

Becoming a barony.

The Society's requirements for a barony are well known, and are listed at the end of this. However they're minimums and the Kingdom of Drachenwald has always had certain expectations above this.

This document sums up what is expected form a branch or group of branches to become a Barony.

The key is sustainability. Corpora lists a minimum of 25 members to be a barony. However, this is the figure that you can not drop below, not an ideal number for a barony. Drachenwald has used the figure of 40 members as a guide to when a branch is probably strong enough that it will not drop below 25 members.

If your branch has been small and has suddenly grown it is unlikely that the Kingdom would advance your case for barony until a year or two have passed and it's clear that the growth is sustained, not just a peak and a fall off after that.

If your branch has been growing steadily for some years and looks to be continuing to grow past the magic number of 40 members then it's likely your application would be supported by the kingdom, as long as the other points set out are met.

While not required by corpora it has been an expectation of Drachenwald that any proposed barony would have a history of hosting regional and kingdom 'bid-for' events, such as Coronet Tourneys, Coronations, Crown Tourneys, Kingdom Universities, regional Universities, etc.

On to the Corpora requirements.

- At least 25 members.
See above on this.
- A set of officers acceptable to the Crown (and Coronet, if applicable).

If you're a shire or canton upgrading you'll probably have a good history of officers. Filling the following officer posts are required -

Seneschal

herald

Exchequer

Knight's marshal

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Chronicler

Chatelaine

Having a good record of local officers who reported on time and did a good job will be a strong help in becoming a barony.

- A name and device registered with the College of Arms.

This is the slow part if all the rest is ready. Registering a device is a slow process. Branches should begin the process of registering Arms at an early date, long before they go for Barony ideally.

- Consensus favouring advancement in branch status, and favouring the type of branch (barony or province) specified in the petition. This consensus is determined by kingdom law and custom. If the branch is to be a barony, arrangements shall have been made with the Crown at the time of application for baronial status to select and appoint a Baron and/or Baroness in accordance with kingdom law and custom.

This will be by a poll of all members. The regional Seneschal can organise this for you when you are ready to test the question.

- A strong record of activity in a variety of fields of Society endeavor.

This is interpreted in Drachenwald as including the above mentioned 'bid-for' events, but also includes an expectation that the SCA in your area is a varied activity, not just based on one or two things like heavy Fighting and feasting for example. There is no strict interpretation but you should make your case showing activity such as combat related (fencing/archery/heavy), social (feasting, events, museum trips/etc) and arts and sciences etc. The reason for this is again sustainability. It's much less likely that a group of 40 people who are active in many aspects of the SCA will lose a lot of members by comparison to a similar group who focus on for example heavy fighting. The reason for this is that if something happens to the fighter practice venue, or the person running the practices the drop off in fighters would be less of a blow overall. The same goes for any single activity.

It's recommended that you talk to your regional seneschal about this before you make your submission to Kingdom. Your regional seneschal's recommendation will be sought in the process anyhow, and they may be able to help you tailor your proposal or to indicate what best to work on to become ready to move to barony.