entry but not to be the overall champion), a detailed description of each entry and any special requirements you may have for any of the entries.
- If you want to change or significantly alter an entry you are making after you have send in your letter of intent, please let the Arts and Science Minister know at least two weeks prior to the start of the competition.

Requirements for a Full Entry:

- An entrant must submit a minimum of three entries but can enter four if so desired.
 - Only the top three scores will count towards the final total.
 - One of the three pieces (or two out of the four) can be entered unfinished.
- Each entry can be in the form of any of the following:
 - Performance piece (presentation, dance, music, etc.)
 - An object (book, clothing, footwear, box, etc.)
 - Research paper:
 - Only one of the entries can be a research paper (see below for more info).
 - To clarify: You can enter 3 objects, 2 objects and a performance piece, etc. it's really up to you.
- Each entry must be consistent with a pre-1600 date and can be from any culture within Europe or from a culture that traded with a European society. This can include Asia, North Africa and others.
- Your pieces cannot have been previously entered at Kingdom level.
- A piece can have been entered at the Principality level previously but only if there has been significant notable changes (you should be able to discuss these changes with the judges).
- Don't forget- no one is looking for a museum replica piece, the idea is for this competition is to encourage people to be creative and research their own arts & science interests.

Requirements for a Single, Multiple or Group Entry:

- Any person may enter a piece without the goal of being the overall A&S Champion. You may enter up to three pieces but the letter of intent is the same as for a full entry to ensure judges can be arranged (four weeks prior to the competition).
- A group of people may enter a piece as well. This is an entirely period-appropriate thing to do. Please document how each person contributed to the overall piece.

In-depth Feedback without Officially Entering:

- In this case, an artist may still bring their piece with full documentation to the Competition but their piece will not be scored. Instead, you will receive feedback from one appropriate judge. This is a much less-stressful but incredibly useful way for you to talk to someone with experience in your field and get feedback. Please discuss your intent for this category with the Arts and Science Minister two - four weeks prior to the competition with your ideas so an appropriate judge can be found.

Displaying and Presenting:

- Participants are expected to display each physical entry (object, research paper, etc) together in one place. How you choose to display is up to you but you are encouraged towards displays that are relatively easy for people to understand.
- Photocopies of documentation: Please bring at least three copies (one for each judge) with one more for yourself during your presentation with an option for a fifth copy for the public to examine before and after judging.
- There will be three judges per entry.
- You will have 30 minutes to present your piece. This includes your discussion of the piece, any questions the judges may have and the time it takes to judges to complete the score sheet. Please remember the judges are not out to trick you but to gain a better understand of the methods and materials you used and the decisions you made in the creation of the piece.

Research Papers:

- You can make one of your pieces a Research Paper. This can be an incredibly good medium to put forward new ideas and to show the level of research you have conducted. Your paper can be on any topic you wish as long as it explores in depth an aspect of pre-1600 AD life. Feel free to discuss your topic and get feedback from any previous champion or the A&S Minister. We highly encourage you to conform the paper to either the MLA or Chicago style. This will allow you to enter the paper at the Kingdom level later.
- Your paper can be of any length as long as the topic is covered 'in depth' (which *can* mean between 10-15 pages double-spaced including figures and a reference section).
- A copy of your paper must be submitted to the Arts and Science Minister four week prior to the start of the Competition.

Documentation:

- Every entry must include written documentation. It can be easy to forget certain details during your oral presentation but written documentation gives you the opportunity to make sure you can cover the aspects of your piece you want and help show how you

made the decisions you made. It's a great way to show the judges what went into your pieces.

- Documentation can take a couple of different forms depending on what you are comfortable with as long as the information you want to highlight is conveyed. The thing to remember is you want to move beyond bringing photocopies of source material: to have something you wrote yourself to help explain what you are entering. *The two reporting options will likely be scored differently with the Scientific Approach scored out of a slightly higher score to reflect this more challenging options: probably a piece with Article Form documentation will be out of a possible 100 while the Scientific Approach will have a possible 110 score.* The two styles of documentation are;
 - **Article Form:** This is a more informal approach that allows the Competitor to create documentation suitable for publishing in an SCA newsletter as a stand alone article on their piece. The language is more relaxed and the text has accompanying photos. Usually in this form, your documentation is between four to six pages. The guiding principle is to write to an audience who probably doesn't know much about what you are entering. Competitors are encouraged to enter this style of documentation into the principality newsletter to share your interest with others following the competition!
 - **Note:** This option is a new, trail approach to encourage a wider interest in entering A&S competitions. Their Highnesses reserve the right to adapt this option in future for the betterment of the competition.
 - Links to examples:
 - le: http://www.hucbald.ramst.ca/articles/leonardo_catapult.html
 - **Scientific Approach:** This method involves writing a more traditional paper with structured sections and subsections (Introduction, Methods, Discussion, and Summary etc.). While this method does allow the Competitor to more fully explore a topic on paper, it can be too long for the judges to read in its entirety. There is no length range for this category; the paper is as long as it needs to be. This is the more common approach seen at the kingdom level at present.
 - Links to examples:
 - Links to MLA or Chicago style formatting
- Make sure to choose an easy to read font for the text, you can always use more period-looking fonts as Titles or Subtitles.
- Some ideas you'll want to cover:
 - **Describe** your piece: What is it? Who used it? How was it used?
 - Give your piece a **Context**: Where is it from? What can you say about the culture?
 - **Processes** involved: How did you make it? How would it have been made in period?
 - **Choices** you made in making the piece: Can you provide time and place appropriate examples for the choices you made? Did you have to choose modern techniques and materials?
 - **Summary** paragraph: Sum up everything you just covered above.

- Give a **Source Listing**: what did you use to research your piece. This can be anything; a book, musical score, paper, an artifact, even a conversation with an expert.
- If your documentation can justify your choices on the following points you should be fine:
 - Overall impression of the piece (colour, shape, texture)
 - Material choices
 - Construction methods
 - Dimension choices

How to Enter:

- Please send your email (or letter) of intent to the current A&S Minister and the Coronets of Tir Righ four weeks prior to the start of the competition. You can also use the handy [Championship entry form](#). Please include the current A&S Champion who will be helping locate appropriate judges.

Remember...

There are many great reasons to enter this competition besides winning. Getting your work known in the Principality and being an active, contributing member of the Arts and Science community comes with its own rewards. Good luck and have fun!