

Who Me? Teach?

Lady Cécile de Brétigny
Kingdom A and S Champion
ladycecilia@hotmail.com

Yes, you! Everyone has something to teach. You do not have to be an “expert” to share knowledge and help others learn. Even if you are just learning a craft, you can help others learn, too. You have a different perspective from those who have been working the craft longer. Conversely, if you have been working your craft for several years, you may have some nifty tips, tricks or advice that you can share with your fellow artisans. One of the greatest experiences for teachers is the “Aha!” moment--when students eyes light up and they really understand.

Many learning experiences occur outside of the classroom. Often, someone comes up to you and says, “Wow, that’s a neat thingamajig*! Can you show me how you did that?” Then, you can either explain what you did, and/or set up a later time where you can discuss the project in more detail or both work through a project.

If you find that many people are asking you to show them how to make that cool thingamajig, you may want to consider teaching a class. At first, start small. Focus on your thingamajig and try to make sure that your supporting material is correct. You might want to put together a handout to help students follow along and list helpful books. You will not be able to predict or answer every question that will come up in your class, and that is perfectly alright. Once you try out your new class, make revisions as necessary. Teaching takes practice. The more you do it, the easier it becomes.

There are many teaching opportunities available throughout the kingdom. Estrella War Collegium is coming up in February, which is followed by the Kingdom Arts and Sciences Collegium and baronial collegiums. Several baronies host Arts Nights, or you can offer to teach a separate class at your home. Every time you share your knowledge, you are helping the kingdom grow.

*thingamajig—insert neat project here