**Populace of Avacal, hear these words!**

**At the Celebration of Twelfth Night in Montengarde, a competition shall be held to choose the next Champion of Arts & Sciences for the Barony of Montengarde!**

**Who can compete?**

All those residing in Montengarde, along with members of the surrounding Shires and those who live within the King's Land are welcome to vie for this championship and the honour of being Montengarde's Emerald Rose. All those who enter to compete for the championship must be paid members in good standing of the SCA at the time of the competition, and for the duration of their term as champion. https://www.sca.org/join-us/

**When & Where?**

The competition will take place at Twelfth Night hosted by Montengarde on January 17 , 2026. Please see the event schedule on the Montengarde website or the Facebook event for detailed times.

Participants should arrive in advance of the scheduled time for the championship in order to set up their displays.

**Theme**

The OPTIONAL theme for this competition is "Things I Learned At TUA" (the University of Avacal). This theme is to celebrate the amazing culture of learning and sharing we have in Avacal, and I would love to see how classes you've taken (anywhere) have influenced your A&S journey.  This theme is optional and is meant only to inspire.

**Cooperative Competition**

The judging format for this competition is cooperative judging. This means that competitors will be judging one another rather than presenting to a panel of volunteer judges. The goals are to encourage knowledge sharing, collaboration, and enhance the community aspect we have.

**How to enter?**

Message the current Champion, Drifa at champion-as@montengarde.org and Their Exellencies at excellencies@montengarde.org with your intent to vie. Include a short description of your pieces by January 2, 2026.

**Deadlines**

1. The deadline to submit your intention to vie is January 2, 2026.  Late entries will be allowed on a case-by-case basis.
2. For research papers ONLY, your deadline to submit your paper in PDF format https://www.easypdfcloud.com/ (to Drifa only) is January 2, 2206 (for distribution to your fellow competitors to read in advance)

3. The deadline to submit your documentation in PDF format (to Drifa only) for all other projects is January 9, 2026 (for distribution for your fellow competitors to read in advance)

**Projects & Requirements**

1. Two physical projects, research papers, or ephemeral projects (or mix) submitted for in-person judging. Projects/Papers should have been completed within the past year, however can have been started at any time within the past five years.
2. Documentation of your project (see https://avacal.org/documents/ for more information) should be 5-25 pages including cover/title page, table of contents, images, and references. Appendices with additional information are optional. Research paper entries have no page limit, but should include an executive summary. Print at minimum 4 copies of your documentation. (https://www.calgarylibrary.ca/your-library/free-services/printing)
3. An oral presentation of your projects to fellow competitors and any interested members of the populous.
4. Offer constructive and supportive feedback to your fellow competitors, and score their projects based on the Kingdom of Avacal Rubrics
5. Stay with your projects at minimum for the duration of the championship term to answer questions of the populous who might be interested in your work beyond your judging period.

**Rubric**
We will be using the Kingdom of Avacal Rubrics https://avacal.org/documents/

**Day-of expectations**
Please see the day schedule for more details, but you can expect to:

1. Arrive in time to set up your display and get comfortable in the space. You will have one table (size unknown, but likely approx. 5ft rectangle) for both of your projects at the same time.
2. Invocation of the Lists - there will be a short court where you will be introduced to Their Excellencies and declare in-person your intention to vie to be their champion. You may be introduced by the Court Herald, OR ask a Herald of your choice to introduce you to Their Excellencies and the populous. You may have an inspiration escort you into court if desired.
3. Return to your table and be prepared to tell curious members of the populous about your projects/papers!
4. At the scheduled time, either visit your fellow competitor's table, or be prepared for others to join you at yours. You should be prepared to present your first project in 5-10 minutes, and answer questions in the remaining 10-15 minutes. Your presentation should be a summary of your documentation, which your judges (fellow competitors) already had the chance to read.
5. You will then circulate and become a judge, listening to your fellow competitor's project, and asking questions to learn more about their projects.
6. There may be other activities (classes, socialization) happening in the space at the same time - please keep this in mind in terms of noise and distractions/concentration.

7. Once you have done the first round of presentations and judging, there will be time for a break and to fill in your judging sheets. Expect to spend about 5-10 minutes per sheet. You will be judging on your own; discussions around the projects themselves can happen during the presentation stage. While you're filling in the sheets, please ask your inspiration or a friend to supervise your table.
8. Then you'll proceed to the second round of presentations and judging as before.
9. After each round of filling in your judging sheets, submit your sheets into Drifa who, along with the Montengarde A&S Minister (if available) will tabulate the scores and determine the winner. After this, Drifa will be seeking Their Excellencies to confirm the winner of the championship.
10. Drifa may approach you before/after tabulation to confirm the pronunciation of your name. They may also ask if you would like to know if you were the winner in advance, or if you would like to be surprised.
11. The winner will be called into court to accept the honour of being Champion, and should be accompanied to the thrones by their inspiration if they have one. They will be asked to swear fealty to the thrones of Montengarde (if able to do so) and accept the (many) symbols of their championship (regalia). They will then be asked to take their place behind the Minotaur Thrones as champions of Montengarde. They will also process out of the court with the other champions behind Their Excellencies.

**Staging or displaying your projects**

For all projects, including ephemeral and research paper projects, I highly suggest considering display or staging your entries to make them engaging, attractive, and draw people in to ask questions. This can include use of tablecloths, backgrounds, presentation boards, multiple levels to display things attractively, adding additional elements, bringing tools you used to create your work, bringing works-in-progress or first-attempts, etc.

**Responsibilities of the Champion**

The only written-in-stone responsibilities of Montengarde's Emerald Rose is to promote the Arts & Sciences within Montengarde, give council to Their Excellencies where requested regarding A&S in the Barony, **and** to host the competition to find their successor.

However, winners MAY also choose to:

● Join Their Excellencies behind the thrones during court, particularly at Montengarde events (Dragonslayer, Samhain, Twelfth Night) and wherever else the Champion is able to attend.
● Host a monthly or twice-monthly A&S night on the Montengarde Discord server. This can be any format you choose.
● Champion A&S in the surrounding Shires and King's Lands as requested - this may include assisting Defenders for their own competitions, or other involvement.
● Teach classes, host A&S practices, or in other ways help champion the A&S community in Montengarde.
● Organize competitions, tournaments, displays, classes, or other A&S activities at Baronial events.
● Participate in demos showcasing Montengarde and the SCA where available and accessible. (ex: Summer Skirmish)

- Assist members of the populous with questions around research, A&S, or other areas of knowledge, or help make introductions or referrals where possible.
- Coordinate with Montengarde's A&S Minister as needed for baronial A&S activities.

**Accessibility and accommodations**

- Bullet points are fully acceptable for documentation where appropriate.
- References can include online sources, in-person sources, online classes, blogs, etc, you are not restricted to just books to learn about what you're working on.
- If you struggle doing presentations in front of people, you may record yourself on video doing your oral presentation. You will need to bring a laptop or tablet to play the video. You are fully responsible for ensuring the video plays (technology, wifi/data, etc).  You will still need to answer questions in-person.
- During the presentation, if you need to stop to catch your breath, need an anxiety break, etc - this is all fine. Consider bringing water, etc.
- Reading off a script is absolutely fine for your oral presentation if you have memory or concentration concerns. Cue cards/ index cards are also welcome.
- There will NOT be the technology available for slide shows/power points (ei projector, screen, etc). If you want to do a slide show, you will be responsible for providing your own laptop/tablet and the accompanying technology to present your work.
- The use of ChatGPT (etc) is discouraged, however using voice-to-text to write your documentation is fine. Dictating to a friend is fine. Having someone else edit your work is fine. If someone else writes the bulk of your project documentation, they should be appropriately credited for their work.
- You do not need to stand for the duration of your oral presentation; sitting is fine.
- Aspects like lighting, sound, scents, unfortunately can not be controlled as other people will be using the space alongside the A&S Championship. The space predicted is upstairs, however there is an elevator for anyone with lots to carry or with mobility concerns.
- If you need larger font print materials, please bring these (in print or digital format) for yourself.
- Please speak to Drifa for any additional accommodations required to ensure your successful participation.

**Single entry projects:** Each participant who wishes to vie for the championship must present two projects/research papers. However there will also be room for single-entry projects for those who are not competing for the championship.

- You should follow the same documentation requirements and deadlines
- You will not be included in the Invocation of the Lists
- You are also asked to stay with your projects to answer questions from the populous when not doing the judging process
- You may be asked to join the judging process of the competing projects

**FAQ:**

*Do I need to be a member of the SCA to enter?*

Yes, you need a membership to vie for champion and to be Montengarde's champion. https://www.sca.org/join-us/

You do NOT need a membership for a single-project, non-competitive entry.

*Do both of my projects need to be part of the "Things I Learned At TUA" theme?*

Neither of your projects need to be part of the optional theme, it is just there to inspire!  You do not need to tie either of your projects to the theme if it doesn't suit what you want to display.

*What about unfinished projects?*

The more complete your projects are, the more constructive feedback will be, but we would rather you submit a work-in-progress with your documentation than sit out for another year. This competition is about research, fun, sharing, and A&S, not about producing deadline-induced anxiety. Unfinished projects are welcome.

## Judging goals

The goals of cooperative competition is to facilitate knowledge sharing, enhance community, and support collaboration. Feedback should be supportive and constructive.

- If you have additional resources you think your fellow competitor could benefit from, please share them!
- If you have knowledge about their chosen subject, offer to chat more about it!
- Highlight their successes, and offer constructive criticism about areas they could invest in IF they choose to take this project from Baronial competition to the Kingdom championships.

If there are any judging conflicts (ei: Laurel and their Apprentice both competing) please let me know in advance so I can arrange groups to try to avoid conflicts. This may be unavoidable depending on the number of entries.

Questions? Message Drifa on Facebook, or email Drifa at champion-as@montengarde.org