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Uncommon East Kingdom Awards: The Order of the Tyger's Cub

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And now for another installment of Uncommon East Kingdom Awards! And you thought I'd lose interest...

Working my way methodically down the Orders of Honor brings us to not-as-uncommon as some award: The Order of the Tygers Cub. As a reminder:

East Kingdom Law and Policy

IX.D

1. There are Orders of Honor in the East Kingdom, and their recipients are known as Companions of their respective Orders.
 - a. Companions of each Order of Honor will rank equally with Companions of the other Orders of Honor in the Order of Precedence.
 - b. Except as otherwise expressly stated below, scrolls for induction into Orders of Honor are optional.

And now to the specifics!

3. The Order of the Tyger's Cub (established October 14 A.S. 13, 1978, by Gyrrh and Melisande)
 - a. The Order of the Tyger's Cub may be awarded by The Crown to children under the age of eighteen in the East Kingdom who have displayed admirable virtue and decorum at events.
 - b. The Companions of the Order will be entitled to act as pages to the Royalty and Heirs of the East Kingdom until such time as they reach the age of eighteen.
 - c. The Companions of this Order shall be entitled to a scroll.

This is an interesting one. The Tyger's Cub is currently the best known of the various awards for children, which is unsurprising as it is the oldest. It's also, in some ways the most misunderstood. The general assumption among the populace – myself included until a very recent conversation – is that the Tyger's Cub is an award for service. But read the description in law – it is given for “admirable virtue and decorum at events.” Over the years, the common reckoning of this award is service based. That may make sense – it was formulated at a time when to be honest, all the SCA was looking for out of children was that they behave and don't disturb the adults. With the expansion of awards for children, the TC fills the “service” slot nicely. But that said, the letter of the law does not require service, it requires “admirable virtue and decorum.” So if you know a child whose demeanor and behavior at events makes them an asset at events and/or demos – by all means, write them in!

In recent years, the Tyger's Cubs have begun, of their own initiative, to take on leadership roles in the kid pack. During the running of the children, the Cubs may often be found at the toy chest helping to ensure that distribution is peaceable, that the smallest kids get to choose first, that there

is something for everyone. That this is something they have decided among themselves to do, without adult intervention, definitely speaks well for their virtue!

And personally, of all the various Orders, I love it the most when the Order of the Tyger's Cub is called into court. I find it inspiring when the holders of the first children's award are called – and peers of the realm come forward to join them. “Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined.”

So when someone remarks to you about a particularly helpful or well-behaved child, consider writing them in for a Tyger's Cub. Many of us are reluctant to write in our own children, because parents are naturally biased. Find the parents and ask “Does your child have a Tyger's Cub? Would you mind if I write them in?” I think you'll find that most parents will be delighted to hear that their children are doing good things. And with Her Majesties' Children's Service Initiative going again, we will have many opportunities to encourage children to serve their Kingdom, and to observe them doing so.

Some current subjects of the Barony Beyond the Mountain who are members of the Order of the Tyger's Cub (Tyger's Cubs are often difficult to identify on the Order of Precedence years later, because names often change as they grow up): Didius Secundus Allanus, Erzebet Csesztvei, Francesca of the Barony Beyond the Mountain, and Charlotte of Lewes.

The various East Kingdom awards are described here:

<http://seneschal.eastkingdom.org/docs/EKLAW.pdf>, beginning on page 24.

The Order of Precedence may be found here: <http://op.eastkingdom.org/op.php>

You can recommend people for ANY award here:

<http://surveys.eastkingdom.org/index.php/945932/lang-en>

#uncommoneastkingdomawards

Tyger's Cub badge by Mistress Aelfgifu of the Hazel Thicket/Andrea Leshinskie, from Charlotte's document. Because she draws the best Cubs of anyone I know.

