



# Royalty is coming to your event. Now what?!

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Your group is hosting an event and the autocrat receives a communication from Their Royal Majesties' chamberlain informing you that TRMs will be attending your event. In some cases, you are prepared for this and everything is under control. In some cases, royalty has never been to an event that your group has hosted and you have no idea what to do. In most cases, you're likely somewhere in between these two scenarios. First of all, don't panic.

*Note: In all cases where Their Royal Majesties are mentioned in this document, you can assume this also means Their Royal Highnesses, and/or visiting royalty. Some baronies provide this level of support to their local Baron and Baroness as well.*

There are many things in this document that you'll see as so totally obvious as to wonder why they are even included. But, they are in the document because they are not so obvious to everyone.

## I. COMMUNICATIONS

If you want your interactions with planning to have royalty attending your event to proceed smoothly, clear and regular communications are necessary.

### Royalty Liaison

If Royalty will attend your event, it is a very good idea to have a Royalty Liaison on your event staff. If you do not have a royalty liaison, please designate one. The autocrat has too much to do. If you have a Royal Peer in your group, they are a likely candidate for this role. Anyone from any of the Great Peerage Orders (Chivalry, Laurel, Pelican) are also good candidates as are current or former Great Officers of State. A former Baron or Baroness of your Barony will likely have interacted with Royalty in the past and will also make a good candidate for this role. Your royalty liaison will need easy and regular access to email and phone.

### Chamberlain

You can usually find contact information for TRM's chamberlain on Their website. If you are trying to get royalty to attend your event and you want to give Them an invitation, you can send or give invitations to your event directly to TRMs but it will likely be Their chamberlain who works with your royalty liaison regarding every aspect of the royalty's plans to be at your event. In most cases, TRM's chamberlain will have a pre-built set of questions to ask you about accommodations for the event. The sooner these questions can be answered, the sooner TRMs can work on Their plans, including what to pack, what reservations to make, etc. If They don't know what you have planned, it is harder for Them to make Their plans.



## II. THE ROYALTY ROOM

The first place the royalty will need to go when they arrive at your event is the Royalty Room.

### Royalty Room Location

Preferably, it is close enough to activities that it's not a burden on Their schedule to go back and forth. This becomes an issue when, for example, it has been a hectic day and an item has been left in the royalty room that needs to be used for court. Some events are completely outdoors. If someone from the group could set up a pavilion for the royalty to use, that is perfectly acceptable. Some sites don't have ready access to a room that is close to the central activities of the day. That's just the way it is and is no reflection on you as a group. If there are several options available, ask TRM's chamberlain for TRM's preference.

### Royalty Room Guards

This is nice to have. If the royalty room is far removed from the activities, this becomes more important to secure personal and kingdom property. When the room is close to the activity, having guards ensures some level of privacy when needed. Yes, some people think they can just walk in on the royalty because they see others come and go from the room. The royalty may be having private meetings, changing clothes, or taking a much-needed break.

### Royalty Room Residents

In a perfect scenario, each set of royalty present at the event has their own royalty room and is separate from the scribes' room. However, it is understood that this is often a challenge and sometimes impossible. It is the responsibility of the royalty to limit access to the room when necessary. E.g. if sharing a relatively small room with one or two other sets of royalty, it behooves Them to limit access to one or two of Their attendants. If scribes are to share the room with the royalty, try to find a way to set up a divider for privacy or inform the scribes that their time in the room will be limited based on TRM's schedule. Please inform TRM's chamberlain if there are others who will be sharing the royalty room.

### Royalty Room Amenities

The types of amenities that you can provide to help make TRMs more comfortable or to provide convenience are listed below. These are things that people rarely think about providing but, when they do, the royalty greatly appreciates the extra effort.

- Full length mirror – Royalty is “on-stage” all the time and we in the Midrealm like to see our royalty well put-together and veils on straight
- Chairs (at least one for each royal person in the room, a couple more for guests who need to meet with the royalty)
- A place to hang garb. The preference is some sort of clothing rack that can support the weight of the royalty's garb (which can be quite heavy, especially in a winter reign). In a pinch, an over-the-door hook works great.



- Table(s) – This is especially useful for a place to set out items while getting dressed, a place to lay out all the award tokens and go over them with the court retainer, a place to sign scrolls if there is no other room provided for that task
- Cover windows – Part of the mystique of royalty is keeping the transformation from real life to Royal presence hidden. No one needs to see the Royalty getting dressed. Cover any windows and/or provide a dressing screen.

*One of the coolest royalty rooms we experienced was a very large room in which a 10x10 “Easy-Up” was placed in the middle of the room. The entire pop-up had been draped in breezy fabrics to hide its modern look and it had walls to provide complete privacy. Inside the pop-up was a clothing rack, a full-length mirror, a table and two chairs. On the table were a make-up mirror and a basket of useful items such as a brush and comb, hand lotion, breath-mints, hair spray, a couple of different remedies for headaches, safety pins, sewing kit, etc. Putting the pop-up in the room allowed a private place in the room but still allowed for retainers, porters, and guests to come and go and converse with the royalty. The remainder of the room had several tables and chairs. We had different tables to use for different tasks (signing scrolls, organizing gifts, personal items, snacks, etc.). People who had business could be in the royalty room and still talk with us while we were dressing because we were in a room-within-a-room that had well-secured walls (no one could even peek in). The Royalty liaison had a separate person lined up to set up and manage that pop-up because she was busy with other royalty liaison tasks.*

### III. PRESENCE

#### Presence for the Day

The royalty will need a place to set up “The Presence” during the day. If you are going to make an assumption, assume that they want to be near the heavy list field. This is not always the case, though. If the event is outdoors, are you providing shade? The royalty likely do not have space in Their vehicle to travel with something to provide shade. However, if this is something your group cannot provide, you must inform their chamberlain well ahead of the event so that accommodations can be made through acquaintances of TRMs to get shade to the event and set up. If you’re providing shade, are you also providing a rug? If the event is indoors, consider the placement of The Royal Presence when laying out the event. You might find yourself rearranging the site layout after TRMs arrive.

#### Dais

We in the Midrealm like to put our royalty up on a pedestal. Mostly, we refer to this as a dais. There’s something cool about having to climb up a couple of steps to enter the presence of the royalty. If at all possible, try to arrange for a dais. If the site has a stage and can accommodate the numbers for court, have court in the room where there is the stage. If the stage is removed from the main activities, then it doesn’t work to have their day presence set up on that same stage. Some sites have risers available, though some may charge extra for that and it may not be within your budget. Risers can be rented from rental companies if your budget allows for it. Be careful with rented risers. They are often pretty beat-up



and may not be very stable. The same is true of the steps that often come with the risers. Some risers are extremely stable and work great at putting the royalty up higher than the rest of the event. It is recommended that you cover a dais with rugs. It helps to dampen the sound and to hide the modern look.

## IV. COURT

### Court Preparation

Royalty will need to start preparing for court one to two hours before court. If one or both of them has been fighting, they will want a shower and this will add more time to court-prep. Court preparation includes the movement of The Presence from its daytime location to the place where court will be held. On a few occasions, this location will not change. Usually, however, it does change. Porters are helpful in moving the thrones, rug(s), kneeling cushion, tables, etc. The lead retainers for TRMs should be consulted about placement of thrones and other items for court. The lead retainers will also be setting up items that are specific for court. Some of these items may contain some “secret” information to be revealed at court such as awards or gifts. Please be respectful and don’t share any information about something you may have seen or heard. Let the recipients be surprised. Something you can provide in court that is often a convenience to the court retainers is a table behind the thrones (about 6 to 8 feet behind the thrones). This is a great place to set out the prizes and tokens to be handed out in court. TRM will be signing all the scrolls for court in this preparation time and need to be undisturbed as they work with the heralds to outline the order of business in court. Now is NOT the time to request business be added to the court list.

### Court Business and Surprises for the Royalty

All court business should be told to the Court Herald and TRM’s lead retainer as early in the day as possible so that TRMs do not have to rearrange their court list at the last minute. **NEVER try to surprise the royalty in Their court.** If your group wants to make a grand presentation in court of a very cool gift and you’d really like for it to be a surprise, tell TRMs well before court. They will put on a good show in court for all to see and will praise the efforts of all who contributed. But, DO NOT try to pull off a surprise without bringing them in on it. This has gone badly for some. The Royalty might truly be overjoyed at your generosity and will show their surprise well in court when the presentation is made. If your group thinks it has the coolest thing to give the royalty but the Royalty are shocked and dismayed by it, you don’t want them to betray that in court for all to see. If they know ahead of time, they can do the right thing and lavish praise upon the presenters during their court and no one gets their feelings hurt. Surprises also extend to jokes in court. Depending on the personality of the royalty, you will either find yourself witnessing hearty guffaws from the king or a stern talking-to in front of all your friends. Don’t risk it. If you know of anyone who has business with TRMs for court, that business needs to be taken to the court herald sometime early during the day and also communicated to TRM’s chamberlain or lead retainer. If you don’t provide enough information about the business, you may not get to approach them during Their court. The royalty are in control of their court and don’t want things to



happen they aren't prepared for. It is also possible that there just isn't time in court for some business. It is perfectly acceptable to conduct some business with royalty privately while they sit in state or to have the business conducted during feast (such as the awarding of prizes from the day's activities).

### **Court Shtick**

Some royalty have set pieces planned for their courts. They may request some props or accommodations be provided by the local group. This might be something silly like, does anyone in your group happen to have a jester hat they can bring to the event. Or, they might ask that all doors to the court be left open (to allow some silly running around to be done). This isn't common but it can happen. Regarding the actual court shtick, teach your local folks that they are NOT to interject, attempting to ad-lib part of the shtick. The populace are mostly likely not a part of the script. Laughing, cheering, and responses to questions directed at the populace are acceptable. If something bad looks like it is about to happen, it's most-likely scripted that way and someone else in the script has a way out of it. Here in the Midrealm this isn't often an issue. There are, however, some personalities in this kingdom who haven't understood this. If this is your friend, gently get their attention and remind them to just quietly watch the fun show unfolding before them.

## **V. FOOD**

### **Morning Food**

(Food in the royalty room when royalty arrive i.e. breakfast/brunch): It is usually very welcomed. Whether or not to provide food in the royalty room is completely up to the host group. Whether or not it is wanted or desired by the royalty varies depending on the set of royalty. Important Note: If you don't let the royalty know before they arrive (as in, you're hoping to surprise them), they will likely bring their own or eat on the way to the site. Then all that food you prepared will go to waste. As to the type of morning foods, stay away from the inclination to provide a tray full of pastries. They are full of morning sunshine and happiness but, you are best to provide healthy choices such as some fresh fruit, Scotch eggs, bacon, small whole-grain muffins, 100% juice and water (and maybe some caffeinated beverages for those who like them). A reign takes a toll on a waistline and it's often because the hosting groups provide way too much awesome-tasting yet high-fat/high-calorie foods (and who can resist those!?), in addition to all the fast-foods that are consumed while traveling. Be sure to check with TRM's chamberlain. It is okay to not-provide food. It is not expected but it is appreciated. If you choose to provide food, you do not need to put out a big spread. Enough for the royalty and their retainers is plenty. Quality over quantity. They just need enough to break their fast and hold them until lunchtime. The royalty doesn't want to have to spend all day in the royalty room. They need to get dressed and get organized as quickly as possible so they can get out and "be" the royalty. Again, plenty of communication with their chamberlain well before the event is best so that everyone knows what to expect.



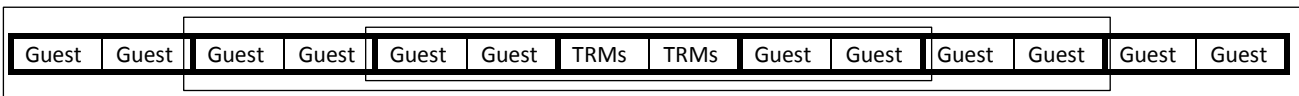
### Lunch

Why yes, lunch would be delightful! The Midrealm is very generous and the royalty are very thankful to consistently be recipients of that generosity. As stated in the comments about food in the morning, it is not required. However, it is always welcome and is a great help to their day. With all the regalia that royalty have to haul to events and all the planning involved in just preparing for an event, there is rarely room to add a cooler of their own food nor is there adequate time to shop for and prepare that food. If your group will be providing lunch for the royalty, work with their chamberlain well ahead of the event. Consider that the king will likely be fighting. That means that the timing of food will be important. Some fighters don't eat while fighting because it sits heavy in their stomachs and can cause stomach upset. How much food are you preparing? Are you planning to feed just the royalty, the royalty and their personal retainers, the royalty and any local retainers-on-duty during lunch? Are you expecting the royalty to invite others to join them (if so, how many – let the royalty know before the event and remind their head retainer early in the day – if this is told to the royalty at the last minute, they might not have any idea who to invite)? Communication is key. Work with TRM's chamberlain well ahead of the event so that they know what to expect. Another thing to consider is the location of the lunch. Some royalty would like to take a break and have their lunch in the royalty room. Some royalty believe the royalty need to be in view of the populace as much as possible and prefer to have lunch served at the dais. Is the food to be plated and served? Is the food set out on a table and self-serve? Will plates, flatware, and napkins be provided or will royalty need to have someone pull out the royal feast gear (and if so, is there a place to clean it before feast)?

*One of the most medieval things you can do for TRMs is to bring the lunch board to Them at Their thrones. Set up a couple of saw horses and make a show of bringing in the luncheon feast to set before TRMs.*

### Feast

Of course, the royalty will stay for feast. IT is rare when They cannot stay so you should still check with Their Chamberlain. If there is a feast at the event, it is expected that a head table will be provided for the royalty and their invited guests. When the royalty are seated at the head table, it looks best when there is symmetry at the table. This means, if you are going to accommodate the royalty inviting people to sit at the head table, you should plan for them to invite people in groups of four (4, 8, 12). This, of course, could change if only one of the royalty is at the event and has not chosen a companion to join them at the head table.



### Toasts

Usually, TRM's lead retainer or the ranking peer will coordinate this. Middle Kingdom tradition is that the highest ranked person in the room (except the royalty themselves) gives the first toast to TRMs. The



second highest ranked person gives the second toast to TRHs (even if they are not present). If it seems no one has remembered, locate and talk to the highest-ranked non-royal person who can start the toasts. The toasts typically start after the first course has been delivered to all the tables. The royalty usually toast the cooks and servers after the last course has been delivered to the tables. There may be times when the local landed Baron and Baroness also are sitting at head table or visiting royalty from other kingdoms. Please speak to TRM's lead retainer privately (preferably before feast) regarding how they wish to have toasts to proceed. Educate the people in your group about these traditions.

## Dishes

Most people go home from an event and don't have to worry about all their belongings for another month or two (or sometimes longer). The royalty likely have to go to another event next weekend. When someone from the staff can take TRM's feast dishes back to the kitchen and give them a good cleaning, it is a huge help to their schedule. If you can't get them properly washed but can at least get them rinsed off, please let them know that they were only rinsed so they know to give them a thorough cleaning at home. If you cannot clean them at all, you might want to provide garbage bags into which they can pack the feast gear so that it doesn't soil the interior of the regalia boxes.

## General comments about food for royalty

**Strong Odors:** Regarding food in the royalty room, consider the "odor" of the food plus the size and ventilation of the room. E.g. Don't lay out a tray full of shrimp in a 10x10 room. Very nice gesture but it will turn Her Majesty's stomach the next time she walks in there. Foods with strong odors are ideal candidates for serving food on a table near the dais.

**Feast Gear or Not:** If you are providing day-foods for the royalty (breakfast, brunch, lunch), please consider providing plates, drinking vessels, napkins, flatware, whenever possible. Disposable is perfectly acceptable if served in the royalty room's closed environment. It is not convenient to dig out the royal feast gear for eating in the royalty room then to find a place to have it cleaned for the evening's feast. The royalty may choose to bring another set of dishes for these daytime meals – as long as they know ahead of time about the meals and where they will be served. As always, this is why clear and frequent communications with TRM's chamberlain is so important.

**Food temperature:** Is the food supposed to be served warm? If so, find a way to keep it warm. If it can't be kept warm (TRM's schedule gets out of whack and they may be late to lunch) consider serving only cold foods. If it's supposed to be served cold but the day is extremely hot, consider a bowl-within-a-bowl with ice in the outer bowl.

**Outdoor food:** Cover it to keep the flies and bees off the food.

**Serving Utensils:** Provide a way to serve food items (including something for condiments/sauces). The royalty do not travel with serving utensils.



**Timing:** Check with TRM’s chamberlain regarding the timing of lunch. But, when asking, be sure to include a schedule of the day’s activities. There are so many things that could affect the scheduling of lunch. E.g. if the royalty choose to have a peerage meeting during the lunch hour, plan to have the food ready for them to eat during the meeting. Also, you can expect that a peer of that order can bring the food to TRM. You will not be allowed to serve into the peerage meeting unless you are a member of that order. Even TRM’s retainers cannot enter a peerage meeting.

**Likes, dislikes, allergies:** Check TRM’s website for food allergies, preferences, and aversions. Contact their chamberlain regarding the menu if possible. Even with all the items listed in the likes and dislikes, they may prefer just a roast beef sandwich and an apple for lunch vs. a huge spread of delicacies. Be careful about the “likes” section of TRM’s website. When they have to eat their “likes” at every event, they start getting tempted to remove them from the list. If His Majesty indicates that he doesn’t like something, don’t prepare it for him just because you think you can make it in a way that he will like. If you overhear His Majesty mention that he likes cocktail weenies, don’t assume they’re his favorite and he wants to eat a crockpot full of them at every opportunity. Sharing a menu with TRMs is not about them requiring that you get their approval, it’s a courtesy to allow clear communications. If no one is going to eat the mushroom and leek pie you made, it would be good to know that you shouldn’t bother to make it. TRM’s chamberlain will likely inform your royalty liaison regarding food allergies. It wouldn’t hurt for your royalty liaison to specifically ask about this just to be sure no one forgets to cover this information. Make sure any local retainers you have lined up to retain during the day and anyone preparing food for TRMs is told about these allergies

**Leftovers:** If there is food you provide to TRMs that you intend to have them take home with them, be sure their chamberlain knows well ahead of the event. It’s possible they don’t have room to bring a cooler for storing the food for the trip home. Consider offering the leftovers to the local staff who is working so hard on the event or send it off to a post-revel. If it is something special made specifically for TRMs, please provide a way for them to transport it in a food-safe manner.

## VI. OTHER

**Retainers:** Most of the time, the royalty will bring at least one set (two people) of retainers with them. These retainers are to be considered the “head” retainers for TRMs for the day and should be the primary contact between any of your local staff and the royalty. When the local groups also provide retainers, this is a great relief to the head retainers and allows them some time for breaks. If the royalty have a lead retainer or a retainer manager on their staff (check their website or ask the chamberlain a few weeks before the event), work with this lead retainer regarding the scheduling of local retainers for TRMs. This will help in setting up the appropriate timeslots in which retainers would be most beneficial. For example, if the royalty won’t be on site until 10am, there is no need to start your sign-up sheet at 9am. If the royalty will be in peerage meetings for three hours, there will be no need to have retainers





signed up for that time period. Usually the royalty will use their own retainers for retaining in court. But, again, check with the chamberlain well in advance of the event because every set of royalty does things a little differently. Getting people to sign up for retainer shifts can sometimes be a bit of a challenge. Royalty understands this. As much as you encourage new people to do a shift as a retainer, do so only when they can do that shift with someone who is a little more experienced. When the royalty needs something done, the new person likely won't know what to do or who they're supposed to go talk to. Having people new to the SCA as retainers is a great opportunity but they shouldn't be hampered by not knowing what to do when the royalty actually needs them to do something. It would be beneficial if, at a local group meeting prior to the event that a retaining primer be reviewed. His Grace Eliahu and Maestra Arianna have an excellent document about retaining. It explains titles, etiquette, dos and don'ts, etc. Check in/out with TRMs lead retainer, not with TRMs. The retainers do not need to interrupt TRMs conversations to announce a change in the retainers.

**Porters:** Porters are another source of tremendous help to royalty. There are several items of regalia associated with being royalty and all that regalia contributes to the "show" that royalty have to put on at every event. Porters help by taking on the following tasks: carry things from TRM's vehicle to where they belong, help set things up, move things during the day (like thrones from the daytime presence to court), help to tear-down at the end of the day and load things back into TRM's vehicle. While this is very much appreciated, local porters MUST take direction from TRM's personal staff. Porters who just take control often will do (and have done) things that are contrary to TRM's wishes. Things can go missing (and have). Things might get broken (this has happened, too). Things don't get packed correctly into their respective containers. Things don't get loaded back into the vehicle in the appropriate Tetris-like fashion that allows everything to fit. All of these things happen despite everyone's best intentions.

**Porter Tips:** This list is not inclusive but it gives people things to consider.

- Unless told otherwise, if you don't know where something goes and you can't find the person to ask, take it to the royalty room. Don't walk a suitcase over to the rapier list and set it down there assuming someone will notice it later. Her Majesty's shoes may be in there. You don't want her walking around the event without shoes, right? (Yes, this really happened.)
- Don't assume everything comes out of the vehicle. Wait for direction.
- If you've never set up the thrones, watch and help. It's not as obvious as you'd hope.
- The back-cushions for TRM's thrones are wedges with the wide part of the wedge at the top (this helps the royalty to sit up straight and not look like they are slouching).
- Never lift the thrones by the back of the chair. The back is not attached. Use two people on each throne and lift by the seat pegs.
- When placing the thrones in The Presence or in court, there is a specific way to do it but there may also be circumstances that change that placement. If it is only one set of royalty present, the Queen sits to the King's right (like he's driving the kingdom and she's in the passenger seat). If no one is around to ask, then use this configuration. Heirs may be split to either side of TRMs or may sit next to each other, to the left of HisRM, unless the Queen is not present, then TRHs



go to HisRM's right. TRMs will decide. Placement of visiting royalty and Territorial Barons and Baronesses can also add complexity to placement. It is good to be familiar with the appropriate protocols in this regard but, consult TRMs for their preferences. Think of it like this: The most ranked person there is the King. The second is the Queen so she sits at His right hand. The next couple (likely, TRHs) sit in the next most prominent place, at the King's left hand. Placement will continue in this manner (alternating right and left). Usually you will keep couples together.

- When dismantling the thrones, it is very important all pieces go into the appropriate bags (they are marked) and that the pegs that hold the thrones together go into the separate bags for HisRM and HerRM. Imagine Her Majesty's surprise when she goes to an event the next weekend while His Majesty goes to a different event and they find out that all the pegs are in His Majesty's throne bag. (Yes, this really happened)
- Always roll banners with the design to the inside and put them in the correct bag (His/Hers).
- Unless directed to do so, do not attempt to load TRM's vehicle without direction. There is likely a way that works best for packing their vehicle. Some royalty have items transported in multiple vehicles.

**Fees:** While not required, it is customary in the Middle Kingdom to not charge the Royalty a site fee or a fee for the feast. Also, while not required, it is also a generous gesture and provides greater convenience when one set of retainers has their site and feast fees comp'd.

**Troll/Gate:** Inform your staff who are working at the gate for your event that Royalty will be there and approximately when they are due to arrive (you can get this information from the chamberlain). It would be very useful to your staff if you provide a 1-page sheet that is easily accessible that has pictures of the royalty, their names (and their staff who will join them at the event), and the information they need upon their arrival. This information includes the location of the royalty room, where to park their vehicle for unloading the presence, where the fighting is taking place (to unload armor), and where to park for the day. It's also a good idea that the gate staff knows where the royalty liaison is located. A royalty liaison that has a good staff performing tasks should be free to be at the gate before TRMs arrive and can answer all the questions personally upon their arrival. As royalty, it is not uncommon for people at the gate to have no idea who the royalty are. The gate staff often feels very embarrassed when they find out that this couple in front of them is the King and Queen. That is why a 1-page document for them is helpful.

**Visiting Royalty:** Tell TRMs (via their Chamberlain) about any royalty you know who will also be attending your event. They may not have heard and it would be nice if they had time to prepare a gift for the visiting royalty.

**Accommodations:** There are many options for how accommodations are lined up for the Royalty attending an event. If the hosting group is not providing any overnight accommodations, it is okay to indicate that. But, do so early so that the royalty can take advantage of discounts from making their



reservations early. Most of the time, the royalty make their own accommodations. But, if your group can, below are some recommendations:

- **Hotel:** If it is in the group's budget, getting the royalty a hotel room for the event is an excellent contribution. The group can log it as a donation to the Royal Travel Fund. If you choose to provide this, you should work with TRM's chamberlain. A safe bet is a room with two double/queen beds (royalty and a set of retainers). If you take this route, make the communications early. Some royalty start making reservations as soon as they know which events they will be attending (early reservations can often be secured at reduced rates). You don't need to get a top-of-the-line suite with a Jacuzzi. The royalty need a clean place to sleep and shower that is as close to the site as possible. If there are no showers at the event site, and if the hotel is just a few miles away, the fighting royalty can head back to the room to shower before court.
- **Crash Space:** Providing crash space can be "iffy" at times and a wonderful friend-making adventure at other times. While it's often very fun to get to know new people, it can be a bit challenging to do so for the first time by being put into the home of someone you've never met or barely know. The hosts may also feel very uncomfortable that these total strangers in their home are the royalty. Other things to consider are pet aversions and allergies. You might think Fografie is the most adorable pooch and your closest friends don't mind when your 30 pound puppy thinks she's a lap dog. Be clear in your communications with TRM's chamberlain all the details about crash space. Be sure the hosts understand the royalty may be arriving very late on a Friday night and may prefer to get right to bed (i.e. the hosts shouldn't expect to have the royalty stay up late that night socializing – though, they might need an hour to decompress from the drive and welcome a little social time). If the royalty is expected to bring their own bath linens or bed linens, be sure this is communicated well in advance. What about Saturday night? The royalty may want to go to a post revel. Is that going to be at the crash-space home, some place near, etc? If the royalty goes to a post-revel, will this be an inconvenience to the crash-space hosts if the royalty closes down the post-revel at 4am? Will the hosts be feeding the royalty? Keep everyone in-the-know.
- **Camping:** Preferences about camping is as varied as the royalty. Some love it and will camp at every opportunity. Some hate it and would prefer an hour drive from a hotel to the event site. You can expect that there will be nothing consistent. Again, communication is the key. If camping means a cabin on-site but the royalty needs to bring bed linens for bunk beds, be sure they know. If camping means that the hosting group is providing a tent but nothing in it, let the royalty know. If camping means the camp fee is comp'd but nothing is provided, let them know so they can make the appropriate decisions regarding their accommodations. Run through all the possible scenarios in your head and know that all those possibilities will exist and probably some you didn't think of.
- **None:** It is acceptable to not provide any overnight accommodations to the royalty. It is not required or expected. It is simply one of those things that can make things easier for the royalty.



Regardless of what your group chooses to do about accommodations for the royalty, communicate early, completely (include addresses, phone numbers, confirmation numbers, etc.) and be sure the communication was received and understood.

**Gifts/Donations:** Many people want to make gifts for the royalty but just aren't sure what to make. Below are some of the better ideas.

- Most useful for the job of being royalty: Gift cards for gas, gift cards for chain restaurants (food while traveling is no longer reimbursed through the royal travel fund)
- Very Welcome: Quality items that can be re-gifted to show the generosity of the royalty. Rule of thumb: If it's something you wouldn't want to have gifted to you, don't give it to the royalty. Also, go take a look at their website. If they have a thank you page, you can see if they have already received 40 bars of soap.
- Very Welcome: Items that can be given to people who earn awards in court. There are usually plenty of award tokens in the possession of royalty. Before presenting them with 50 new Purple Fret tokens, ask their chamberlain. There might already be 70 Purple Fret tokens in stock but no Willows. Also, being able to hand out other items WITH the award token is very cool for the recipient.
- Gift Ideas (for re-gifting): Consider items you might like to have.
  - High quality hand-made pouches
  - Wire-woven bracelets
  - Hand-made blank books
  - Hand-dipped beeswax candles
  - Jewelry of lamp-work beads
  - Hand-made pottery mugs and shot glasses
  - Glass-blown drinking vessels
  - Handwoven trim
  - Lucet cord
  - Hand-tooled leather belts
  - Wax tablets
  - Blackwork embroidered trim
  - Coins struck/cast for TRM's reign
  - Silk veils
  - Cloak clasps
  - Molded Beeswax (for waxing strings)
  - Spices (good gifts for cooks)
  - Illumination supplies (good gifts for the scribes of the kingdom)
  - Favors: Pennsic, Gulf Wars, Champions, cross-over fighters, Page School, etc.
  - Items for other royalty: things in the colors of other kingdoms that can be included in royalty gift exchanges



- Nearly anything that is hand-made and good quality is good for re-gifting
- Avoid: Large quantities of items like soap, jams and jellies, store-bought candles, bags of tea, plastic jewelry
- Children's gifts: Consider choking hazards; consider the ages of the intended recipients to whom TRMs will gift these items
- Gifts should include an itemized list of the contents of the gift and the full SCA names of all those who contributed to the gift. Please do this even if the gift is being handed to the royalty in-person. The day is busy and there is a lot to remember. The royalty try very hard to not look harried but there will be moments throughout the day when they are. Having all the correctly spelled names of those who contributed to the gift allows the royalty to thank them correctly.
- There is a difference in giving a gift to the "Midrealm Crown" and giving a gift to the people who are currently the royalty. The difference is whether the gift is considered something that all royalty (now and in the future) will enjoy or a personal gift only for the current people carrying the titles of king and queen. It's usually pretty obvious but not always. Be clear either way.

**Showers on site:** Please let TRMs chamberlain know if showers are available on-site. No one likes a post-fighting stinky king.

**Entertainment:** The opinions about entertainment are as varied as the royalty. Some want to have singing and musical concerts all day. Some don't want any of that. Some prefer music as background/ ambience. If you have entertainers who want to provide entertainment to the royalty, please contact TRM's chamberlain to determine their preferences.

**Post Revels:** This is not last on the list because it is the least important. It's just the last thing to occur in the events of the day. Please let the Royalty know about post-revels that are going on in the area. Not all will attend but some will. None will attend if they don't know about them. Don't just "tell" them or their staff. Provide written information including an actual address, the phone number of a person who will answer their phone if the royalty gets lost, clear directions, etc. Some royalty really enjoy meeting with other SCA people outside the confines of an event. Some royalty are exhausted by the end of an event and just want to go get some sleep. It's a fun part of our game when we get to be social without all the "hats" and titles. If you never give the royalty the opportunity to hang out, they never will.