

“Visiting Royalty” Brain Dump for Seneschals and Stewards

Constanzia Moralez y de Zamora, July 2009

How to book them in

- You will need to contact them as soon as you know who the victor is. They will need a few options on potential dates and information around last time you received a royal visit. Email heirs@lochac.sca.org It may take a while for them to have access to this account – so if you know them personally or know their Chamberlain, it’s a good idea to contact them in the short term.
- Ideally you should already have a calendar of events sketched into place by Crown tourney if you’re really organised. That would be a great thing to send them. Be *very* clear on when your activities will start. If you allow time for them to fly in the morning, it means cheaper flights for them, and also that they can sleep in their bed one more night – which is very precious.
- Shires should be particularly assertive and ask for visits. If you don’t ask, the Royalty will not assume that you wish a visit. They may well have travel already arranged due to potential peerages being done and other Kingdom level business. Be aware that if you live close to another group or Barony, you may be expected to travel to the point of largest mass. Perhaps you could contact your local Barony to see if you could assist in running an event with them to ensure a greater coverage of people and support in running an event. Or alternatively, speak to the Barony to see if they could come and work in with you. If you can think regionally and work regionally, this really assists the Crown to get out and visit your populace.
- Although the travel fund has recently been increased to \$3,500, it only covers about four visits depending on where the Royalty live. It does not cover clothing, gifts, phone calls, excess baggage costs and other miscellaneous expenses. Even with the generous subsidy, reigning is still rather expensive. Advise if you are able to provide financial support to help them get there. Up to 50% of costs with receipts is not an unusual policy. It is ok if you cannot – most of the small groups/shires would lack the means. If you come from a flush group it is important that you provide assistance to Royalty to allow them to visit the small groups who can’t.
- Be aware that there are only 26 weeks where they are actually Crown of Lochac. They will need weekends off, family dates as well as limitations on leave. They also have to fit in time to manage administration tasks, fix clothing, make clothing and all those other things that take time. Just because you ask, doesn’t mean that they will be able to comply. Most of the time the Royalty will have the best of intentions and will want to see you but they are juggling many sometimes-conflicting demands of the role.

How to help them

- There is a huge limitation on weight allowance for flights so if you are able to provide things like towels, bedding, feasting gear, somewhere to stay, please let them know and arrange this.
- Include a budget to for posting gifts home for them. Most often than not they are travelling at weight – and excess baggage is at about \$10 per kilo. That adds up quickly! Make sure you tell them and get their address off them. This will reduce the stress of trying to figure out how to get everything back home for them.
- Find out what they eat, don't eat and whether they're squeamish. (e.g. – if they're vegetarians, don't serve the head of a roast pig to them)
- Try and find out all you know about them – what do they like? Do they like filk? Do they prefer period plays? What style of reign do they have? Are they formal or informal? The good thing about the SCA is that someone knows them (normally their chamberlain) and will be able to give you a good assessment of what will work for them.
- If you have some unique or interesting local tradition, you may wish to share those with the Crown also so that they don't do something which is culturally out of place.
- See <http://lochac.sca.org/royal/regalia/index.html#visit> and <http://lochac.sca.org/baronage/travel.html> for more ideas of what you can offer to assist Royalty when they travel to your region. All such offers are very, very welcome!