

## Field Support at Estrella War

Providing water and snacks to weary fighters on the field can be a very rewarding experience. It's a great way to get to know people and your efforts are always very much appreciated. That said, if it's your first time volunteering in this area or if you've never done so at this particular event, there are few things you should know, including some basic information about how the BOD ruling earlier this year abolishing the Office of Water Bearer will affect this event.

Despite the fact that "waterbearing" is no longer an official activity of the SCA, Inc., there are no restrictions against volunteers providing refreshments to fighters. In an effort to maintain safety and order, we will be coordinating these efforts as "Field Support". We will work with the Marshals as volunteers instead of being under the supervision of the Chirurgeons. Supplies and equipment will be provided. As in the past, Field Support is a non-partisan activity, and no fighter may be denied water or snacks.

Important things to keep in mind include:

1. Unlike past years and at other events, Field Support Volunteers at Estrella War will be restricted to the sidelines of the battles. Because the field is so large and there are so many participants from different areas, the Marshals have decided it will be safer and more effective not to allow non-combatants on the field. This means the fighters must come to you for their water, and some of them will not be familiar with this procedure. Please bear in mind that this is for everyone's safety and it will also reduce the hold time between scenarios, since Field Support volunteers will not have to be retrieved from the middle of the field before the fighting can start. If a fighter who objects to this change is discourteous to you, please refer him to either the Field Support Coordinator or the Marshal In Charge.
2. You must wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes. There is a lot of walking involved in field support and you will be working around large people in armor who are carrying weapons and have limited fields of vision.
3. You must be 16 or over to volunteer on your own. Youth under 16 must be supervised by a parent, and may be turned away if there are no age appropriate activities for them to perform. The hydration station is not an appropriate place for children to wait while you volunteer and will not be allowed to do so.
4. Take care of yourself while you are working. Wear sunscreen, cover your head, drink water and take breaks when needed. Oranges and pickles may be enough to keep fighters going, but most Field Support volunteers need something more substantial to eat, so plan ahead. Bring a lunch or go get food if you need to.
5. Please do not smoke at the station or while carrying bottles.
6. Atenveldt supports non-contact. Field Support activities. If a fighter puts his or her mouth on a squirt top, it **must** go back to the station for sanitizing. Most fighters are familiar with this, but some need reminding, so keep an eye out.

- 7 Many households and fighting units provide support to their own fighters. We strongly encourage individual groups to coordinate their efforts with those made by the Estrella Staff to insure that all fighters are taken care of and that none are turned away.
- 8 Be aware of your surroundings and pay attention to the Marshals. They will tell you where it's safe to stand and can point you out to fighters who need water.
- 9 Field Support volunteers are generally very valued and cherished individuals and welcome wherever they go, but there are exceptions to every rule. If you ever have a problem with a fighter being rude or overly flirtatious, notify the Field Support Coordinator In Charge so the situation can be addressed.
- 10 Only Marshals can remove fighters from the field. If you are concerned that a fighter isn't drinking enough, is suffering from the heat or has been injured and doesn't want to admit it, feel free to express that concern, but be aware you are not allowed to argue with him or her. Respect their wishes. If they don't want to drink or tell you they're fine, you may point them out to a Marshal if you feel it's necessary.

If you want to become a Field Support Volunteer, please sign up by sending an e-mail to [fieldsupport@estrellawar.org](mailto:fieldsupport@estrellawar.org) Field Support volunteering is a a great way for you to take part in Estrella War as well as a great way to support your SCA group. Please volunteer!

which is attached to this email as a doc file