

Guidelines for Building Your Costume:

1. If you are not going to sew your own costume, find a seamstress/tailor. (If you need help finding one please email the costume coordinator, Anna: arobinart@gmail.com) Your seamstress should provide you with an estimate for your costume as well as a contract. If your seamstress does not provide you a contract, they will not be approved to work on your costume. Concerns about this policy can be emailed to the coordinator.
2. Create your sketch. In this booklet is an outline for your costume that includes sketch pages for the pieces of your costume as well as color palettes.
3. Look at color swatches. Pick out to colors that you would like for your costume in period appropriate fabrics. (Linen, cottons, and other natural blends. Synthetic fabrics and modern prints will not be approved) **DO NOT BUY YOUR FABRIC!**
4. Get your costume sketch approved. Bring your sketch and your swatches to the costume coordinator who will review them. When they are approved you will be allowed to purchase your fabric and begin constructing your costume.
5. Be sure to pay your seamstress and go to all your fittings. If we are informed you have not paid for your costume (or made an arrangement), it will not be approved.
6. Get your final costume approved by the costume coordinator and make any necessary alterations. Remember that your final costume will include all of your necessary props such as your eating and drinking vessels. You can schedule a meeting for costume approval anytime, but the final deadline is **JULY 25th**.
7. Care for your costume. It is important that your costume survives all 7 weekends. There are tips for taking care of your costume in your guidelines as well as listed in the costuming resource page on the performer website.

Approving ready-made/previous costume pieces:

1. **READ THE COSTUME GUIDELINES!** This year is much later than the past couple of seasons so read the guidelines first and judge for yourself if your ready-made or old costume pieces will be appropriate in style and/or color.
2. Schedule a meeting with the costume coordinator, Anna: arobinart@gmail.com. Bring all of your costume pieces to the meeting as well as pictures of ready-made costume pieces that you are considering purchasing.
3. Remember, just because you bought a costume piece does not mean it will always be approved. I will offer suggestions for alterations wherever possible but there are inevitably pieces that will not meet the guidelines and the “look” we are trying to create.

What Materials Should You Use?

- Your fabric choices should all be NATURAL WOVEN FABRICS. This includes cottons, linens, and wool. Blends of these fabrics are also acceptable, ex: cotton blend.
- If it is appropriate for your class, silk, satin, velvet, damask and brocades are acceptable.
- Leather should be used for accessory pieces, not for main clothing items with limited exception.
- Clothing should be fastened with buttons, lacing, drawstrings or hook and eye clasps.

What Accessories Do You Need?

- Headwear (everyone is required to wear a hat and/or headcovering)
**For ladies: Hair will not be free-flowing. You will be required to have your hair contained within your headcovering, a coif/snood, or styled so that it is contained.*
- Belt/Sash/Apron (all ladies not on court or upper gentry should have an apron)
- Pouch (for carrying personal items)
- Jewelry (if appropriate for your station)
- Drinking and eating vessels
- Handkerchief, Fan, Gloves (be prepared for extremes in both hot and cold weather)
- Shoes (black/brown boots, or close toed simple design shoes)
- Timepiece (while not technically "period" a mechanical watch/pocket watch will be appropriate to keep track of your rotation/shows/etc.)
- Basket, walking stick, and other applicable props that fit your character

***NOTE:** This year there will be *NO CODPIECES*, and limited approval for corsets and hoop skirts. Do not expect to wear these items.

Basic Tips to Care for your Costume

- If you want your costume to be machine washable, make sure you wash all of your fabrics before you (or your seamstress) construct your costume.
- Have multiple sets of underclothes if possible. This will mean you don't have to wash your underclothes each night.
- To limit body odor in your costume: a mixture of water and vodka in a spray bottle can be a "quick fix" between festival days but is not the same as washing your costume.
- Iron your costume*, no matter your class, your costume should not appear disheveled. Remember, this is a festival day so as your character, you are trying to look your best.
- When you are done wearing your costume for the day, be sure to remove dirt/mud and pretreat stains as necessary.
- DO NOT LEAVE YOUR COSTUME IN YOUR CAR BETWEEN FESTIVAL DAYS!**

Everything you should NOT be wearing

There will be NO CODPIECES this year

Unless specially approved, there will be NO CORSETS this year

DO NOT WEAR:

- a visible smartwatch/fitbit device (keep it in a pouch to collect your steps)
- nail polish or over the top makeup (there is no need for contouring...seriously)
- underbust bodices
- animal tails
- sunglasses/modern framed glasses
- color contacts
- facial piercings
- cosplay/steampunk accessories
- other anachronistic items that include velcro, zippers, modern buckles and the like

The following items are approved ONLY for specialty groups!

They will not be approved for the general cast!

- hoop skirts
- folding fans
- flower crowns
- glitter

When making your costume do NOT use:

printed fabric, contemporary designs (i.e. no mickey mouse prints), modern plaids, velcro, zippers, synthetic modern fabrics, unnaturally shiny materials, upholstery fabric.

*In the past, upholstery fabrics have become a staple of our costumes, but these fabrics are too heavy and simply not designed to be worn, resulting in many difficulties for our performers. Additionally, they are expensive. Small amounts will be approved for trims but please avoid these fabrics for the main body of your costume. We encourage light, breathable, natural materials such as cotton and linen.

Character Name:

Real Name (contact information):

Seamstress/Tailor (contact information):

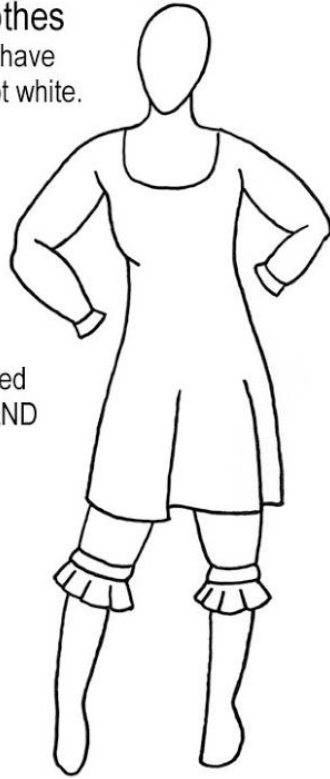
Store bought patterns being used:

Attach your swatches below:

Court Female

Layer 1: Underclothes

please indicate if you have underclothes that are not white.



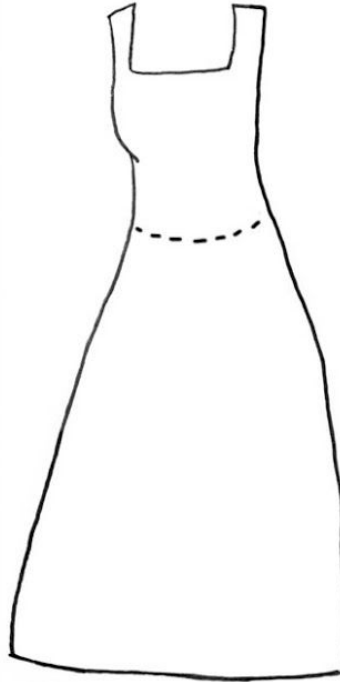
*Everyone is required to wear a chemise AND bloomers.

Layer 2: Kirtle

Please indicate the color of your kirtle and include trims/embroidery/etc that you intend to add.

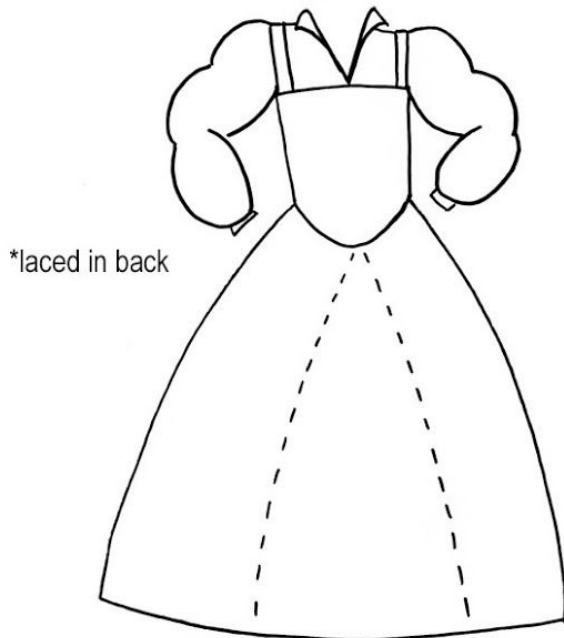
If substituting a petticoat, write in petticoat.

Not all dresses require a kirtle. If not required, leave this area blank.

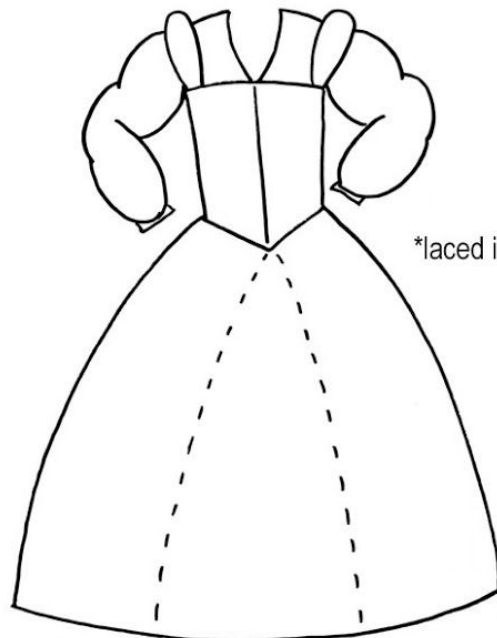


Layer 3: Overdress

This is your outermost layer. Please indicate which style of dress you are making and leave the other blank. Be sure to include areas where you are adding trim/embroidery/etc and label what colors match which swatch.



*laced in back



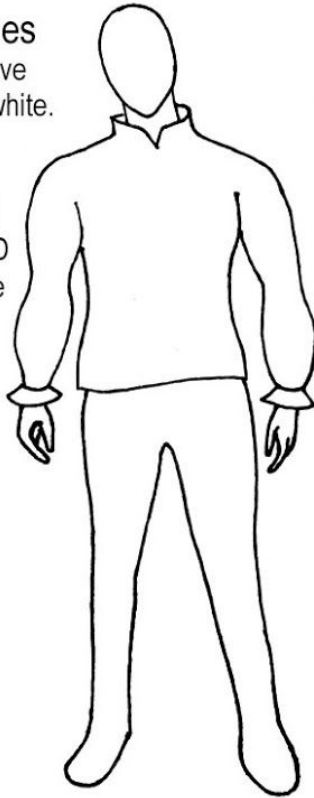
*laced in front

Don't forget to include your shoes and head covering!

Court Male

Layer 1: Underclothes
please indicate if you have underclothes that are not white.

*Everyone is required to wear a chemise AND tights unless otherwise arranged.



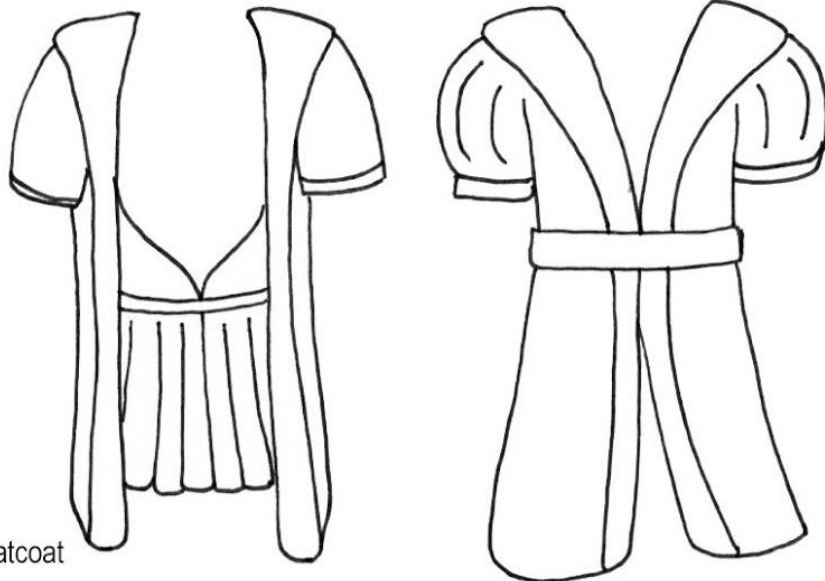
Layer 2: Doublet
Please indicate the color of your doublet and include trims/embroidery/etc that you intend to add.



If you are wearing upper hose please indicate this or leave that area of the sketch blank.

Layer 3: Overdress (yes, it's called a "dress")

This is your outermost layer. Please indicate which style of dress you are making and leave the other blank. Be sure to include areas where you are adding trim/embroidery/etc and label what colors match which swatch.



*Jerkin and greatcoat

Don't forget to include your shoes and head covering!

Gentry Female

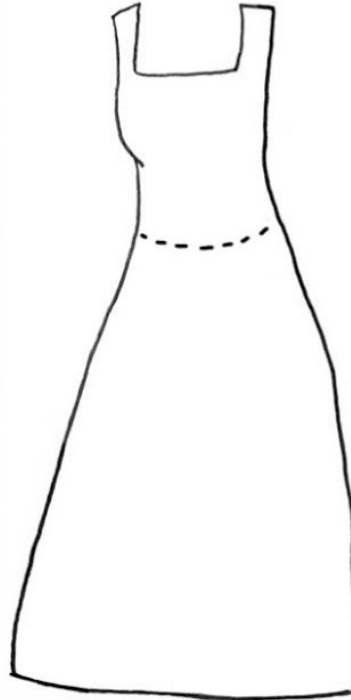
Layer 1: Underclothes
please indicate if you have
underclothes that are not white.



*Everyone is required
to wear a chemise AND
bloomers.

Layer 2: Kirtle

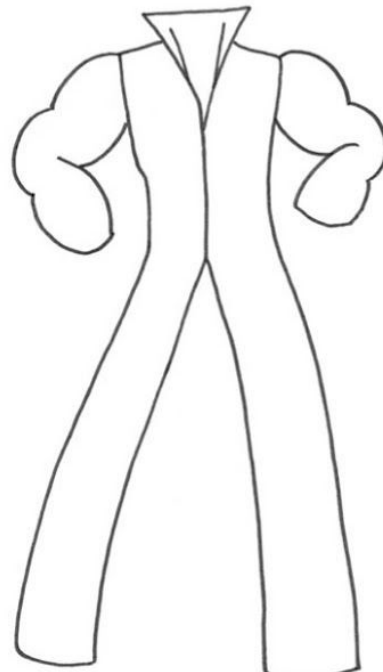
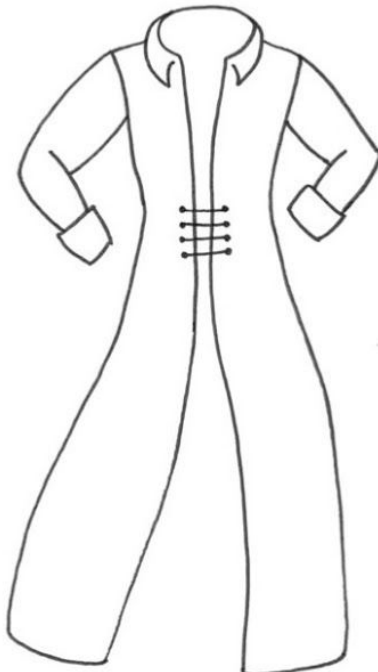
Please indicate the color
of your kirtle and include
trims/embroidery/etc that
you intend to add.
If substituting a petticoat,
write in petticoat.



Not all dresses require
a kirtle. If not required,
leave this area blank.

Layer 3: Overdress

This is your outermost layer. Please indicate which style of dress you are making and leave the other blank.
Be sure to include areas where you are adding trim/embroidery/etc and label what colors match which swatch.



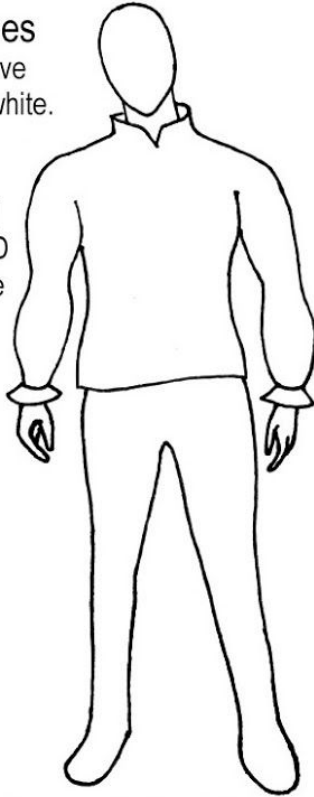
Don't forget to include your shoes and head covering!

Gentry Male

Layer 1: Underclothes

please indicate if you have underclothes that are not white.

*Everyone is required to wear a chemise AND tights unless otherwise arranged.



Layer 2: Doublet

Please indicate the color of your doublet and include trims/embroidery/etc that you intend to add.



If you are wearing upper hose please indicate this or leave that area of the sketch blank.

Layer 3: Overdress (yes, it's called a "dress")

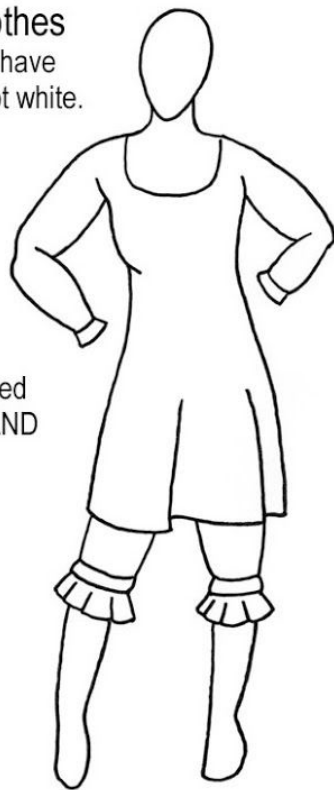
This is your outermost layer. Please indicate which style of dress you are making and leave the other blank. Be sure to include areas where you are adding trim/embroidery/etc and label what colors match which swatch.



Don't forget to include your shoes and head covering!

Peasant Female

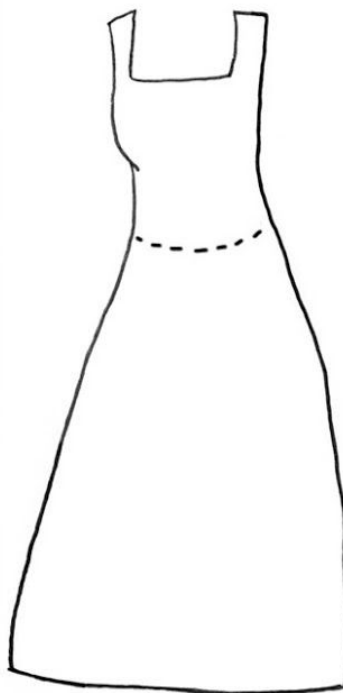
Layer 1: Underclothes
please indicate if you have
underclothes that are not white.



*Everyone is required
to wear a chemise AND
bloomers.

Layer 2: Kirtle

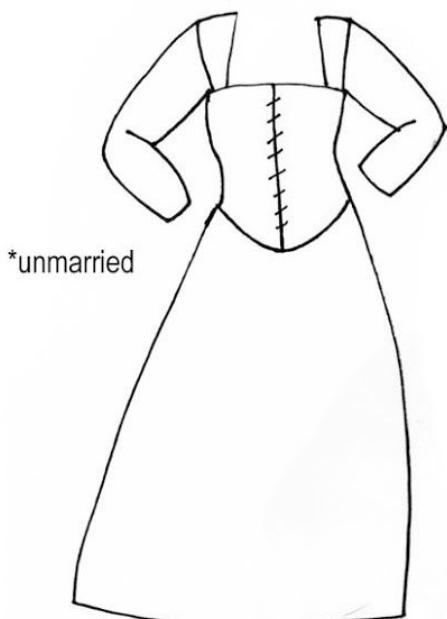
Please indicate the color
of your kirtle and include
trims/embroidery/etc that
you intend to add.
If substituting a petticoat,
write in petticoat.



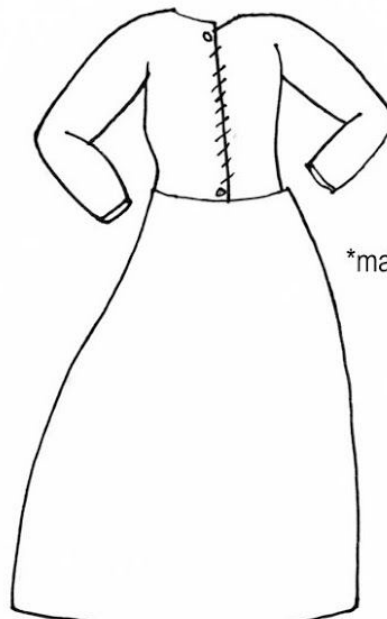
Not all dresses require
a kirtle. If not required,
leave this area blank.

Layer 3: Overdress

This is your outermost layer. Please indicate which style of dress you are making and leave the other blank.
Be sure to include areas where you are adding trim/embroidery/etc and label what colors match which swatch.



*unmarried



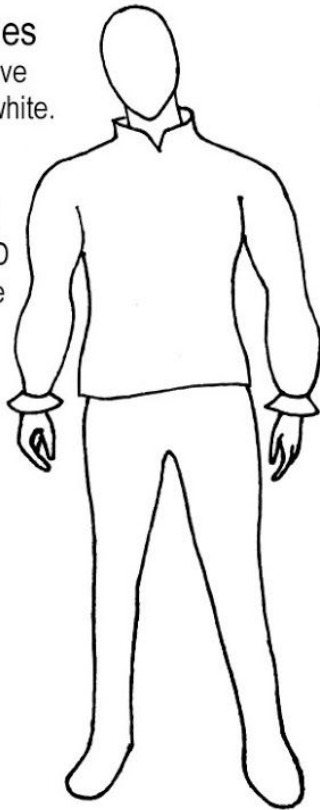
*married

Don't forget to include your shoes and head covering!

Peasant Male

Layer 1: Underclothes
please indicate if you have underclothes that are not white.

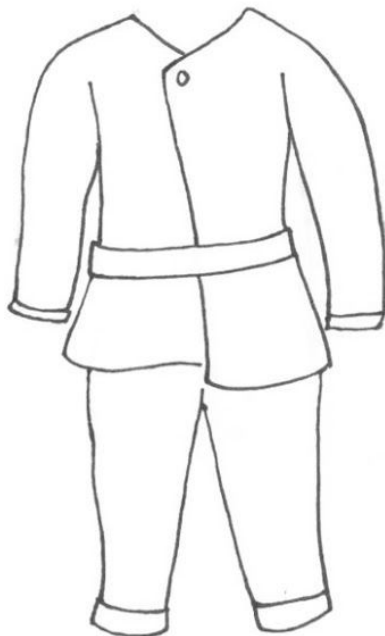
*Everyone is required to wear a chemise AND tights unless otherwise arranged.



NO DOUBLET REQUIRED
FOR PEASANT

Layer 3: Overdress (yes, it's called a "dress")

This is your outermost layer. Please indicate which style of dress you are making and leave the other blank. Be sure to include areas where you are adding trim/embroidery/etc and label what colors match which swatch.



*Swiss styled long doublet

Don't forget to include your shoes and head covering!