

Sword in the Scroll Fencing Academy

Frequently Asked Questions



How old does a fencer have to be to start fencing?

We start fencers at 9 in the Youth Fencing Program. Fencing requires safety equipment that is made to certain sizes. Some children may be too small to properly fit. Though we understand the excitement fencing offers young children, it may be appropriate to wait in some cases. Fencers 12 and up begin in our regular fencing class.

When can I start?

We start beginners all year round. The only condition is that fencers contact us before coming to arrange a start day. We give our full attention to new fencers (often with one-to-one instruction the first time) and this requires preparation.

What do I need?

Sneakers and gym clothes (preferably long sweatpants or running pants). We will provide equipment temporarily until fencers get settled and feel they will continue to fence.

When are classes held and how often can I go?

The class schedule is below. Fencers are encouraged to attend more than once a week.

| Daytime Classes | | Evening Classes | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Tues and Thur. 9:00 - 10:30 am | Open to ages 11-18 | Tuesday 7:30-9:00 pm Thursday 6:30-9:00 pm | Adult Only Open Fencing 12 & Up Class & Open Fencing |
| Weekend Classes | | Private Lessons | |
| 8:30 - 10:00 am | Youth Fencing (ages 9-11) | Scheduled with individual coaches, usually during open bouting portion of class. | |
| 10:00am - 12:00pm | 12 & Up Class & Open Fencing (includes Saber) | | |

What would be a good class for me?

Our approach to fencing is unique. Classes are run as group instruction, combining ages and skill levels through individual and paired drills. One exception is the *Youth Fencing Program* on Saturday morning. This class is for younger fencers, age 9-11. Some 11 year olds may be placed in the regular class due to size or other factors. Fencers are usually paired with fencers of similar size, and often with a more advanced fencer in order to help both learn the skill. Beginners benefit from the advanced student's modeling and better control for safety. **Advanced students** will improve through the act of teaching and reviewing skills, focusing on fine details and refining their techniques. Most advanced students progress through private lessons and attending open bouting frequently.

Bouting, or open fencing, is run immediately after the group instruction. This allows fencers to try the techniques learned in class against another fencer. Fencers are placed in a pool of fencers of similar skill and age, though one or two advanced students may also join the group to help direct the pool and offer some tips and advice to younger/inexperienced fencers.

Is fencing safe?

Yes! Statistically, fencing is one of the safest contact sports. Studies show fencing is safer than baseball, soccer, and football. However, make no mistake; fencing involves contact. Though gear is designed to protect from injury, bruises are common. One cannot fence without hitting or getting hit.

What does it cost?

Beginners can get 8 classes for about \$18 per class (payable in one payment of \$140). Younger fencers in the Youth Program start with \$50 per month. Memberships depend on what package fencers desire and start as low as \$60 per month. Private lessons and Fence-Only packages are available.

How do I get started?

Call Drew at 860-268-6774 or email at swordinthescroll@gmail.com to arrange a start date.



Youth Winners from Fall 08 Club Tournament