

Festival for the First Time

When: Easter long weekend

Where: Glenworth Valley, which is outside Gosford

Who: Everyone who can make it

What: Good question!

- Fighting! Wars, tournaments, and pick-up fights.
- Arts and Sciences! Competitions and collegia.
- Socialising! Tavern, campsites, a ball, martyrdom... meet people, it's good for you.
- Performances! Boar's head theatre, drinking songs...
- Pomp and circumstance! All the very best courts, with lots of shiny hats.

Ok, so you're going to Festival. Here's what you need to know.

Before Festival:

- Book. Talk to Illona (your Seneschal) about this.
- Join a food fund. Talk to paddy about this.
 - Bring feasting gear, or you'll be trying to eat soup from your burning hands. This is unpleasant, and unsanitary, don't do it.
- Acquire a tent. Preferably a waterproof one, as this site gets rather damp.
 - I'd strongly recommend a very warm sleeping bag and some sort of cushioning to sleep on.
- Acquire clothing. You can make it, or borrow some if you can't make enough in time.
- Acquire a cloak. This is important. It's cold at night. I can help you with this.
- Organise a way to get yourself there. If you don't have access to a car, it's often easiest to bother someone to take your stuff up the weekend before Festival, then catch a train to Gosford, and get picked up there.
- Pack. See packing lists, attached.
- Don't panic.

At Festival:

- Have fun!
- Festival has rules. They will be explained in the handout you'll receive when you arrive, and at Opening Court. In summary:
 - If it's illegal, don't do it.
 - Don't be a dick.
 - The people in blue tabards with yellow clubs on them are constables. If they ask you to do/not do something, do/don't do it. Failure to comply can get you kicked off site at best, and arrested at worst. Likewise, if someone comes up to you and politely requests that you do/not do something, chances are they have a good reason for doing so.
 - Don't be stupid with fire. Don't have candles in your tent, or leave fire unattended. Make sure there is something close to your campfire to extinguish it with, if necessary.
 - You must make an attempt to be in pre-1600 clothing at all times, and try to minimise obviously modern things (plastic bottles, for example) outside of your campsite.
 - No animals on site.
 - No filtered cigarettes. Horses can eat the filters, and get very sick/die. Horses are expensive. Instead, roll your own, or smoke a pipe.
- If something goes wrong:
 - There are first aid officers from St John's Ambulance on site. You'll find them at the Village green (the main, central area). They'll be wearing a black and

white uniform with a black and white tabard on top. If you need medical attention, go see them, they're lovely.

- The constables are there to help keep order. If someone's doing something dangerous, and they won't stop, find a constable (constab. for short).
- If something is going wrong at a campsite, let the head of that campsite know. For combined colleges, where you're probably camping, that'd be Paddy or Illona (your Seneschal).
- General Dos and Don'ts
 - Your campsite has a roster. You will be on this roster. Show up when you're meant to, or you risk not getting fed at the next meal.
 - It's polite to bow/curtsey when you walk past the Great Hall (where the thrones are set up), or when you're within minimum range of the Crown.
 - When a herald (green tabard, yellow bugles) starts yelling something beginning with "Oye, Oye", STFU. It's an announcement, and even if you have no interest in it, someone else will. Likewise, please don't talk during court.
 - Don't walk through other people's campsites. There are thoroughfares, use them.
 - Stay warm, bring extra socks/shoes, since it gets wet.
 - If you put yourself up for martyrdom, show up for it. If you don't want to be a martyr, then don't sign up.
 - Volunteering is fun and a great way to meet people.

A handy packing list:

Tourney & Feast	War	Festival
● Armour and weapons	● Tourney & Feast kit	● Everything for Feasts and War
● Garb	● Bedding	● MORE WARM GARB
● Feasting kit <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Plate○ Bowl○ Drinking vessel○ Cutlery	● Spare garb	● Spare shoes/socks
	● WARM THINGS!	● A tent
	● Spare mundanes	● Something to sleep on
	● Archery mesh	● Notebook and pen
● Any non-water you want to drink	● Handsbusy/ current projects/ games	● Torch
	● Toiletries <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Deodorant!○ Soap○ Toothbrush/paste	● Suncream
● Membership card/money/ID		● Hat
● Camera		
	● Any drugs you need	