

The Sword Conservatory

Scottish Highland Combat



Have you wondered how Scottish warriors fought at battles such as Killiecrankie, Preston Pans, and Culloden? Does watching *Rob Roy* or *Outlander* stir your inner Highlander to take up swords and defend your clan? At *The Sword Conservatory (TSC)*, we have a program in Scottish Highland Combat that specializes in weapon techniques of the late 17th – early 19th centuries. We have researched the weapons styles from Scottish fight masters such as Donald McBane, Sir William Hope, Thomas Page, and Henry Angelo. For a Scottish event, we can offer several activities:

- Scottish weapons demonstrations
- Introductory lessons in Highland Broadsword
- Fight-a-Highlander

Scottish Weapons Demonstrations

Our Scottish weapons demonstrations are **non-choreographed** duels, either one-on-one or multiple fighters. The fighters demonstrate various weapon techniques from the periods of the Jacobite rebellions to the Scottish regiments of the British army in the Napoleonic wars. The weapons include Scottish Highland broadsword, broadsword & targe, small sword, and dirk. The fights can be tournament style competitions or battlefield simulations.



Two fighters demonstrate dirk fighting.



Two fighters demonstrate a sword & targe drill

Introductory lessons in Highland Broadsword

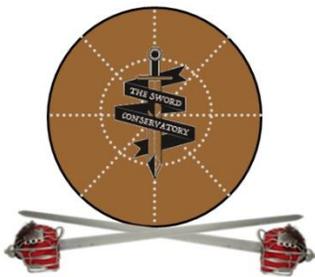
In this activity, we invite audience members into our ring and give them an introductory lesson with wooden, padded, or synthetic swords in the style of Angelo's *Manual of the Ten Divisions of Highland Broadsword* (1799). The participants learn some basic attacks and defenses with these weapons.



Two fighters practice one of the Angelo's *Ten Divisions of Highland Broadsword* drills.

Fight-a-Highlander

In this activity, we invite audience members into the ring to participate in a 3-point bout using foam, padded swords or daggers against one of our Highlanders. This activity is especially popular with children.



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A young fighter takes on one of our Highlanders

About Us

The Sword Conservatory is a non-profit organization (501 (c)(3)) dedicated to research and teaching sword fighting from medieval, Renaissance, 18th & 19th century styles through modern sport fencing. We teach in Holly Springs, NC. We have programs in medieval weapons (single-handed broadsword, two-handed broadsword, sword & shield, dagger, staff, pike, dagger & buckler), rapier, small sword, historic sabre (19th century), cutlass, Highland broadsword, sword & targe, and modern fencing (foil, sabre, epee). Our students range in age from 8 to 60 years old.

We have participated in several festivals including the North Carolina Renaissance Faire (Raleigh, NC), Festival of Legends (Apex, NC), Triad Highland Games (Greensboro, NC), Greater Greenville Scottish Games (Greenville, SC), and the Central North Carolina Pagan Pride Festival (Raleigh, NC) as well as various pirate festivals (Beaufort Pirate Invasion, Pirate Fest, Blackbeard Pirate Jamboree). We are fully insured and will provide a certificate of insurance upon request.



Two fighters use Highland broadswords

Contact Us

If you have more questions or are interested in what we can offer your Scottish festival/Highland game, please contact our president and fencing instructor, Craig Freudenrich [(919) 544-4783, cfreudenrich@earthlink.net]. We would be happy to provide any further information. You can also find information on our website (<https://swordconservatory.org/>)



Two fighters engage broadswords.