

Protégé Expectations

Relationship with your Peer

Being a Protégé is not an award. It does not move you up in the order of precedence. The belt you wear symbolizes our relationship and your dedication to serving your household, local group, kingdom, and the society as a whole. Our relationship should be one of give and take, and hopefully, of friendship.

Half of the responsibility for this relationship is yours. It is especially important to keep the lines of communication open. Misunderstandings are most likely to happen when people do not talk enough. If you have a problem, discuss it with me – even if the problem is with me let me know. You would be surprised how understanding I can be.

My Protégés are encouraged to work with me and members of Paragon Keep on service projects, arts and science projects, research, and event and party planning, etc.

General Duties and Responsibilities Summary

- Assist in the organization and planning of household activities.
- Assist in the set up and break down of the household day camp/overnight camp.
- Hold an office on the local, kingdom, or society level.
- Coordinate or assist in the coordination of SCA events and activities.
- Teach as often as possible.
- Strive to better yourself and the society.

Service Activities

The number one thing that Pelicans (and therefore Protégés) are looked to is for service. I expect Protégés to serve as often as they can. You may not feel the same passion as I do for certain subjects so I encourage you to make your own path by focusing on the projects you enjoy. Serving is only worth it if you truly enjoy what you are doing. Volunteering for projects I am not involved in is strongly encouraged. I would rather hear of your good works from others than have to tell others of your good works. Working and sharing your knowledge, time, and skill is very important.

Dependability

If you make a commitment, live up to it. Don't make promises that you can't keep just to be polite, or because you think it is expected. People prefer to hear that you don't have the time, to finding out later that something has not been done. Do not take an office or volunteer for a project for which you do not have knowledge, experience, or time. If you take a position and find that you are not qualified, do not have the time to do modern life issues, or you have lost the enthusiasm for the office please let me know. I will counsel you. If after we talk you still feel as though you cannot do the job then you should assist in finding a replacement and resign. You will do more harm to your reputation and to the standing of the office, if you remain in a position in which you are unable to fulfill your duties.

If you hold an office, do what is required in a responsible manner. Keep confidences. If you are told something that is in confidence, don't repeat it. On the other hand, if you are told something that involves a potential for physical danger to another person or some other terrible thing, by all means tell someone. Use your judgment.

Here I will stop to enlighten you on a few little pet peeves of mine:

- People who remain in an office once their enthusiasm for the office has waned or when their ability to do the job due to modern life issues affects their performance (therefore not do the job properly).

- People that take an office only to bear a title or to build their resume (therefore barely do the job or not do the job at all).

- People that take an office to gain some ill-perceived power (therefore making it difficult for others to do their job)

A&S Activities

You are thinking – “What A&S activities?” “I want to be a Pelican not a Laurel!” Well, arts and sciences are VERY important to me. I expect my Protégés to be active in the arts and sciences. I am not asking you to do master work but only to expand your horizons by learning and creating. I am active in many of the arts and sciences. If you want to learn something new, I will teach you. If I am not familiar with the subject then we will learn about it together.

Honor

Our household's motto is “Honor before Victory”. We have a very deep belief in honor and in personal honor above all else. Remember that you are the person in control of your personal honor. You are the only person that can truly compromise that sense of honor, by your own actions. If you are true to yourself, your family, your household, and me, you will maintain a strong honor in everyone's eyes.

Deportment

Don't embarrass me, Kyppyn, Paragon Keep, or yourself. Your behavior is under observation by others--both peers and the populace. Try to set a good example. Be courteous, helpful and friendly, especially to new people. Keep your temper under control in public, and think before you speak. If tact is not your strong suit, don't say anything.

Malicious gossip (talk that is meant to hurt, or even recklessly does so) will not be tolerated. Nobody deserves to have things said behind their back that you wouldn't say to their face. Repeating other peoples' words out of context or in an unfair manner is just bad form. It will also get you a bad reputation in the SCA faster than anything else. Repeating other peoples' confidences is unacceptable behavior. Some gossip might be out of actual interest and concern, but learn the limits, and learn not to pass them.

A certain level of authenticity in your garb, equipment, presence, and general deportment is expected. If you haven't had the time or money to have all your stuff "medievalized," follow the two easy rules for hiding modern stuff - put it in something else or throw something over it.

Motivation

I approve of ambition. There is nothing innately wrong with ambition, especially if it motivates you to excel. The thing to beware of is hidden motives. Do you want an award because having a lot of letters after your name is the only way you can feel good about yourself? That is bad ambition. Do you want an award because you think that doing the things it will take to

get it will be fun and rewarding? That is the ambition of a healthy person. Unfortunately a lot of people have the first kind, which is motivated by low self-esteem. If that is what drives you, no award will ever be enough - you must also work on correcting the problem in yourself, which is the most worthwhile endeavor you can undertake. It can even be done while you are working on other things, and especially with the help of friends. Just don't lie to yourself about it.

Becoming a Pelican

Seeking excellence in what we do is what makes this game fun, but don't lose sight of the real goal. On the road to perfection, it is the trip, not the destination that is important. Not one of us will ever be perfect. We all make mistakes, which we hopefully learn from and then move on. The joy of learning new things, developing new things, and sharing those tools with others is what the society is all about. It is not about being better than someone else. It is not about doing everything yourself because you think no one else can or will. This is about balancing your family, your duties, and your fun. I don't expect you to volunteer for every office or event staff opening. I expect you to serve to the best of your abilities and when the time comes you will find that one thing that inspires you to move to the next level and that is when you will make your mark on the SCA.

In becoming a Protégé, you have stated a commitment of having a desire to be a Pelican. You are about to embark on a quest in what is called the "great glass fish bowl". Do not think that just because you are only a Protégé, only have this award or that award, that no one is noticing you. Pelicans are watching, we do talk, and you will be among those conversations someday. What is said about you during those conversations will be up to you. Your actions will demonstrate what kind of peer you might become. So at all times work well and do your best to be chivalrous, be courteous, and maintain your honor.

I cannot make you a Pelican. I can only provide guidance and give advice. Someday you may be recognized for your contributions to our society by the Order and, by permission of the Crown, be elevated unto the Order of the Pelican.

(Some of this was written by Magistra Rosemounde of Mercia, for her apprentices and by Syr Kyppyn Kirkcaldy for his squires. I have utilized some of their information as good advice for anyone in the SCA and have added my info for Protégés).