



Days of Knights

Standards of
Historical Authenticity

2021



Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this document is to act as the official guide for the standards of historical accuracy governing The Days of Knights living history timeline event. The guidelines of this document supersede any prior publications pertaining to the event's historical standards. In the event of any unforeseen conflict or question regarding these standards, the Days of Knights Privy Council is the sole authority for resolving such conflicts.

Since Days of Knights is an event made up of several different Living History organizations and individuals from around the world, all participants are expected to meet at least the standards laid out in this document. In the event that a participating group's own guidelines do not meet the standards of this event, it is expected that all of the participants from that group will only bring and display impressions and material culture that meet the specific standards for the Days of Knights. Questions regarding this policy may be directed to the Days of Knights Privy Council for review.

Changes to this document are only authorized to be made by the Privy Council with approval of the Chancellor and updated versions will be released when approved.

How to Use This Guide

Please read through the guide in its entirety. Days of Knights spans a considerable time period (from approx. AD 1 - 1600) and as such this guide cannot be exhaustive to every specific region and time period. It is expected that individual groups use appropriate discretion in keeping with the spirit of these standards in the event something peculiar to a specific time period or geographical region is not covered.

Exceptions and deviations from the standards listed here will be considered only if brought to the attention of the Days of Knights Privy Council in advance of the event, with supporting documentation or evidence for the deviation. Waivers for certain objects may be requested.

Exceptions will of course be considered for the purposes of safety and medical necessity, but should be brought to the attention of event organizers.

In addition to its other duties within Days of Knights, Inc. the Privy Council acts as the Authenticity Committee responsible for laying out the standards found in this guide and will also act as the body that makes all decisions regarding conflicts, questions, or requests concerning historical standards. Ultimate authority lies with the President.

Contact Information:

Days of Knights Website: <http://www.thedaysofknights.com>

Days of Knights Official Announcements Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/611044329101799/>

Days of Knights Facebook Discussion Group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/daysofknights/>

Days of Knights President: Joe Metz

Board Members: Tom Biliter (Treasurer), Todd Eriksen, Mark Hubbs (Secretary), John Kronberg, Ian LaSpina (Vice President)

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Standards of Historical Authenticity

Authenticity of historical impressions is one of the primary concerns of the Days of Knights living history timeline event. It is important to note that Days of Knights is not a Renaissance Fair, and as such, fantasy impressions of any kind are wholly inappropriate. The goal of the Days of Knights living history timeline is to engage with and educate the public on various aspects of life during the Middle Ages. To facilitate that goal, an adherence to a high standard of historical accuracy is necessary. Days of Knights permits impressions between the years AD 1 and AD 1600.

Our authenticity standards are written in a way that they are designed to promote a high level of historical authenticity while still being friendly to people interested in trying serious Medieval Living History for the first time.

1. Clothing

- Outer clothing will be made of natural fiber textiles; wool, linen, and silk. Blends of modern and natural fabrics will be considered acceptable, provided the modern materials do not detract from the natural appearance of the fabric. Garments made entirely from synthetic fabrics are not appropriate.
- Cotton fabric should be avoided on outer garments to the maximum extent practical unless supported by direct historical evidence. In general, cotton fabric was very rare, if known at all in many parts of Europe during our period of study.
- All clothing will be constructed with adherence to historical patterns, appropriate to the culture, social class, and time period being depicted.
- Do not mix cultures, time periods or styles. All clothing will combine to form a coherent impression.
- Where visible on garments being worn, hand stitching is preferred to machine stitching, but not required.
- Colors should adhere to historically available dye colors to the maximum extent practical, and be appropriate to the social status being portrayed.
- Embellishments, such as applique or embroidery will be appropriate to the culture, time period, and social status of the individual being portrayed.



1.1 Dress Accessories

- Accessories are defined as items such as jewelry, brooches, belts, pouches and other objects that add to the overall impression of a culture, class, gender and/or time period but are not specifically clothing.
- Jewelry will be made from period materials or look-alike materials suitable for the impression (pewter and other base metals for lower class impressions, more precious metals for upper class impressions etc.)
- Belts, pouches and purses will be made from appropriate materials (leather, natural textiles etc) and reflect appropriate styles for a given impression.
- Shoes will be made from period appropriate materials. Styles will match the time period of the impression. Heels should be avoided on pre 16th century footwear. Participants are expected to wear period appropriate footwear unless unable to for medical reasons.
- Modern non-slip soles are authorized for use on period footwear as long as they are discreet.

2. Armor

- All armor must be appropriate to documented styles of armor from a given time period, geographical region, culture, and social status.
- Do not mix styles of armor from different time periods. For example, a c15th sallet helmet is entirely inappropriate if worn with a mid-c14th "Visby" style coat of plates.
- If used for live combat demonstration, armor may utilize modern safety features (spring pins, visor straps, perforated plate oculars etc.) but should be restricted to combat demonstrations only. Armor for fighting must meet the standards of the DeKoven Concord and be approved by the martial of the list on site before engaging in any martial activities.



2.1 Metal Armor

- Metal armor shall be constructed of iron or steel. Stainless steel should be avoided to the maximum extent practical unless visually indistinguishable from normal steel alloys. Chromium content in stainless can often make it obnoxiously white in color compared to other steels.
- Titanium armor may be worn if visually indistinguishable from normal steel alloys.
- Decorative elements of armor may be painted, gilded, or constructed of brass or bronze as appropriate to the style and culture being portrayed.
- Aluminum, plastic or other modern materials are not authorized.

2.2 Leather Armor

- Leather armor is only appropriate where it is specifically documented or has strong evidence for its use.
- Leather armor will be constructed of appropriate materials, such as cuir bouilli.

2.3 Padded Armor

- Padded textile armor will be made from appropriate natural fiber textiles; wool, linen, silk. Blends of modern and natural fabrics will be considered acceptable, provided the modern materials do not detract from the natural appearance of the fabric. Garments made entirely from synthetic fabrics are not appropriate.
- Cotton fabric should be avoided to the maximum extent practical unless supported by direct historical evidence. In general, cotton fabric was very rare, if known at all in many parts of Europe during our period of study.

2.4 Mail

- Mail will be made from period appropriate metals (steel or iron).
- Aluminum mail is generally prohibited unless treated to be visually indistinguishable from steel (normally aluminum mail is bright silver and obvious to the eye, this is not authorized). Please refrain from allowing guests to handle treated aluminum mail so as not to cause confusion with the unrealistically light weight.
- Stainless steel mail is authorized if it is visually indistinguishable from normal steels.
- Participants are encouraged to use riveted mail as dictated by historical sources.
- In the cases where butted mail is appropriate to a specific culture (almost unheard of in Europe), it is authorized with appropriate documentation.

3. Other Personal Authenticity Points

- Impressions of specific historical characters (i.e. Edward of Woodstock etc), are permitted, assuming they meet all other standards listed in this document. Understand that the impression must be commensurate with the social status being portrayed. Serious consideration should be given to the appropriate level of material culture when portraying high-status individuals. This should be reserved for people prepared to pull off such an impression.
- Persons portraying roles historically limited to persons of the opposite sex should conceal their gender as well as possible when in public view.
- Corrective vision – For those needing correction of vision, wear of contact lenses is preferred to modern eyeglasses. Medical or safety considerations will override this as necessary.
- Sunglasses are not authorized
- Modern body-modifications, such as tattoos or piercings not appropriate to a historical impression should be hidden from view to the maximum extent practical.
- Hairstyles should be appropriate to a given time period.
- Period inappropriate hairstyles, especially exotic hair dye, will be concealed when in view of the public.
- Visible hearing aids are authorized.

- Any modern medical or safety device (i.e. an insulin pump) should be made known to the event organizers in advance during registration. If possible, disguise modern medical equipment inside period materials or containers.

4. Weapons

- All weapons must be appropriate to documented styles and types from a given time period, geographical region and culture. No fantasy weapons.
- Weapon styles will match the costuming appropriate to the impression.
- Weapons will be constructed of period appropriate materials
- If used for live combat demonstrations, weapons may be made from alternative materials for the purposes of safety (rubber pollaxe heads, rebated steel weapons etc).
- Handling of sharp or real weapons by the public is authorized provided it takes place under direct supervision of an adult participant familiar with the weapon being examined, and in all cases involving a minor will require the permission of their parent or guardian before allowing them to handle any weapon. Any re-enactor may restrict this policy further if they feel uncomfortable with a specific patron or with weapons handling by the public in general. This rule may be superseded by the hosting venue's own policy.



5. Encampments

- If not covered below, any items used in camp will adhere to period appropriate designs and materials for a given time period.
- Decoration in the encampments, to include banners, gonfalons, pennants etc., will adhere to proper period designs and materials. Synthetic fabrics and modernly printed designs are not authorized.

5.1 Tents

- Natural period materials are authorized.
- Modern canvases such as Sunforger® and other brand name equivalents are authorized, as are associated flame retardant treatments.
- Synthetic materials like nylon or plastics are not authorized.
- Tent ropes will be made of natural fibers, such as hemp, sisal or manila (no nylon rope).
- Tents will adhere to documented styles appropriate to the specific period being portrayed.

- Tent decoration will adhere to documented styles appropriate to the specific time period.
- For a tent to remain open during public hours, all visible interior contents of the tent will be period appropriate. If the interior of your tent is not 'show ready' it should remain closed during the duration of the public hours, except as needed to access gear.
- You are not required to have a tent for Days of Knights.

5.2 Lighting

- All visible means of lighting will be period appropriate (i.e. candles, reeds, oil lamps etc) during public hours.
- This is not an immersion event. After public hours, modern lighting (camping lanterns, modern candles, flashlights etc., may be used.



5.3 Furniture

- Chairs, tables, chests, beds etc, must conform to documented styles and materials for the period being portrayed.
- Modern construction techniques are authorized provided they are not easily visible on the completed piece (i.e. obvious visible screw heads etc.)



5.4 Modern Display Cases / Original Artifacts

- Valuable objects (to include actual historical artifacts) that have educational value but cannot be safely displayed in a period way may be kept in and displayed using discreet modern display cases. For example: genuine historical documents may be kept in a modern picture frame and small artifacts like arrowheads or findings may be displayed in a modern glass case.

note - We understand that people may want to display certain pieces that offer tremendous educational value but may be too fragile or valuable to allow public handling. In an effort to avoid using pseudo-historical methods of display that may cause educational confusion, we believe a simple modern display case is the best solution to make it clear to the public that certain objects are off limits to handling while having the least disruptive effect on the overall educational and historical atmosphere of the camps.



An original 14th century indenture displayed in a picture frame

6. Cooking and Food

- Do not provide or share food with the public guests.
- Cooking is limited to documented period correct foodstuffs during public hours.
- Modern ingredients should only be used as a suitable alternative for unavailable period ingredients.
- Utensils, cookware and accessories will adhere to period correct styles and materials.
- Period eating utensils and tableware will be used in view of the public and at the Participant Feast.
- Potable drinking water availability will be dependent on hosting venue. Transport, store and consume water using period style containers during public hours.
- Modern camp stoves are not authorized.
- Modern food and beverage packaging should be kept out of view of the public at all times.
- Do not bring modern food items or take-out in to the camping area during public hours.
- If food vendors are present, participants may consume modern food products in the vicinity of the eating area. Participants will not bring modern food back to the encampments.



7. Conduct

- Third Person Perspective - During public hours, participants are expected to present their impressions in Third Person Perspective. Do not assume First Person Perspective. (Third person perspective means that you are presenting as a modern person, talking about the past. "Hello, I am portraying a man-at-arms of the late 14th century, this is the armor that they would have worn." First person perspective means you speak as if you are a period individual living in your given century. "Greetings, I am Sir John and it is the Year of Our Lord, 1380, this is the armor I wear into battle.")
- Use of tobacco products is prohibited in camp during public hours. If you must use tobacco, please excuse yourself to the parking area.
- Use of modern electronic devices and cell phones is prohibited during public hours except for health and safety emergencies. Use of such devices is authorized in the parking lot or in private. If you are expecting important contact, ensure your device is set to vibrate, and conduct all business in a closed tent or private area.
- Use of photography equipment should be done as discreetly as possible during public hours so as not to interfere with or take away from any presentation.

8. Modern Camping Equipment

- Most Days of Knights events will have a designated area available for modern tents to be set up. Expect to camp away from the historical timeline if using a modern tent.
- Modern camping amenities (sleeping bags and coolers etc) may be used in period tents, but must be kept completely out of public view when the site is open.

9. Enforcement

- We expect all participants to behave with maturity, and be familiar with and adhere to the historical standards outlined in this document.
- If an obvious violation is seen during the event, the participant will be approached and made aware of the violation. Participants are expected to correct the violation immediately if possible.
- We ask that all participants respect the standards and not put anyone in the uncomfortable position of having to correct avoidable violations of the rules. Every intentional violation just works to degrade the overall quality of the event.
- If a deviation from the standards is necessary for any reason, inform the Privy Council prior to the event so that a decision can be rendered in a timely fashion (preferably through the waiver process). If time-critical at the event, get the opinion of an event organizer.
- Anyone found to ignore or continually violate the standards will be asked not to return to future Days of Knights events.

10. Waivers

We realize that these standards cannot be completely exhaustive and cover every possible contingency. In the event you have a specific object that does not meet the standards as written, you can request a waiver for its use in Days of Knights. Waivers will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If you're unsure about a specific object or if you'd like to use something that does not meet the standards as written, please contact us through the Facebook group, private message or email and include the following information:

- Object Description - To include why it doesn't meet current standards
- Reason for Waiver – why do you need this item waived in order to participate? Is it required for your impression or encampment?
- Any additional information – if you have supporting historical evidence for an object that contradicts the standards as written, please provide it with sources!
- Photographs – Attach or include any pertinent photos that will help staff render a decision regarding the object.

Staff will render a decision as quickly as possible and staff decisions are final for the next event.

11. Questions?

If you have any questions concerning the historical authenticity standards or something not covered here, please contact any member of the staff through the [Facebook Discussion Group](#) (this method is preferred, so if others have a similar question everyone can see the answer), or directly via email or private message.

