

AWARDS, AND WHERE TO FIND (AND RECOMMEND) THEM

In the SCA, like many other organizations and societies, we like to recognize those individuals who are exploring and excelling in their passions. There are three main “areas” of awards in the SCA: martial/combat awards, arts and sciences awards and service awards. This document will outline the major Altavian and Caidan awards, briefly touch on some of the more unique honors in Caid, and provide you with some resources and tips on how to recommend your deserving fellow Altavians and Caidans for these awards.

Altavian (Baronial) Awards

Guide to Altavian Awards - <https://altavia.sca-caid.org/awards/>

Aechan – Altavia Youth Award. Given to outstanding young members of the barony. Can be given for skill in combat, arts and sciences, or service.

Argent Fret – This award is given for skills in the arts and sciences.

Sable Fret – This award is given for service to the barony. Augmentations to this award are also given to those who continue to serve the barony above and beyond and year after year.

Vert Fret – This award is given for skill and chivalry in the combat arts. It is possible to receive (and recommend) this award for the following fighting forms:

- Archery
- Armored Combat
- Equestrian
- Rapier
- Thrown Weapons
- Unarmored Combat

This award is a polling order, meaning that any recommendations for the Vert Fret are reviewed by the current member for that fighting form and the order informs the Baron and Baroness as to the worthiness of the candidate.

The Starre and Stone – This is Altavia’s lifetime achievement award, given for exceptional service to barony AND the kingdom over many years. This, too, is a polling order so recommendations will be forwarded to the current members of the order for their consideration. This award has been, in recent years, only presented at Yule.

Caidan (Kingdom) Awards

Guide to All Caidan Awards - <https://wp.sca-caid.org/about-awards/>

Description of all Kingdom Awards - http://heralds.sca-caid.org/op/honor_info.php

At the Kingdom level across the Knowne World, there are several established tiers of awards for our three main award areas: Award of Arms, Grant of Arms, and Patent of Arms. These are known as “armigerous” as they grant the award holder titles and the right to display certain emblems on their

devices and persons. [The details of this is a whole other class](#) that I can teach later, if people are interested. For the purposes of our class, I will just be using the groupings to talk about the awards. There are many other awards in Caid that are “non-armigerous” that I won’t be discussing today. I urge you to take a look at wp.sca-caid.org/all-awards for descriptions of all the available awards.

Award of Arms (AoA)-level Awards

Grants the title “Lord” or “Lady”. While these awards are all at the same “level” and confer the same title, a person can receive more than one (e.g., an Award of Arms, later a Harp Argent, at another time a Dolphin, etc.)

- [Award of Arms](#) – This is usually (but not always) the first award earned by people in the SCA. This is the “we see you and you are a part of our Society” award. This is a Society-wide award
- [Argent Arrow](#) – Given to recognize superior skill and appearance in target archery
- [Chamfron of Caid](#) – Given to recognize superior skill in equestrian arts
- [Crescent Sword](#) – Given to recognize excellence in armored combat
- [Dolphin of Caid](#) – Given to recognize superior service to the Kingdom
- [Duellist](#) – Given to recognize excellence in rapier combat
- [Harp Argent](#) – Given to recognize a particular art form or scientific endeavor (though rare, there is the potential to earn more than one if the person excels in multiple arts or sciences.)

Grant of Arms (Grant)-level Awards

Grants the title “The Honorable Lord” or “The Honorable Lady” (often abbreviated “THL”). As with the AoA level awards, receiving one does not exclude you from receiving another at some other time.

- [Grant of Arms](#) (often called a “naked” grant) – These awards are fairly rare in Caid since the other grant awards were created and was last given in 2015
- [Argent Blade](#) – Given to recognize outstanding ability in rapier combat. (The White Scarf of Caid, now closed, used to be the Grant order for rapier. This is why you see folks like Master Laertes, Master Colwyn and Don Nathaniel wearing white scarves tied on their upper arm)
- [Chiron](#) – Given to recognize outstanding ability in archery
- [Crescent](#) – Given to recognize outstanding service to the Kingdom
- [Gauntlet of Caid](#) – Given to recognize outstanding ability in armored combat
- [Golden Lance of Caid](#) – Given to recognize outstanding ability in equestrian arts
- [Lux Caidis](#) – Given to recognize outstanding skill in the arts or sciences in Caid

Patent of Arms or Peerages

Grants the title of “Master” or “Mistress/Dame” or, in the case of the Chivalry (aka knights), “Sir”

These Society-wide awards are top-end awards in their fields, akin to an Eagle Awards in Boy Scouts or a Gold Award in Girl Scouts. Like Altavia’s Starre and Stone, these are all polling orders and each peerage makes recommendations (based on letters received) to Their Majesties once per reign of potential new members. These are recommendations only and can be accepted or rejected, though Their Majesties usually follows the recommendations of the order.

- [Order of Chivalry](#) – Given to recognize highest excellence in armored combat
- [Order of Defense](#) – Given to recognize the highest excellence in rapier combat

- [Order of the Laurel](#) – Given to recognize the highest excellence in arts & sciences
- [Order of the Pelican](#) – Given to recognize the highest excellence in service to the realm

Making Award Recommendations

General Tips - <https://wp.sca-caid.org/award-tips/>

Order of Precedence (OP) - http://heralds.sca-caid.org/op/honor_info.php (to see if someone already has a particular award)

Recommend Someone for a Kingdom Award - <https://wp.sca-caid.org/award-recommendations/>

Recommend Someone for a Baronial Award – Email baronage@sca-altavia.org

Who can write an award recommendation letter?

Anyone can recommend someone for an award. You don't have to have received any award to recommend someone for that award or even, necessarily, participate in the activity, though some knowledge of the field is helpful for adding the appropriate details to your letter.

How do I write an award recommendation letter?

Have you noticed a fellow Altavian being particularly helpful? Have you been enjoying the work of a bard over many months? Is there someone you've noticed is not just a beast on the field but also honorable and is sadly lacking in recognition? Then it's time to write a recommendation letter!

1. **Know Your Target** – Before you start to write an award letter, go to the Order of Precedence (OP) (<http://heralds.sca-caid.org/op/op.php>) to make sure if they don't already have the award you want to recommend them for. If you are not able to find them in the OP, they either don't have any awards yet or you may have misspelled their name. If you run into issues, please feel free to reach out to me for help!

2. **Do Your Research** – If you wish to recommend someone for an award in an area that you're not necessarily familiar with, reach out to people that are involved in that area. Ask questions like, "What do you consider 'Harp' level work in your art?" or "What are the qualities of a 'Gauntlet' level fighter?" While for most of the awards, it's solely up to Their Majesties, these conversations will help guide you in what to note in your letter. It's also important to write the letter for the appropriate level of award/not "skip" levels. For example, if someone already has an AoA and continues to do great service, you should write them in for a Dolphin and not a Crescent.

3. **Write to Your Audience** – For Kingdom awards, you are writing to Their Royal Majesties. They rule over a kingdom of thousands and are not all-seeing or all-knowing, so you are going to need to put as much detail and specificity in your recommendation letter as possible. Talk about specific events the gentle has served at and what the service was, specific pieces of art that caught your eye and what about the art puts it at AoA or GoA-level, or what skill the gentle has shown over several tournaments and what acts of chivalry were shown alongside this prowess.

You also want to make the letter as easy to read as possible because (hopefully) Their Majesties are receiving many letters and will need to be able to absorb your point as quickly as possible. I suggest using bullet points to list activities and accomplishments.

For baronial level awards, you are writing to your Baron and Baroness (usually) and about members of their own populace that they should be familiar with so you may not need as much “evidence” as you might for a kingdom letter. However, Barons and Baroness aren’t psychic either so please be sure to include at least one or two pieces of “evidence” to support your letter and jog our memory 😊

You’ll notice that the award letter submission form includes spots for a link to their Caid Wiki page, social media page and/or URLs of photos of them and their work. It’s a good idea to include this info whenever possible as it will help Their Majesties, Their Excellencies and anyone else who is charged with reviewing the recommendation letter get a better idea of your candidate.

Additional tips on writing and sending a good award recommendation letter can be found on the kingdom website at <http://www.sca-caid.org/files/awardsletter.pdf>

Example of an Awards of Arms Recommendation Letter

Greetings to Their Royal Majesties, King/Queen Name and King/Queen Name:

I would like to heartily recommend milady Newbie of Altavia (mundanely known as Mindy Mundane) for an Award of Arms. Newbie has been playing in Altavia for the last half year and, in addition to being an active part of our Monday night fighter practices, she has:

- Helped with serving at the most recent Coronation feast.
- Helped with tearing down the kingdom pavilion after Gyldenholt Unbelted.
- Consistently helped others shuttle their items to and from their cars at events.
- Volunteered as part of the Altavia Anniversary planning committee.

For the reasons stated above and because she has shown she is a valuable part of Altavia and Caid, I recommend that she be considered for an Award of Arms.

Yours in Service,

Lord Someone de Somewheresburg

Barony of Altavia