

About The Adrian Empire

Introduction

The Adrian Empire, Inc. is a non-profit, educational organization that re-creates history from the time frame of 1066 - 1603 AD. This time frame covers what was known as the Middle-Ages (Medieval), which is marked by William the Conqueror's attack on England, through the Renaissance period to the end the reign of Queen Elisabeth I of England. The information below will give you a better idea of our organization, its goals, and the people in it. In getting to know us, it is hoped that it will spark an interest in you that will have you wanting to join us. Also feel free to peruse the national website: <http://www.adrianempire.org>

Who we are

Members of the Adrian Empire cover a very diverse cross-section of today's modern society, from many different areas, all with one common interest - the desire to learn more about medieval history. Just like us, you have probably seen a movie or play that had knights in armor fighting, nobles plotting grand schemes, or explorers setting out to discover the world. Or you might have played a computer or video game set in a medieval world. You probably wondered, "What was it really like?" but didn't know where to go to find out. Worse, the thought of reading book after book and still not getting the feel of what Medieval life was all about had no appeal. Wouldn't it be nice if you could learn about history by *doing* the history?

What we do

That is where the Adrian Empire comes in. Our members attend events to learn and teach history by *doing* history. We *do* history by re-creating the atmosphere of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. We re-create history by becoming a character that could have lived during our time period, but not actual famous characters known from history. Instead, we choose an area from the known world at that time and create our character based on what we know about the people that would have lived there. Don't worry if you have no idea what your character would be, you can learn and grow into your persona. Many members have done just that.

But that is not all we do! Members learn how to fight with real swords in real armor, or learn about the arts and sciences of the time, or learn how to shoot a bow. These activities allow members (men and women) to earn point-based knighthoods based as their experience and skill in the activity grows. Members may also earn a knighthood by doing service for the organization. Whatever the path to becoming a knight, members also learn what it is to *be* a knight. *Chivalry* isn't just a word bandied about. It suddenly has meaning!

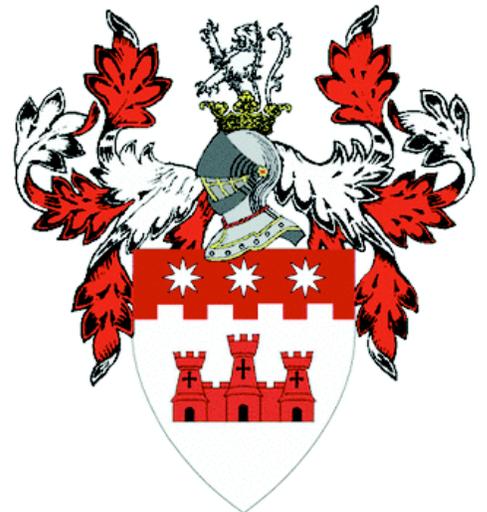
Members participate at fighter practices, demonstrations, tournaments, feasts, and wars. Our Crowns (the ruling nobles) hold courts at events, bringing the feeling of being in the Middle Ages to each gathering. Each event has its own opportunity to learn something new, or to teach others something a member has learned. And every member, young or old, male or female, is given the chance to participate. Truly a family oriented experience!

Where we are

The Empire of Adria has Chapters from the east coast to the west coast of the United States, and points in between. There are even groups in other countries. The Chapter in our area is called the **Duchy of Alhambra**, which is comprised of many counties in Washington State and there are currently core groups in Pullman and Spokane.

Alhambra (from a red-stone castle in Grenada/Spain that was a medieval center of education, culture and commerce) was a Shire (formerly called Caerleon) created in the Pacific Northwest as a single Shire covering all of WA, ID and MT. This was an experiment in growing vast tracts of land as a single entity. The Shire grew to a Duchy, and then to an Archduchy. Over time, growth and the realities of such geography have spurred many areas to split off and form their own Chapters. Currently Alhambra covers the mundane counties of: Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Okanogan, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane & Stevens. Plus we have some shared counties with nearby Chapters:

Asotin, Garfield, Grant, and Klickitat, WA, plus Kootenai and Latah, ID



Alhambra is one of the friendliest groups anyone would ever want to visit. There are no strangers in Alhambra! It has a unique and distinctive culture as there is much interest in middle-Eastern history/culture, Gypsies, Scots, and the Orient, as well as the central European history of the middle-ages.

When we do things

The Adrian Empire began in 1984, and has been holding some kind of event ever since. Tournaments are held monthly and there are a minimum of two Wars scheduled each year. Typically, events are scheduled for weekends, then practices, workshops, movie nights, etc. are usually on weekday evenings. Each Chapter has its own event schedule, and individual groups such as Estates or Guilds might also have something scheduled. The Alhambra Yahoo discussion Group (the web address is listed below) is where we plan events and hold general discussions. Please feel free to join and to ask any questions you may have (free to join).

Why we do this

To have fun! Members enjoy the learning process because the activities are fun. Members teach others because they want to share what they enjoy. We have a community that also enjoys each other's company. Come out to an event and see what we do. You are sure to have an enjoyable experience!

Structure

The Adrian Empire is a feudal-styled parliamentary republic. From the top down every member is directly represented by someone within the organization. And, unlike modern parliamentary governments, such as that of England, our current ruling nobles (Crowns) share in the political process.

The Adrian Empire's governing structure is composed of the following groups:

The Imperial Crowns – Ruled by our national “game managers”, the Emperor & Empress.

Kingdom – A Chapter that has members of 100 or more. Ruled by a King and Queen.

ArchDuchy – A Chapter that has between 50 and 99 members. Ruled by an ArchDuke and ArchDuchess.

Duchy – A Chapter that has between 20 and 49 members. Ruled by a Duke and Duchess.

Shire - newly formed regional Charter, which has members that number between 1 and 19. Shires are ruled by a Viceroy/Vicerine, as the local administrator for the Emperor/Empress.

Canton - core regional groups within a larger Chapter, which have membership numbers that vary. They are ruled by a Viceroy/Vicerine as the local administrator for the Crowns in a Duchy/Archduchy.

The Adrian Empire's voting structure is composed of the following groups:

Estates Major - which include the Emperor, Empress, third level Knights, the Crowns of Kingdoms, ArchDuchies and Duchies & and individual votes from awards.

Estates Minor – A *March, County, Barony or House*, are where members join together for a common voice. Estates are ruled by a Marquis/Marquessa; Count/Countess; Baron/Baroness; or Lord/Lady, depending on the estate size. A House is the smallest and has a minimum of 5 members. All Estates have voting privileges within Adria's political structure.

Knighthood

Knighthood in the Adrian Empire is awarded following a point-based system. For each discipline; Arts & Sciences (crafts and skills of the time period), Archery, Combat (Shinai, Rapier, Heavy Steel), and Ministry (administration and service); there are certain time and skill milestones that must be met before advancing in rank. There are no restrictions to Knighthood based on gender, and only combat has a minimum age requirement for safety reasons (13-Shinai, 14-Rapier, 16-Steel). By learning about medieval history while participating in the Adrian Empire, you are taking steps to become a Knight.

Want to know more?

Check us out for yourself. You don't have to be a member to attend an event, and under some conditions you can participate right away. Most events include a potluck feast, so bring the kids and join us for the day! Or visit our weekly mixed practice. View the calendar on the Alhambra Yahoo discussion group for event listings, or email us. The more the merrier!

Alhambra (Chapter) Website: www.duchyofalhambra.org

Yahoo Group/Discussion Board: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/duchy_of_alhambra/

How to Join Adria

Okay, so you know about us now and you think this is something you would like to do. So how do you join us? Simple, log into the main Adrian website (listed on page 1), click on the **Library** and download the PDF **Membership Form**. Or, contact the Alhambra discussion group listed above and a local minister will assist you. It's only about \$30.00 a year and there is a cost breakdown for additional family members or members of other medieval organizations.

Get Medieval With Us!