



The Sword Conservatory

Medieval/Renaissance Historical Combat



Sword fighting has been depicted in many movies and TV series such as *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Kingdom of Heaven*, *Game of Thrones*, *Vikings*, and *The Three Musketeers*. Is this how knights and cavaliers actually fought? At *The Sword Conservatory (TSC)*, we have a program in Medieval/Renaissance Historical Combat that specializes in weapon techniques of the Middle Ages through the Renaissance and Age of Enlightenment. We have researched the weapons styles from medieval and Renaissance fight manuals such as Talhoffer's *Fechtbuch*, Vadi's *Arte Gladiatoria*, Meyer's *The Art of Combat*, Capo Ferro's *Gran Simulacro*, Thibault's *The Academy of the Sword*, and Angelo's *School of Fencing*. For a medieval or Renaissance festival, we can offer several activities:

- Medieval weapons demonstrations
- Renaissance sword fighting demonstrations
- Introductory lessons in medieval sword fighting
- Fight-a-knight

Medieval Weapons Demonstrations

Our medieval demonstrations are **non-choreographed** duels, either one-on-one or multiple fighters. The fighters demonstrate various weapons including single-handed sword, two-handed sword, sword & shield, dagger, staff, pike, axe, and sword/dagger & buckler. The fights can be tournament style competitions or battlefield simulations.



Two fighters demonstrate single-handed sword vs. sword & shield.

Renaissance Sword Fighting Demonstrations

In these non-choreographed demonstrations, we show how duelists fought with various combinations of rapier (rapier, rapier & dagger, cloak & rapier) and small sword.



Two fighters demonstrate rapier vs. cloak & rapier.

Introductory lessons in sword fighting

In this activity, we invite audience members into our ring and give them an introductory lesson with wooden, padded, or synthetic swords. The participants learn some basic attacks and defenses with these weapons.



Students learn two-handed sword skills during a lesson.



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Fight-a-Knight

In this activity, we invite audience members into the ring to participate in a 3-point bout using foam, padded swords or daggers against one of our knights. This activity is especially popular with children.



A princess fights one of our knights with a two-handed sword

About Us

The Sword Conservatory is a non-profit organization (501 (c)(3)) dedicated to research and teaching sword fighting from medieval, Renaissance, 18th & 19th century styles through modern sport fencing. We teach in Holly Springs, NC. We have programs in medieval weapons (single-handed broadsword, two-handed broadsword, sword & shield, dagger, staff, pike, dagger & buckler), rapier, small sword, historic sabre (19th century), cutlass, and modern fencing (foil, sabre, epee). Our students range in age from 8 to 60 years old.

We have participated in several festivals including the North Carolina Renaissance Faire (Raleigh, NC), Festival of Legends (Apex, NC), Triad Highland Games (Greensboro, NC), Greater Greenville Scottish Games (Greenville, SC), and the Central North Carolina Pagan Pride Festival (Raleigh, NC). We are fully insured and will provide a certificate of insurance upon request.



Two knights fight with single-handed swords

Contact Us

If you have more questions or are interested in what we can offer your medieval festival or Renaissance fairel, please contact our president and fencing instructor, Craig Freudenrich [(919) 544-4783, cfreudenrich@earthlink.net]. We would be happy to provide any further information. You can also find information on our website (<https://swordconservatory.org/>)



Two knights fight with axes