

Mark Harris

I was Troop 124's first Eagle Scout, achieving 42 merit badges, a "double-eagle". At that time 21 merit badges were required for Eagle. I was also a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow.

In 1975 I went off to the University of Texas at Austin, where I joined Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity which at one time was primarily ex-Scouts. I graduated in 1982 and started working as an Electrical Engineer designing computer boards for Motorola in Austin. I stayed with Motorola until 2004 and now work at Dell, still in Austin, and still designing computer boards.

In 1988 I started playing with a group called the SCA, Society for Creative Anachronism. This is an international group of about 100,000 participants, which studies medieval history and holds events re-creating the best of the Middle Ages. This includes doing armored combat and battles in real armor as well as medieval feasts, courts and dancing. Events range from weekly to annually, and like Scouting, can range in size from ten to ten thousand participants.

Also like Scouting, honor and courtesy form major tenets of this group and, at least in the South, many events are outside camping events. In the SCA, however, I sleep on a four-poster bed in a 17 x 17 ft. medieval pavilion. A bit larger than the usual Scout backpacking tents. Like Scouting there are many hands-on crafts and classes ranging from calligraphy and illumination, leatherwork and ironwork, to cooking and medieval carts and boats.



I met my beautiful wife Alice in the SCA in 1991 and married her in a medieval style wedding in 1993. I run a major web resource with over 2000 files on the SCA and the Middle Ages called Stefan's Florilegium, which can be found at: <http://www.florilegium.org>