

Kingdom of Atenveldt
Kingdom Youth Activities Guidelines for Local SCA Groups
November 2004

(Date of last review: November 2005)

Whereas the Society of Creative Anachronism understands parents ultimately know what is best for their individual children, the Kingdom of Atenveldt 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 Atenveldt 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 Atenveldt, the below listed guidelines shall be enforced as Kingdom Policy by all SCA local groups in the Kingdom of Atenveldt.

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.
 - a. At SCA events/activities, no children under the age of five shall ever be left unsupervised by their parents/guardians. Specifically, children between the age of 5 and 12 will not be allowed to wander freely without some level of supervision. Whether in the care of a responsible person, or supervised while attending youth activities, children must 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. Parents must arrange for a responsible adult or older teen to supervise young children when necessary.
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 their 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 adult must approach the parent concerning the problem. This should be done with tact and courtesy with the expectation that the parent will correct the situation with their own child.

PARENTAL CONSENT FORMS

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

- 1) An official **Temporary Guardianship Form** designating a responsible adult who can act for the parent on the behalf of the child. If the minor is not a member of the SCA, this form allows the guardian to sign the necessary SCA Minors Waiver at troll. In Arizona, this form must be notarized and becomes a legal power of attorney. The duration of this form can be event

specific, or for a specific period of time, generally no longer than 6 months.

- 2) A completed **SCA Medical Authorization for Minors** that authorizes medical treatment to be provided in the event of an emergency. This form is generally event specific, and lasts only for the duration of the event. It must be notarized.

These forms are available for download on the FORMS page of the Kingdom of Atenveldt Website at <http://www.atenveldt.com/Default.aspx?tabid=29> and must be completed prior to attending an SCA event. One copy of the forms must be surrendered to Troll when the child arrives at the event. A second copy must be kept with the adult guardian at all times.

SCA SPONSORED YOUTH ACTIVITIES AT SCA EVENTS

In the Kingdom of Atenveldt, 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 Atenveldt are approved by the Baron and 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 or reprimand 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 Atenveldt are administered with a "Two Deep Leadership" model. This means that:
 - a. Youth activities may only take place when two 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 paid adult member/leaders, or one paid adult member/leader and a parent of a participant, as long as one of the two is 21 years of age or older.
 - b. Warranted 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 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 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 may designate others to accompany the child to a bathroom in their absence.

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.

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. These exceptions can only be made with permission of the Baron and Baroness (where applicable), the Local Group Seneschal, and one other warranted Local Group Officer (Youth Minister, A&S Minister, etc.). When exceptions are approved, the following guidelines MUST then be enforced for activities in a parent's home:

- a. Children under the age of 12 must attend the activity with a parent or legally authorized adult.
- b. Children over the age of 12 may attend at the parents' discretion.
- c. In ALL cases, the two 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'S 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 Children's Ministers/Officers shall have no authority to restrain or reprimand 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 Children's Ministers/Officers must be familiar with (and must enforce) the guidelines in this document for all SCA sponsored youth activities.
3. 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 an official Children's Minister/Officer in the Kingdom of Atenveldt, an officer must meet the following conditions:
 - a. **The officer must be a paid member of the SCA.** The SCA does not permit discrimination by age, except where modern law required such discrimination, and does not permit discrimination by gender at all. Any subject residing in a Kingdom who meets the membership requirements set forth in Corpora may hold any office or offices to which he or she may be duly appointed.
 - b. **The officer must be warranted for the office** in accordance with Kingdom guidelines, and the officer must maintain your SCA membership for the duration of their warrant.
 - c. **The officer must complete a Kingdom of Atenveldt Youth Officer Application.** This is a standard form so that the Kingdom Youth Minister and Kingdom Seneschal will

have general contact information regarding all youth officers in the Kingdom.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. An adult wants to hold a class that requires specialized equipment that cannot be lugged about, and offers to host the class at their home. The parent of a teenager who wants to make the item in question would like their child to take part in the project. Can they participate?

A. Absolutely, so long the activity is supervised by two adult leaders who are not spouses, and they follow the Kingdom Youth Activities guidelines described above. Caution should be taken to protect the safety and well being of the youth participants as well as adults.

Q. An Officer's meeting is to be held in a home and the meeting is mandatory. A parent is an officer but does not have a babysitter. What do they do?

A. Common courtesy says that the parent should make sure children are welcome at the home of the person hosting the meeting, and then make whatever arrangements are necessary to ensure their child(ren) are supervised for the duration of the meeting.

Q. Do parents have to be in sight of their children at all times at SCA events?

A. The SCA recognizes that it is not always practical for parents to monitor children's safety while at an event, especially large wars like Estrella. So long as the parent has made every reasonable attempt to ensure the well-being of their child, and have followed the Kingdom Youth Activities Guidelines in this document, they are free to make whatever arrangements are necessary in order to participate at the event.

Q. I am a youth minister. On the day of an event my one volunteer leader cancels and I am the only adult leader available. When I go to hold youth activities all the parents say they are already volunteering and can't help me. What do I do?

A. The youth minister must either find another adult supervisor or cancel the activity. Safety is more important than any activity the SCA has scheduled for children.

Thegn Robin Huxley of Lands End, Pel
Kingdom Seneschal