

# INITIATE

## A Helpful Guide for Your Time as an Initiate

### Things to Know

- The Initiate phase of your training is where you will learn many of the fundamental skills of sword fighting.

### Things to Do

- Review what you learned as a Newcomer.
- Discuss questions about your training, one on one, with an Officer. You should have some.
- Attend at least one Shire event.
- Create an account on [terrasylvae.com](http://terrasylvae.com)
- Look into purchasing your own helmet and/or gorget in the next group order.

### Tips for Success

- Take time during the week to think about and practice what you learned the previous week.
- Do not rush through your Initiate lessons.
- Get help from other members and pick their brains.
- Stay involved with the group.

## You Are Laying A Foundation

While you were a Newcomer, you were learning the very basics of what it takes to be in Terrasylvae and to fence. Now, as an Initiate, you will begin interacting as a member of the group and a recognized student of the sword.

When it comes to fencing, your lessons are going to focus on developing core skills and following the rules that make a competent fencer. It is during this time that you will lay the foundation of your future as a Novice and Swordsman. Take your time. Incorporate and practice what you learn. We know you are excited to wield a dagger and learn what you see others are doing, but that time will come. How can we expect ourselves to be masters without first learning to “wax on & wax off”? The safe and honorable thing to do is to remember that you are beginner playing with a weapon. Be smart. Be safe. Leave the flashy stuff for later.

The other aspect of being an Initiate is that this is your time to develop your identity with the group. Terrasylvae is a refuge in the woods and the Order of the Rose is a place where you can learn without fear of ridicule or embarrassment. You have the opportunity to choose how you want to be perceived in the group and what your reputation will be. Reinvent yourself, if you so desire! But remember that you have been initiated into **a group! Not a solo-adventure.**

You will get so much more out of Terrasylvae from active involvement in the group and you will enrich the lives of those who came before and those who will come after.

## Initiate Lessons

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- Breaking Shots
- Basic Offhand
- Multiple Attacks
- Block/Attack Combos
- Range & Placement
- Draw & Tip Cuts
- Line Fighting
- Two on One Tactics
- Death from Behind (DFB)
- Initiate Review & Test Match

## Training You Can Do

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- Get in the habit of working out your legs and arms. Try to develop endurance through resistance exercise. Talk to an Officer for some simple, but effective exercises you can do.
- Hang a tennis ball from a string and practice stabbing it with a sword or dowel. Focus on your form and accuracy before increasing speed.
- Get involved or start discussion on the website's blog or forum, the Order Garrison.
- Write down your thoughts and other insights in your Fencing Journal. Talk to an Officer or other members for journal ideas.
- Schedule some time to train with other fencers, outside of practice. This can be a great time to get some one on one instruction and glean from their experience.

## What's Next for an Initiate?

With **regular attendance** you will progress through the Initiate Lessons in approximately 6 months. These lessons will teach you many of the fundamental skills of fencing that, we believe, all fencers should possess. When you finish you'll be prepared to start the next phase of your fencing journey as a **Novice!**

## Notes: