

# Challenges: A Simple Walk-through

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Challenges are not meant to be hard. You are showing how you did the embellishment form you are challenging, showing what makes your work period, showing what you have learned about how they did that that embellishment work in period. You are not being judged as though you were in a competition against others. You are basically being measured against the 'bar' of the requirements for the different knowledge levels (working, competency, expert). Nothing more.

The requirements and all the specifics for ranks, knowledge levels and challenges for the guild are online in various places.

[http://antirembellishers.org/guide\\_rank\\_challenge.php](http://antirembellishers.org/guide_rank_challenge.php) – the online version of the guild challenge documents

<http://antirembellishers.org/docs.php> – here are links to various documents, the guild guidelines, introductions to challenging, and more.

And all of the above documents are included in the files section of the guild Facebook group as well.

Classes held in the past on Facebook have discussed the ranks, advancing through the ranks, the guild structure and so on. Those aspects are not being taught in this class. There are handouts at the above links and in the guild FB group for these classes. The classes will be taught again, when there is time, if you missed them.

The information below pertains mostly to challenges at a working or competency knowledge levels. Expert knowledge level challenges are different. They must be, for example, held at Kingdom events. They might be longer, they usually include more documentation.

## As the Person Challenging:

- It is **STRONGLY** encouraged that you observe a challenge or two, at least, before attempting your own. Remember all challenges are observable, and people are welcome to watch them!
- Let the challenge organizer know you are planning on challenging at least a week, and preferably two or more weeks, before the event at which the challenges are to take place. If you are attending an event and don't see any challenges planned for it but want to present a challenge or two, let the organizer know as far in advance as you can, so they might possibly set up challenges. It takes time to do this, so as much advance notice as possible is the best.

- Do not expect to challenge any more than two (2!) forms at any one event. Don't be selfish. Let others challenge, and let the evaluators and organizer have an event as well!
- Plan for 10 to 15 minutes, max, to present your challenge. Allow a few minutes for questions as well when you plan.
- This is about the embellishment form you did. It is NOT about your persona, your sca history, the rank you want in the guild, etc. It's just about the form you did and the knowledge level you attain in it.
- Try to have some idea of what knowledge level you think you will attain in your challenge. This will let you plan, as a challenge that goes beyond working knowledge level will require documentation (oral at least for competency knowledge level with written preferred, and written required for expert knowledge level). See the challenge information links given above for more information on that documentation and the various knowledge levels.
- Bring the embellished item. Bring any other samples of your embellishment form that you've done to show your progress/learning. Bring documentation if you think you will need it. Be prepared for a lot of friendly interest and encouragement.
- Your presentation should consist of a discussion of the work you've done in the form, the item/form you are using to challenge, and the documentation you've collected about the form (if any, this depends on the knowledge level). Remember, it helps to have watched a challenge or two in order to prepare for your own.

### **As the Challenges Organizer:**

- Contact the event organizer to inform them that you are planning on holding guild challenges at the event, and to make sure there is space and time for you to do so.
- Advertise that you are organizing challenges for the event at least three weeks before the event. Accept challengers up to one or two weeks before the event (how long is up to you).
- Ask people to act as evaluators for the challenges. See the guidelines/constraints at the links listed above for more information on evaluator requirements.
- Paperwork: For years we used a form (evaluation\_form.pdf) which recorded one challenge per page, with large areas for the evaluators to write comments. But it turns out we never really needed this or used it. So now we have one form (challenge\_submissions\_5\_feb\_2017.pdf) which allows records to be kept for up to 8 challenges. If you need to record more than 8 challenges, then use more of these sheets.
- It's best if you, the organizer, or someone you delegate, runs the challenges and records the results on the challenge records form. Enter all the data needed (name of challenger, form, item, knowledge level challenged, knowledge level awarded, names of evaluators, etc...). You do not have to be an evaluator yourself, you can just be the note taker.
- Keep an eye on the clock. Introduce each challenger and let them do their 10-15 minute presentation. Then ask for questions. After questions are over, ask the challenger to leave the area so the evaluators can talk amongst themselves. This discussion needs to be no longer than 5 minutes long, in general. Once the decision on knowledge level has been reached, record it on the sheet and ask the challenger to return. Tell her/him the results and let the evaluators give comments/praise as they

wish. The entire process should be no more than 20-30 minutes long, from start of challenge to end of praise. Then introduce the next challenger and start all over...

- Get the challenge records to the guild minister/webminister/database person. Right now these are all the same person. Email, dropbox, sca mail, snail mail, all work. Contact the guild minister for addresses, etc. Remember if the challenger is new to the guild they need to fill out a guild membership form as well, and that should also be returned.
- You do not need to keep the results records/membership forms for a long period of time. Wait until you hear that the results are in the database, and check those over. If all looks good you can destroy the sheets. Or... send them via sca mail to the guild minister to add to her/his pile of papers.