

So You Want To Be A Combat Archer

A Quick Guide To An SCA Combat Multiplier

What is Combat Archery?

Combat Archery is an armored combat weapons form. We use handbows, crossbows, and special rubber or foam-tipped ammunition to simulate medieval archery on a modern SCA battlefield.

Who can be a Combat Archer?

Anyone who is eligible to fight in armored combat as an adult can be a Combat Archer, either as a primary weapons form or secondary to other forms like sword and shield, spear, or polearm.

When can we do Combat Archery?

Combat Archery is primarily a melee weapon. We can participate in any melee as long as there is a Combat Archery marshal present, it's safe to shoot (nothing and no one within range of the active area of the battlefield that could be hurt by a stray missile), and the battle scenario calls for it.

Where can we do Combat Archery?

Combat Archery is an activity at war practices, events featuring melee fighting, and major wars throughout the Society. Combat archers are even welcome at the monthly winter melee practice at the Police Athletic League in Fall River, MA.

Why is Combat Archery important on the SCA battlefield?

Combat Archery is a force multiplier on the SCA battlefield. It allows the forces of the East Kingdom to disrupt opposing formations from a distance without putting themselves at direct risk. It allows us to “destroy” siege engines from the other side of the battlefield. Combat Archers can pick off opposing commanders, and have turned the tide of battle by holding ground in the face of an opposing charge.

How can I become a Combat Archer?

To start getting armored up, contact your local fight practice and reach out to fighters for assistance and advice.

For information about weapons, ammunition, and opportunities to practice and fight, consult your Regional Lieutenant (specific geographic regions can be found at <https://eastkingdom.org/LocalGroups.php>):

- Kingdom Combat Archery Marshal: Baron Jibril ibn Ammar al-Fayyad 'al-Sayyid
combat-archery@eastkingdom.org
- Tir Mara CA Lieutenant (Canada: Newfoundland & Labrador, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island) : Lord Aethelwulf Stealcere
combat-archery@tirmara.eastkingdom.org
- Northern Region CA Lieutenant (Northeastern NYS, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire): Lady Bess Brechin
combat-archery.north@eastkingdom.org
- Central Region CA Lieutenant (Eastern NYS, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island):
Baroness Tasha Medvedeva
combat-archery.central@eastkingdom.org, 166985@members.eastkingdom.org
- Southern Region CA Lieutenant (Southeastern NYS, New Jersey, Eastern PA): Lord Whistler o' the Pit
combat-archery.south@eastkingdom.org

CA Equipment Suppliers

- North Star Archery: http://www.northstararchery.com/SCA_combat_archery.html
Best place I have found to get ready to shoot & kits for CA arrows and bolts. They also have fiberglass bows.
- Crossbow and Bolt: <http://crossbowandbolt.com/>
Basic combat crossbows set up for Siloflex. Also has kits if you want to build your own.
- Attila's Archery: http://attilasarchery.com/shop/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=25
This is where the kingdom CA marshal purchased his horse bow. These are very nice bows you can customize and use for both target and combat archery. He prefers this bow over fiberglass bows.
- New World Arbalest: <http://www.crossbows.net/index.php>
Very nice crossbows and links to other suppliers for parts

Armor Suppliers

For armor there are many vendors that have good pieces to choose from. Most important is your helmet. Plan to spend \$150 on a good starter helm, purchased new.

- Iron Monger Armory: <http://ironmongerarmory.com/>
Very well-made equipment at great price points
- Aesir Metalwyrks: <http://www.aesirmetalwyrks.com/>
- Icefalcon Armory: <http://store.fastcommerce.com/icefalcon/home.html>
- Winter Tree Crafts: <http://www.wintertreecrafts.com/index.html>
You will find many people wearing their stainless steel gorgets
- Dark Victory Armory: <https://darkvictory.com/>
Dark Victory is a good source for lightweight HDPE gear, as well as some steel helmets. Quick turnaround.
- Plastic Lamellar: <https://www.plasticlamellar.com/>

Facebook Groups

- East Kingdom Combat Archers: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1558853867691641/>
- SCA Combat Archery: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/95468199155/>
- Central Region Combat Practices: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/196080780813119/>
- East Kingdom Unbelts: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ekunbelts/>
- East Kingdom One Army Pennsic Prep: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/905312843140770/>
- The Complete Northern Army: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2054682451517843/>