

Wyewood Arts and Sciences Survey

October, 2010

Lady Wenyeva atte Grene

The Wyewood Arts and Sciences Survey was an online survey given over a period of 20 days in September, 2010. I used surveygizmo.com to host the survey. This brief report contains the compiled results and a few conclusions from the 40 fully-completed surveys that were submitted on the website. Most of the surveys were anonymous, but thirteen people did sign their names in order to volunteer to help teach or facilitate activities.

The results indicate a strong desire to study topics that are particularly relevant to *fundamental persona/camp authenticity*: medieval encampments and tents, leatherworking (note that *shoes* were, by far, the most desired costuming topic, mentioned by 71% of all survey respondents), woodworking, and heraldic display.

There were many comments that also indicated a wish for basic “SCA survival” information, such as how newcomers should get started, what are the various medieval cultures and periods, how to autocrat events, etiquette, and how the SCA works.

A few respondents also expressed interest in skills and topics that might be considered more advanced or specific, and less commonly found in the SCA populace (e.g. musical instrument making, Pre-Christian religious practices, Norwegian *seter* cheeses, Japanese clothing). In some cases, the respondents mentioned already having knowledge in these specific areas and offering to share that knowledge with the Shire.

My conclusion is that we should put a strong effort into educating newcomers and all others who want basic information that will make their SCA experience more authentic and more functional. Topics such as “how to put on an event” or “how the Shire works” or “how to make your campsite look medieval” are important, and particularly so to people newer to the SCA who haven’t absorbed as much information in those areas yet as the veteran members have. I believe that at *least* once a month, if possible, we should offer classes or other activities to teach this sort of information.

We should alternate these “Freshman level” educational opportunities with some more advanced “upper-level electives,” so to speak, so that both newer and older members can participate and learn new things.

If possible, I would like to have at least two classes or activities per month, one that is basic and one that is more specific or advanced. More than two would be better, but it depends on the availability of teachers and facilitators. However, we have quite a few people in the Shire who are already capable of teaching most of the fundamental topics that are most in demand. For some other topics, we would need to find people who are able to teach them.



Wenyeva

Please check all the topics below that you are interested in LEARNING about or just DOING activities with in the SCA.

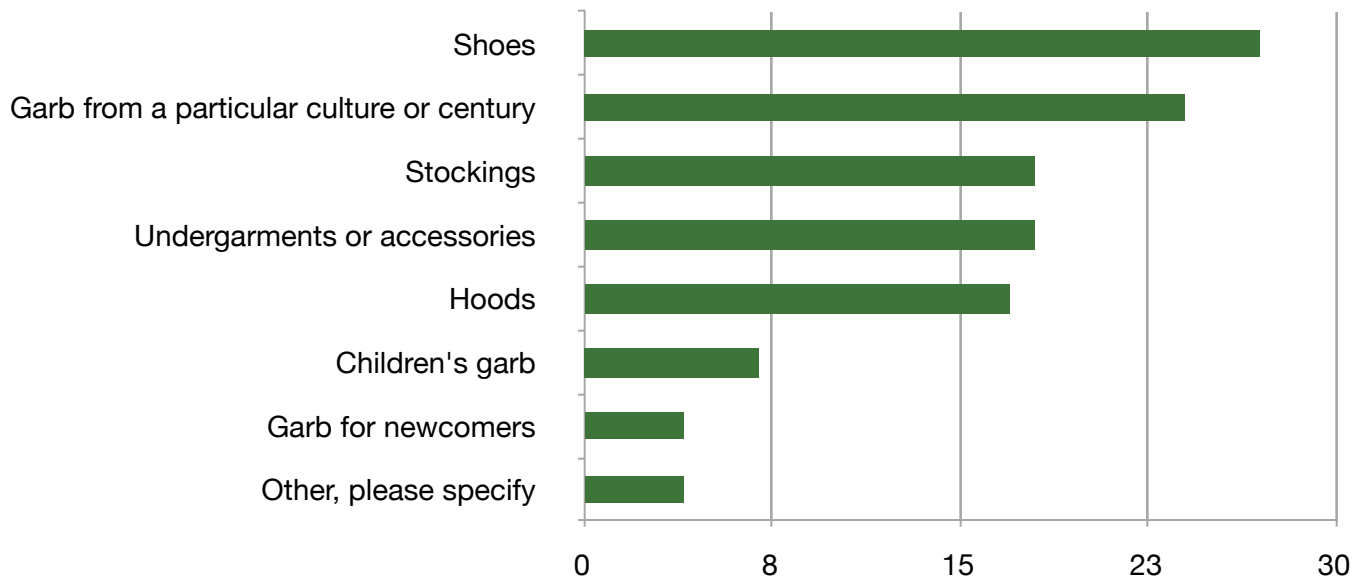
*(Later in the survey I asked, "What are you interested in LEARNING or DOING? Be as specific as you want to be." Indented items shown here are specific things individuals mentioned in answer to **that** question, if they were more specific than the categories already mentioned.)*

Tents and medieval encampments, camping in the SCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * How to erect the shire dragonwings and dayshades so that anyone can do with with a little help. * A class providing ideas on how to make your camp area more medieval looking would be nice, especially since a canvas pavilion is not a possibility for some, so show ways to make everything else more period to balance modern tents/pop-up shelters. * lighting * period shared spaces * what are some ideas of how to disguise an RV to the degree that it may be acceptable to camp with group 	27	67.50%
Leatherworking	27	67.50%
Woodworking: furniture, woodcarving, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * painting / staining that would have been period-appropriate. * period woodworking tools/making of * musical instrument making 	24	60%
Heraldic display: banners, other stuff with heraldry on it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * display for camping & feastware * understanding/reading heraldic displays 	24	60%
Costume <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Using period art to make assumptions about clothing, and daily living activities. 	23	57.50%
Brewing, vinting, other beverages	21	52.50%
Domestic sciences: hair, cosmetics, soapmaking, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Possibly period candle-making? Since I just thought of it, maybe covering the history thereof and how to make some that might be friendly to either indoors or tents. Or maybe even learning about other forms of light sources, such as oil lamps, etc. 	21	52.50%
Medieval social history topics, generally: e.g. Medieval towns, manors, occupations, holidays, commerce, families, specific cultures, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * focus on one strata of society or on culture. * Also maybe a class on dispelling modern myths about the medieval period (i.e. they all wore drab colors, never bathed etc.) 	20	50%
Pewter	19	47.50%
Culinary topics (all things food-related) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * adapting period recipes for use with modern ingredients * how to cook for siege competition - what judges look for, what is acceptable presentation, etc. 	18	45%

Jewelry, beads	17	42.50%
Textile arts: knitting, felting, dyeing, weaving, etc. * Lucet, tablet weaving, inkle loom	17	42.50%
Games, sports, toys	16	40%
Fine arts, e.g. painting, sculpture, stained glass	16	40%
Calligraphy, illumination, other scribal arts (see also Book Arts)	14	35%
Medieval science and technology	14	35%
Needlework: embroidery, handsewing, blackwork, lacemaking, etc.	14	35%
Coins, money (minting, or learning about period money in general)	13	32.50%
Book Arts (bookbinding, early printing, etc. See also Calligraphy)	13	32.50%
Language * Late Medieval English * runes	12	30%
Theater and other performing arts (other than music)	12	30%
Music * I would like to learn to sing more medieval songs, sing them with others, learn the words and melodies and maybe harmonies. * I'm very interested in medieval music from various anglo-saxon cultures and would love to learn songs to sing as well as how to play them on period instruments.	11	27.50%
Dance	8	20%
Animals (bees, hounds and coursing, raising poultry, etc.) * dog & cat breeds that were around in which countries/what eras	8	20%

<p>Other, please specify</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Heavy metal working (making knives, forks, spoons) * How to effectively use the internet to access historical material. * Pre-Christian religious practices and hand-crafted spiritual icons and ritual items. How were these items created and charged with energy. What was the belief about them. Why choose the specific compounds or elements necessary to create one out of Onyx as opposed to Hematite or Jade, etc? * science and technology. * I would like to see more Wyewood hosted events. What happened to KWWoS? Are there no camping facilities locally? * How does this whole shire thing work? * What makes a successful event (Autocratting 101)? * horse bardic * Paint paint paint! Anything, anywhere, always. I also like working with small string. * what us new comers most need a class on is how to get started, good reference material for different ages and cultures, food, style, and Heraldry once we are able to pick and age and culture. * safety * manners in court, at erics, at` feasts, in and around shared or others' camping spaces * working with horn (boiling & bending) * first aid * maybe put together a booklet of simple rules to follow for deciding heraldry: rules for name, some resources, rules for device/badge (& diff between the two), some resources of how/where to check for legal things to use <i>(This is something that is covered by the Herald's office, though of course it is related to A&S as well. - W)</i> * Etiquette, forms of address, speaking forsoothly, behaving in the SCA 	2	5% -- However, more than 5% of people actually mentioned specific topics that would probably fit in this category
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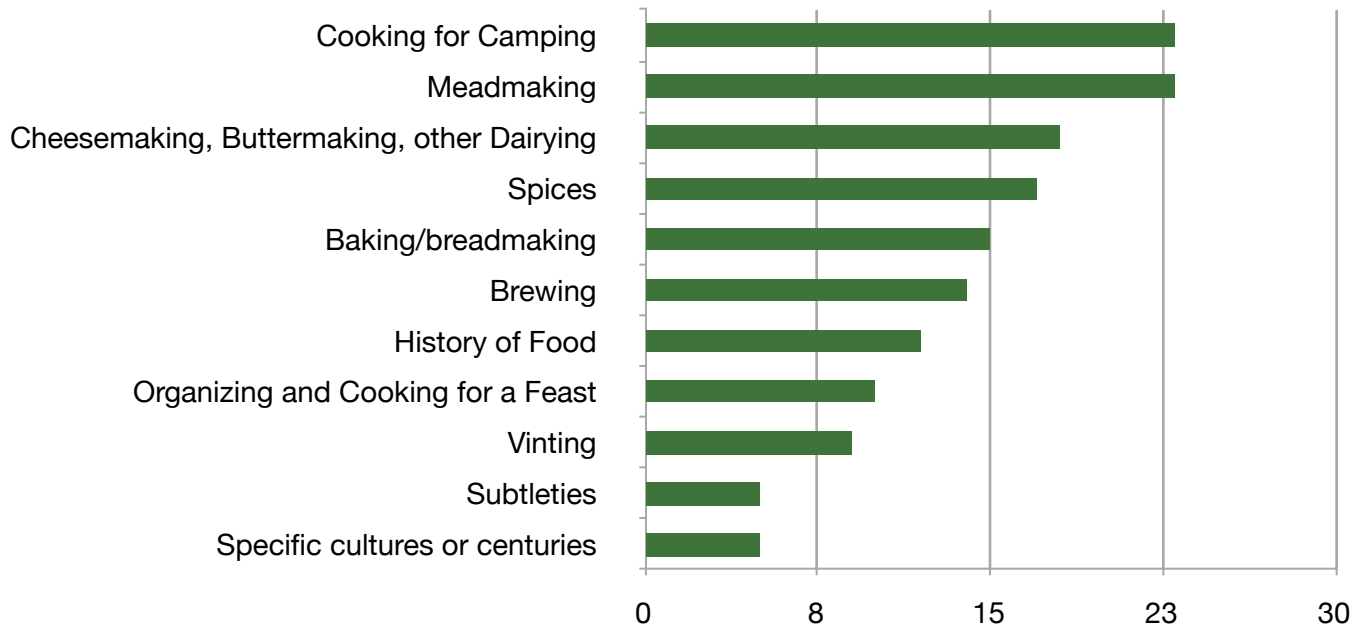
Which costuming topics are you interested in?



Please elaborate on what you are interested in in this topic. Is there a specific culture you are interested in or a specific item of clothing?

- * I am interested in learning more about laplander wear in the 13th-14th century.
- * I am interested in Japanese clothing.
- * Pre-14th century Norse.
- * I started a pair of Turn-shoes, but have been unable to complete them
- * Turnshoes & boots
- * Middle English clothes
- * I'm interested in learning about and making different styles of clothing from a broad range of cultures and how the styles evolved during the years.
- * Cloak & outerwear mainly.
- * turnshoes
- * 14-15th Century France
- * Norse
- * Understanding the patterns for braies and chausses.
- * Period ways to protect head from sunburn, other clothing items, no specific culture
- * 12 to 14th Century garb and early period turn shoes
- * Norse and Celtic clothing
- * Easy to make children's garb, both practical and 'fancy' styles. Hands-on class on making 'bog shoes' or other types of simple leather (Lucas-type?) early period shoes.
- * to answer this question I would need a class to explain the styles of the different cultures and ages. its an impossible question for most new comers
- * Viking, Anglo-Saxon
- * what would be appropriate attire for 13-14 century scott/irish mercenary or merchants
- * italian ren in 1500s

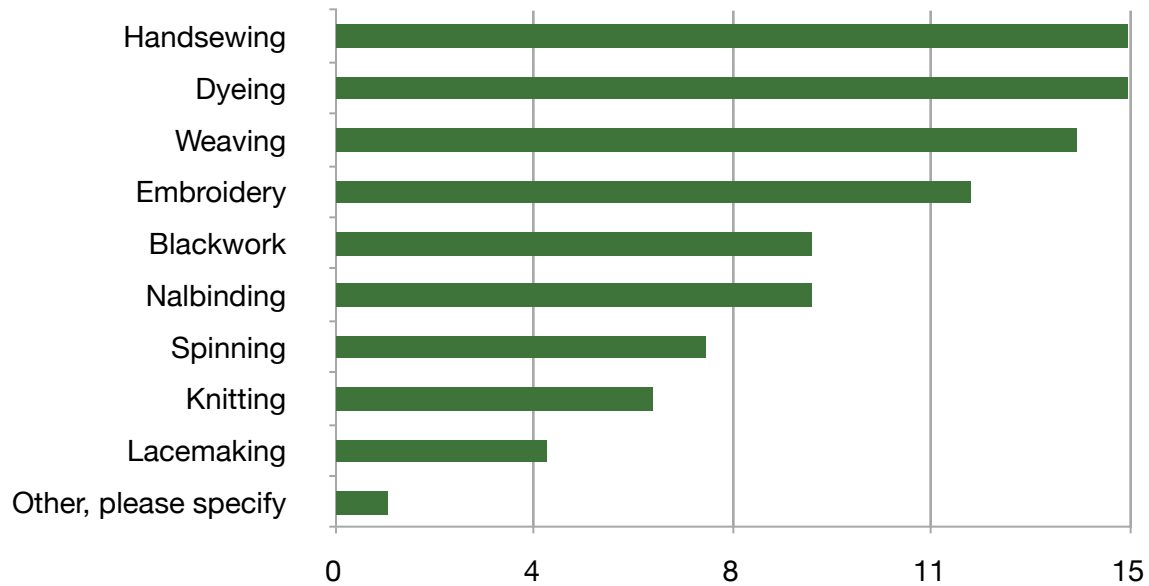
Which culinary topics are you interested in?



Please elaborate on what you are interested in in this topic. Is there a specific culture you are interested in or a specific type of food?

- * I am interested in medieval Japanese food.
- * Middle Eastern, Mediterranean.
- * Late Medieval English
- * Middle English
- * I'm interested in both cooking authentic medieval foods and cooking modernized versions of medieval recipes from different cultures.
- * flavoring of beverages with different spices, herbs, etc.
- * Norwegian seter (highland summer farm) cheeses
- * Learning camping-friendly recipes is always good. Not finicky about specific culture if it tastes good at meal time!
- * Would be willing to teach organizing and cooking for a feast. Interested mostly in history of food and the idea of perhaps making a brick bread oven.
- * I've only had mead at SCA events, would like to learn how to make it. Cooking for camping would be great to learn easy recipes & prepare ahead meals that cook up easy. Sorry, I have NEGATIVE cooking ability so I won't be able to teach.
- * again need a class just to explain the different cultures and ages
- * Viking, Anglo-Saxon
- * bakingscotland/ireland, meadmaking

Which textile or needlework topics are you interested in?



Please elaborate on what you are interested in in this topic. Is there a specific time you are interested in or a specific technique?

- * I am very interested in learning how to dye yarn better and how to spin.
- * Learning more about fabric types, specific uses for garments, period colors and what modern choices we have to reproduce a look.
- * How to warp looms of various types
- * I have little experience in these subjects but am interested in improving my skills and learning medieval techniques.
- * I would like to learn practical everyday embroidery skills that may have been used in period, like darning. Also interested in creating authentic blackwork as an edging for garments such as cuff, collars, and ruffs.
- * Tablet/card weaving.
- * I am sorely lacking in this area. I want to learn as much as I can particularly pertaining to the 12th to 14th century
- * I've never learned to handsew and still need adult supervision when operating a sewing machine. Interested in weaving that does NOT involve 'big' looms. Small stuff easy transportable that can be done in camp or maybe in court. Learning how to dye wool, linen and maybe even silk using period dyes & mordants and possibly methods would be very interesting.
- * card weaving and inkle-loom weaving