

How To Become a Kingdom Sponsored Park

by Shalingsh

Step One: Have A Park

If you are considering becoming fully signed and sponsored, your park needs to be a minimum of two players. Single players are not parks, since you can't exactly fight yourself. Ideally you would like your group to be more than two people; four is a solid number, as hopefully the majority of you are of legal age to be the four Officer positions. Officers are officials who help run and represent your group.

Burning Lands requires that you have available to your park a minimum of one Burning Lands Corpora and one copy of the most up-to-date Rules of Play (which at the time of writing is 7.7). The RoP can be found readily on the main page of amtwiki.net, and the BL Corpora can be found at amtgardinc.com under the header Documents.

Step Two: Sign up with Burning Lands

In order to become anything more than a private group using the Amtgard rule system, a group must register with Burning Lands by filling out their contract. The standard BL contract allows your park to use the Amtgard name.

You do not need, however, to obtain a contract before using the Amtgard Online Record Keeper at Amtgardrecords.com. The O.R.K., apart from being an incredibly useful, easy to use tool for keeping track of players and attendance also lets your group be listed with every other Amtgard park in the entire world, bringing your visibility up a little bit more.

The contract can be found on amtgardinc.com under Documents. The thing itself is four pages long. It covers all the basics of a recognized park, from a group's promotion through the ranks (from Shire up to Kingdom), to legal liability, to how a park dissolves assets should they fold. Signing this document and having it approved entitles you to use the Amtgard name and game in your park. Read it over carefully.

When you're ready to sign, alongside the signatures your two signees will need to provide photocopies of legal government ID. This can be a driver's license, a passport, military ID: something with your name and photo on it that proves a real person can be tied to this document.

When you're satisfied you've filled everything out, your contract can be e-mailed to contracts@amtgardinc.com. You'll need to wait until you get a reply. With luck, that response will be Burning Lands' approval of your contract. You are now a Freehold! Some groups will always choose to be a Freehold, preferring to answer to no-one (apart from occasionally

Burning Lands) and to have complete autonomy. But, since you're taking a look at this document, you're obviously considering becoming more involved in the Kingdoms of Amtgard.

Step Three: Contact the Kingdom you wish to join.

When it comes down to Kingdom sponsorship, it's all down to location. The Kingdom you should be petitioning is the one with a Kingdom Proper (the group that obtained Kingdom status, and that the Kingdom is named for) and sub-groups closest to you. If you play in Texas, it doesn't necessarily make sense for you to join a Kingdom in Washington. A Kingdom supports those groups under it; a Amtgard good Kingdom is a community whose members work together to achieve small and large goals and works to develop an inter-group rapport.

If all that sounds great but you'd like to join a different Kingdom, perhaps one that's just a little further away, you're going to need permission from your "default" Kingdom. This requires getting a hold of someone in that Kingdom in order to contact the Kingdom Monarchy and/or BoD. The Default Kingdom needs to give you permission before you can join another. Most Kingdoms have websites or forums that you will be able to find contact information on; the ORK may as well. Explain in your contact message why you feel this other Kingdom is a better fit for you in terms of location, goals, or players. The ORK's Atlas function can tell you where each Kingdom proper is. As of December 2011, these are the static Kingdom Centers:

Burning Lands – El Paso, TX
Crystal Groves - Hagerstown, MD
Dragonspine - Las Cruces, NM
Emerald Hills - Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX
Goldenvale - Nashua, NH
Iron Mountains - Denver, CO
Rising Winds – Indianapolis, IN
Tal Dragore – St. Louis, MO

These are the broader Kingdom centers, (as listed on the Amtwiki) in most cases where the group the Kingdom was named after no longer exists:

Blackspire - Oregon, Washington State, and parts of Idaho.
Celestial Kingdom - Central Texas including San Antonio and Austin.
Desert Winds – Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming.
Golden Plains - West Texas and eastern New Mexico.
Neverwinter - Florida and southern Georgia.
Wetlands - Eastern Texas including Houston.

This, again, requires getting a hold of someone in that Kingdom Monarchy and/or BoD. Good places to look for that information are the Kingdom's amtwiki.net entry, the ORK Atlas, or that Kingdom's website. Let that Kingdom know why you feel you are suited to be one of their groups! Each Kingdom may have other terms or documents you will need to agree to before you join. A great way to convince a Kingdom of your excellence is to actually attend one of their events. Show up, show yourselves off, and get to know as many people as you can. This is just as useful for you as it will be for the Kingdom who wants to get to know you better.

With communication, paperwork and some luck, you can be well on your way to enjoying all that Amtgard can offer your park and your players.

You may be wondering...

What does an Officer do?

The Monarch is the head of the group, often acts as the public face of the group.

The Champion is in charge of running fields and handling safety issues.

The Regent handles the Arts and Sciences: any sewing or other crafting your members do.

The Chancellor keeps track of your members, credits, waivers and treasury.

[For more position duties, take a look at the Burning Lands Corpora.]

What is a Freehold in regards to group rankings?

The title "Freehold" shows that you have become a part of the Amtgard groups under Burning Lands, but are not sponsored by a Kingdom. As a Freehold, your group can not obtain the group title of anything other than Freehold, including Kingdom, and cannot give awards past their second level. No Masterhoods or Knighthoods, either.

Why become a Sponsored Group?

Sponsorship by a Kingdom is the only way for you as players and your group as a park to increase in rank. It's also one of the better ways to have attention brought to your group; if other Amtgarders know you exist, they can recommend you to people in your area looking to play. But beyond that, Amtgard is a community, and in each group there are people who can help you learn new skills and make more connections.

Handy Resources

amtwiki.net – The Amtwiki, a peer-edited wiki for all things Amtgard.

amtgardinc.com – The Burning Lands website, home to the BL Corpora and a FAQ on how to fill out your contract.

amtgardrecords.com/atlas – The Amt-Atlas, to see the locations and contact information of any Amtgard group.

electricsamurai.com/forums – E-Sam, an excellent resource for Amtgard discussions and ideas.

facebook.com/groups/222753014406145 - The official un-official Amtgard Facebook group with over 1000 members.