

Youth Marshaling 101

Responsibilities of the Youth Marshal - On the list

1. To the best of their ability, a marshal will ensure that youth combatants are adhering to the minimum armor and weapons standards while on the list.
2. To stay alert to the activities on their list and assist young people in developing honorable, fair, and chivalrous behavior on the list.
3. To call 'HOLD' when something which may endanger a fighter has or is about to occur.
4. Assist fighters in learning how to calibrate their hits, and also how to recognize when they have themselves been hit.

Responsibilities of the Youth Marshal - Toward the SCA

1. Submit reports to your DEM Youth Combat within a week of an event in which they have marshaled or MIT'd
2. Submit quarterly reports to your DEM describing your activities for the previous quarter (dates will vary by kingdom)
3. Submit injury or incident reports to the autocrat of the event at which the injury or incident occurred or to the seneschal of the region if it was at a practice.
4. Make sure to keep accurate lists of attendance at your marshal activities. Get your paperwork to your regional MOL in a timely manner (this may also vary by kingdom)
5. Maintain your background checks to be able to continue to work with youth at SCA sponsored activities (even if you have someone who reminds you that it is due... it is still your responsibility to get them done, and sometimes, that person forgets. It's still your job!)

Responsibilities of the Youth Marshal - Toward themselves

1. Always ask for help. Marshaling is not a one-person job. Don't be afraid to ask parents of youth fighters, other adults who might be watching, or older youth who have aged out of the program to lend a hand.
2. Train MITs as you can. None of us will be here forever, and it is only by training new people to do this job can any of us retire and still leave a program behind. Some MITs may decide they don't want to become full marshals. That's ok. This isn't for everybody! There are others who will. The better trained they are, the better the program becomes.
3. Always, always keep to the two deep rule. Always.

How do I become a youth marshal?

1. Express an interest to a marshal at an event. They will begin helping you get acquainted with the role.
2. Get a copy of your kingdom's youth combat rules. Some kingdoms just go by SCA Society rules, others have heavily edited versions of these for their own rules. Read through them.
3. Talk to a full marshal about training. There should be some guidance on this in your kingdom's rules.

4. Get your SCA background check according to the provisions of your kingdom.
5. After completion of the training requirements of your kingdom, talk to your DEM about changing your status to a full marshal.

How do I start a regular practice?

1. It usually works well to have youth combat either immediately before or immediately after an adult heavy list practice. Both youth and adult fighters benefit from this association. If you have a regular practice in your region, talk to the HL Marshal in charge and see if they would allow you to begin
2. If you need to find a place to hold a practice that is not run concurrently with adult list, places to consider using include libraries (many have large, indoor spaces which can be reserved for use by residents which may be useful during times of year not amenable to outdoor practices), church basements, VFW halls, schools, firehouses, and high-traffic public parks (which are great for publicity, as well)
3. Holding practices in an open, public space is a good idea because it draws attention, and is likely to bring interested observers. Many of these practices become their own informal demo!
4. Make sure to keep the parents of at least your younger fighters with you. It's required for the younger ones, and because they are present, will often become helpers to you. Treat them well. Without good people to help you run a practice or activity, your practice will not thrive.

How do I grow my practice?

1. Attend demos with a few of your fighters (and their parents). These will often bring interested people with good questions.
2. Have a flyer or business card with your contact information on it. Include things like times/dates of your practices and web addresses with more information about the program.
3. Build up a supply of loaner gear. Kids grow fast. People will often donate old and outgrown youth armor to marshals with the request that they pass it on to someone who needs it. Keep these donations on hand to enable interested youth to try on when they first come to a practice or demo. Try to maintain your loaner gear by keeping it in good repair and clean. A pack of chlorox wipes or lysol in the bin to use between events/practices will work well.

What should I avoid?

1. Do not hold youth practices in your private residence, even if you have the space to do so. This is not expressly forbidden, but it's unwise in the current environment, and can lead to legal entanglements that are unpleasant for everyone. Use public spaces with plenty of people present to help make the activity both safe and fun.
2. Once in a while, go to an event and do something OTHER than youth combat. You'll thank me later.

Most of all... Have fun!