

OAK GROVE

A Village within the Empire of Medieval Pursuits

- I. Name of Branch – The name Oak Grove is derived from being located in the largest oak forest in Missouri.
- II. Heraldry – On a roundel, vert, a White Oak Leaf triskelion or, and a bordour tenne .



III. Location

- A. Modern Location : Oak Grove shall be centered on 36°52'1.72"N 91°17'43.62"W, and borders shall extend 25 miles, in all directions from this center.
- B. Historic Location: We are a crossroad village of farmers, artisans, merchants (and occasional warriors) set in the 9th century in the valleys of southern Norway.

IV. Purpose – Our goal is to provide a safe haven for teaching, learning, and fun, focusing *primarily* on the everyday lives of the 8th & 9th Century Norse Culture and welcoming the various visitors to the North Lands. Oak Grove will encourage new members, promote historical research, and provide a community that is welcoming, inspiring, and allows for all involved to express their passion for early medieval history.

V. Membership – Membership in Oak Grove is not based on geographical area (but it helps). Oak Grove does not discriminate based on any Title VII protections, all are welcome.

- A. Initiate members must be paid members for at least one year prior to admittance into Oak Grove as a Member in Good Standing.

- B. A “Member in Good Standing” must be paid member and an active participant within Oak Grove and the E.M.P., and may vote in Populace polling.
- C. A “Member in Excellent Standing” must be a paid member, an active participant, and live within the borders of Oak Grove. Only “Members in Excellent Standing” may Challenge or hold Leadership in Oak Grove.
- D. Revocation of membership in Oak Grove will be solely at the discretion of the Lord and Lady, after having consulted with the Council of Elders.
 - i. Any infraction of civil law shall be forwarded to civil authorities.

VI. Leadership of Oak Grove

- A. The Lord and Lady shall be the leadership and be the Voice of the Village, and are, collectively as One, responsible for representing the Oak Grove at any House of Lords Meetings, and are the Official Lord and Lady with regards to the Rules of the E.M.P.
- B. The Lord and Lady shall rule as any medieval feudal Lord and Lady would rule, and may create such rules and offices as are necessary for the function of Oak Grove. The Lord and Lady shall have executive and judicial authority in regards to all Oak Grove activities within the limits of the bylaws and charter and are responsible for maintaining the group status within the EMP and for ensuring the required events and scheduled activities occur.

VII. Replacement of the Lord and Lady

- A. Challenges to the Lord and Lady must be done publicly, with support of the council, by a Member in Excellent Standing.
 - i. Determination of Lord and Lady shall be by challenge of ordeal.
 - a) Both Lord and Lady and challengers must agree to the terms of the ordeal. If no agreement can be made between the Lord and Lady and the challengers, the populace of Oak Grove will propose and vote on the ordeal to be endured. A simple majority vote of the members in Good Standing shall determine the ordeal. Should either the Lord and Lady or challengers not agree with the ordeal selected by the populace, that person must forfeit.
- B. The Lord and Lady are not required to be replaced at anytime, if no challenger presents themselves properly as noted above, the current Lord and Lady may remain as leadership of Oak Grove until such a challenger presents themselves and defeats the Lord and Lady as outlined in this charter.
- C. Should the current Lord and Lady choose to step down for any reason, They shall

host a Tournament of Challengers. The rules and confines of the Tournament shall be defined by the Lord and Lady.

- D. The incoming Lord and Lady shall serve a 6 month internship with the sitting Lord and Lady. Upon completion of the 6 month internship, the retired Lord and Lady will serve as members of the Council of Elders for the membership, to ensure their protection under the rule of the new Lord and Lady. Should populace complaints reach a level which brings concern to the Council of Elders, the Council of Elders may bring a vote of no confidence against the sitting Lord and Lady. A majority of 2/3rds of the members in Good Standing in attendance at the time of the polling will be required to remove a sitting Lord and Lady. The Council of Elders will appoint an interim Lord and Lady until a Challenge can be arranged.

VIII. The Council of Elders

- A. The Council of Elders shall be composed of a minimum of the three oldest members, by chronological age, of Oak Grove, (and if applicable the retired Lord and Lady.) The Council of Elders may be expanded as needed by the Lord and Lady.
- B. The Council of Elders will act as advisors to the Lord and Lady in all matters concerning Oak Grove. No decision by the Council of Elders, other than those outlined in this charter, shall be considered binding.
- C. In the event that the Lord and Lady deem that a member of the Council of Elders is not properly fulfilling their roles, the Lord and Lady can remove them from the Council of Elders and open the position up to candidates.

IX. Activities

- A. Combat – Members of Oak Grove are encouraged to participate in Combat activities outlined in the Rules of the EMP. All Combat rules will be strictly adhered to as set forth by the Empire. The Lord and Lady of Oak Grove will have governance over all Combat Conventions, and will determine the conventions of styles for combat within the lands of Oak Grove, and at all events hosted by Oak Grove. All members of Oak Grove are subject to the Combat conventions of the Empire outside of Oak Grove and at 'foreign' events.
- B. Non-combat Weapons Pursuits – Members of Oak Grove are encouraged to participate in Target Archery and Thrown Weapons, and any other target based activity.
- C. Arts and Research – Members are encouraged to be involved in crafting of any type related or relevant to Oak Grove. To include but not limited to: Clothing, Armoring, Black Smithing, Weaving, Illumination and Calligraphy, Fashions, Book

Making, Candle Making, Food and Drink etc... Members are encouraged to study all areas relevant to Oak Grove. Classroom and group instruction in person is highly encouraged in order to share knowledge, inspire new members and build a community of friends and students of ideas and varied interest.

X. Recognition of Skills and Achievements

- A. The following Recognition of Skills and Achievements are for the encouragement of members of Oak Grove and are not recognized or acknowledged by any other settlement in the EMP. Issuance of the Recognition are at the discretion of the Lord and Lady of Oak Grove. With the exception of Hero, Recognition may be given more than once to a deserving member of Oak Grove.
- B. *Hero/Heroine* – The title of Hero/Heroine is recognition of those who have shown dedication, and honor by serving in the mundane military service of the United States of America. Heroes is an honorary, and does not carry any duties, responsibilities, or official status. An Heroes must be a member in good standing for a period not less than one year.
- C. *Shield* – The title of “the Shield” is recognition of those who have shown fierceness, and prowess in battle in the protection of another. Those named Shield are considered Protectors of Oak Grove. A Shield must be a member in good standing for a period not less than one year.
- D. *Feather* – The title of “ the Feather” is recognition of those who have shown comportment and honor in archery. Those named Feather are considered Protectors of Oak Grove. A Feather must be a member in good standing for a period not less than one year.
- E. *Crafter* – The title of “the Crafter” is recognition of those who have shown excellence and skill in their chosen craft. Those named Crafter are considered the Creators and Makers of Oak Grove. A Crafter must be a member in good standing for a period not less than one year.
- F. *Scholar* – The title of “the Scholar” is recognition of those who have shown potential and skill in research of the Norse Culture. Those named Scholar are considered the Thinkers of Oak Grove. A Scholar must be a member in good standing for a period not less than one year.
- G. *Reliable* – The title of “the Reliable” is recognition of those who have shown service and support for both the EMP and Oak Grove. Those named Reliable are considered the Backbone and Doers upon which all other activities rest. A Reliable must be a member in good standing for a period not less than one year.

XI. Website

A. Public Page – <https://www.facebook.com/OAK-GROVE-A-Village-within-the-Empire-of-Medieval-Pursuits-110818184631083>

XII. Website Blurb

A. Oak Grove exists for the sole purpose to enjoy all things Early Period Norse and to revel in our friendships. We participate in and have a wide variety of interests in all aspects of Early Norse Culture.

XIII. Oak Grove Events

A. TBD

B. TBD

XIV. Three Simple Rules

A. Be Excellent to each other.

B. If not covered in rules, laws, or charter. Refer to Rule 1.