

NEWCOMER

A Helpful Guide for Your Time as a Newcomer

Things to Know

- We charge a \$5 monthly fee to participate in our group. That supports gear maintenance and additional gear.
- We meet every Friday (March–October) at 5:30 p.m. until about 9:00 p.m.

Things to Do

- Bring back your signed waiver and code of conduct to an Officer.
- Acquire a pair of sturdy gloves from home or a hardware store.
- Check out our website at terrasylvae.com
- Join our Texting Group, for announcements and other news, by texting the message @terrasylva to 81010

Tips for Success

- Ask a lot of questions
- Talk to a lot of people
- Don't feel stupid/Don't be stupid
- **Don't be afraid to stab your friends!**

Take A Deep Breath!

As you begin your journey into the art of fencing, there is going to be a lot to remember. Don't worry! Everyone here was once a beginner. Take a deep breath and make the most of your time as a Newcomer by focusing on these 5 simple things:

- 1. Listen & Be Observant** - If you're like 90% of newcomers, you are probably itching to pick up a sword and get stabbing. However, a big part of learning is observation. Pay attention to the foundations of what you see in fights around you. How do fencers stand and move around? What does swordplay look like? What stands out and makes you excited to learn?
- 2. Make Friends** - Getting to know the members of the group and developing friendships will only improve your journey. We have all stood where you stand now and are excited to share in your adventure! Smile & share a good attitude.
- 3. Follow the Rules** - We hold safety, honor, attitude, and skill in the highest regard. Each one of us is responsible to hold ourselves to these standards. If you have a concern or question about any rules, the person to talk to is an officer. Ask around if you need help finding one.
- 4. Get Connected** - We're not just a Friday-night club. There are a lot of other non-fencing activities and interactions happening all the time. The website and the texting group will keep you up to date and provide opportunities to get involved with new friends. Don't procrastinate signing-up!

Newcomer Lessons

- Introduction
- Basics of Dueling
- Basics of Melee
- Newcomer Review & Test Match

Things You Can Do at Home

There are a lot of ways that you can develop swordsmanship without having much of the gear, or even a sword! Here are a few things you can do throughout the week that can help you on your fencing journey:

- Maintain a Basic Stance for 10 minutes a day. Ex: during commercials, or while moving around the house.
- Grab a broomstick and test your endurance by trying to hold it out in front of you like a sword for as long as you can.
- Watch the “Duel atop the Cliffs of Insanity” in the Princess Bride. Write down how the sword fighting differs from other examples, like in the Lord of the Rings.
- Go to terrasylvae.com and read through the Woodland Watch articles and other blog posts. Write down things that stand out.

Additionally, you can get involved in the group by brainstorming your persona name and backstory.

5. **Just Try It** - Unless you've been sailing with the Dread Pirate Roberts for the last few years, you most likely haven't really experienced fencing for yourself. And even if you've dabbled in it already, you have plenty more you can learn. Don't be afraid to try something new, to screw up, or to be embarrassed.

As my friend, Jake the Dog, says, “Dude, sucking at sumthin' is the first step towards being sorta good at something.”

What's Next for a Newcomer?

With **regular attendance** you will progress through the Newcomer Lessons in approximately 1 month (4 weeks). These lessons will teach you the basics of fencing and prepare you for the next phase of your fencing journey: **becoming an Initiate!**

Notes: