

## **Keeping Your Scrolls Protected at Pennsic (and other camping events)**

Congratulations on receiving recognition from the Crown and on becoming the owner of an original handmade artistic work commemorating the occasion. The giving of Kingdom award documents (colloquially called scrolls) has been a part of East Kingdom tradition for well over two decades. Each scroll is created by the hands of one or a few of the Kingdom's many talented scribes enrolled in the East Kingdom College of Scribes.

Now that you have one of these beautiful items, you will want to protect it from the elements as soon as possible. Following is a list of "care and feeding" of your scroll while away at camping and outdoor events, especially for scrolls created on paper. Some of these recommendations are very obvious, and others may be less so.

- Please handle your scroll carefully, and carry and store it flat.
- Do not bend, curl, roll, or fold your paper scroll.
- Put your scroll in a rigid, waterproof container. You can often obtain such a protective covering from the court herald after court. If a protective envelope is not immediately available, and if the court herald or Signet Office Staff are not on hand to provide a protective one for you, a plastic bag will help protect the scroll. (I recommend clear bags, but if trash bags must be used, please make sure you mark on the outside of the bag "SCROLL INSIDE" or similar so that it is not accidentally thrown away.)
- Be mindful of your surroundings. Avoid leaving the scroll out in the open near camp or cook fires, tent walls, floors, or seams (where humidity gathers and drips), or any other open area where the scroll is likely to be damaged.
- Exposed paper scrolls will absorb many things: humidity, nicotine stains, campfire smoke, sunblock and suntan oil stains, dirt, etc. Keep the scroll bagged and in a sealed waterproof container to help avoid this kind of damage.
- Direct sunlight bleaches color over long periods of time. Please store your scroll inside your tent when you are not showing it to friends.
- Stashing your scroll in your car may seem like a good idea, but please bear in mind that in the hot summer sun, baked paints and baked gilding base can flake and/or peel over longer periods of time.

When you bring your scroll home, please hang it on your wall with pride. Acid-free matting, hanging the scroll out of direct sunlight, and UV resistant glass in your frame will help it last longer.

In the unforeseen circumstances that your scroll becomes damaged or lost, or if you have received a Kingdom award that bears a scroll but no scroll was available at court, please contact the Office of the Tyger Clerk of the Signet. Accidents happen – we understand! – and the Signet and staff are here to help you.

Lastly, please remember to thank the scribes and authors who worked on your scroll. Although the labor and materials involved are donated by each artisan, a simple word of encouragement can certainly brighten a scribe's day. If you do not know who to thank, please ask the Tyger Clerk of the Signet.

Yours In Service,

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