



Sword in the Scroll Newsletter

March 2025

Hello everyone,

Well, we did it. It took months of hard work, generous donations from our community, and an inspiring amount of volunteer labor but here we are, finally moved into our new facility. Thank you all for helping and supporting us throughout this transition. Obviously we're not done yet. There is a considerable amount of work to yet be done but when it's finished Sword in the Scroll will be the largest fencing club in Connecticut both in membership and in the physical size of its facility while continuing to offer the lowest membership costs in the region. I do not say this as a boast. I say it with an immense amount of pride and respect for our hard working volunteer staff, our dedicated students and our generous community. SITS began as a dream in one person's mind. Our Founder Drew Page wanted to make fencing available and affordable for everyone. With Coach Steve by his side he set out to make that dream a reality. Now here we are 19 years later, a 501(c)(3) non profit organization with nearly 100 members and 14 volunteer staff members who have felt inspired to put their hearts and souls into this dream. Drew is no longer with us but his vision continues to move forward and grow. It is a testament to what a grassroots community can build and accomplish and I could not be more proud of each and every one of you.

So what are we going to do with all this extra space? Well first off we are adding to our coaching staff. Alejandro Toro joined our coaching staff several months ago. Amidst all the turmoil of moving he did not get a proper welcoming so let me officially say welcome to the family Alejandro! He is a former Penn State athlete and held an A rating in Foil. Alejandro has been lending his considerable foil skills to Coach Jonathan during the Saturday afternoon Fencing Fundamentals class. Long time SITS member Mike Krumholz has also been lending a hand in the Fundamentals class assisting with Saber for quite some time now. We are excited to officially announce Mike as our newest Saber coach! Starting on Saturday, March 15th Coach Alejandro will be teaching a dedicated Foil class and Coach Mike will be teaching a dedicated Saber class both running from 1:00-2:30 concurrent with our Fencing Fundamentals class. If you've ever had an interest in Foil or Saber now is the time to pursue it.

We will also be expanding this year's Epee League to 12 teams and extending the program to 11 weeks. **Epee League will begin on April 1st this year!** It will run from 6:00-7:30 on Tuesday evenings. I will be sending out an email later this week with more detailed information about Epee League. For right now, start thinking about your team and clear your Tuesday evenings.

Lastly, once the space is complete we will be making a concerted effort to hold tournaments more regularly. We hope to start offering a variety of events throughout the year including Youth events and Veteran events. As continued renovations progress I will keep you all updated.

Some of our members were active on the high school circuit this year. I would like to take a moment to highlight one such individual, Isaias Bumpus. As many of you know, Isaias is legally blind. He struggles with considerable visual impairment. He has just 16% vision in one eye and 18% in the other. Despite this he was selected as the Captain of his High School Fencing team at St. Bernard's. As Captain he designs and implements fencing drills, instructs his teammates during practice and rallies them during meets. This past November he won the Gold Medal in Men's Epee at the ECC High School Winter Classic. He could easily use his disability as an excuse but instead he chooses to use it as a motivation. His hard work and perseverance is a true inspiration and a testament to what can be accomplished when the mind is focused and the will is strong. [He was recently featured on the front page of the Sports section of the New London Day.](#)

All our participating members have done well in this year's High School season with Addison Cuff, Klaire Gielegem, Ben Wolford, and Isaias Bumpus all receiving nominations for ECC Athlete of the Week over the course of the season. Congratulations to Klaire who won Girl's player of the year and to Jamie Buchas who won Coach of the Year! Both Ben and Klaire made All-Star. Ben received a Sportsmanship award and Addison and Klaire both received a Scholar Athlete award. Congratulations to all of our SITS high school fencers! Here are some top results from the ECC and CHSFA Championships.

(Continued on Page 2)

SITS Calendar

SITS Junior Epee Open.....March 23
SITS Epee League April 1

SITS Closures

None Listed

ECC and CHSFA Championships

ECC Championships

February 22, 2025

Men's Epee

Ben Wolford, Silver Medal

Ash Hillegeist, 8th

Women's Epee

Klaire Gielegghem, Gold Medal

Addison Cuff, 7th

CHSFA State Individual Championships

March 1, 2025

Men's Epee

Ash Hillegeist, 19

Isaias Bumpus, 23

Ben Wolford, 25

Women's Epee

Klaire Gielegghem, 6th

Recent Tournament Results

9 State Fencing Cup

October 19 & 20, 2024.

Junior Men's Epee, A4 event:

Eli Springer- 18th., Sparrow Belliveau-
19th.

NEUSFA E & under

October 26 & 27, 2024.

E & Under Senior Men's Sabre, E1 event:

Marcus Clements- 15th.

E & Under Senior Women's Epee, E1 event:

Addison Cuff- 11th.

NEUSFA 6 Weapon Vet Combined

November 3, 2024.

Men's Epee:

Shane Belliveau- Bronze Medal

Drew Page Memorial Open

November 9 & 10, 2024.

Senior Mixed Foil, E1 event:

Alejandro Toro- Gold Medal. Aether
Seils- 7th. Raven Belliveau- 8th. Calvin
Brassard- 10th. Jamie Buchas- 11th.
Sparrow Belliveau- 12th.

Drew Page Memorial Open (Cont.)

November 9 & 10, 2024.

Senior Mixed Sabre, E1 event:

Raven Belliveau- 6th. Nico Fry- 7th.

Sparrow Belliveau- 8th. Marcus Clements-
12th. Kai Klawiter- 13th. Aether Seils-
15th.

Senior Men's Epee, B2 event:

Raven Belliveau- Gold Medal. Edward

Russell- Bronze Medal. Sam Zelin- 7th.

Nico Fry- 8th. Sparrow Belliveau- 10th.

Stuart DeLand- 11th. Matt Pezzino- 13th.

Duncan Page- 14th. Eli Springer- 16th.

Senior Women's Epee, D1 event:

Mila Covino- Bronze Medal. Klaire

Gielegghem- 5th. Dani Page- 6th. Jordan

Summerer- 11th. Solomiya Darvay- 16th.

2024 East Lyme Winter Classic

December 7

Women's Epee, E1 event:

Klaire Gielegghem- Gold Medal

Addison Cuff- 11th,

Men's Epee, E1 event

Isaias Bumpus- Gold Medal

Ben Wolford- 8th

Ash Hillegeist- 10th

Olympia D'Artagnan's Challenge

December 8, 2024.

Unrated Y8 Mixed Epee:

Aynslee Williamson- Bronze Medal.

Jack Norton Hangover Open

January 1, 2025.

Senior Men's Epee, A4 event:

Sam Zelin- 16th, earned B25. Raven

Belliveau- 26th. Shane Belliveau- 32nd.

Vivo Epee & Foil Open

January 11, 2025.

Senior Mixed Epee, C2 event:

Sparrow Belliveau- Silver Medal. Shelby

Saccomanno- 8th, earned E25. Calvin

Brassard- 14th.

Tom Gorman Beanpot Open senior

Women's Epee A2 event

Klaire Gielegghem-17

Mila Covino-22

Senior Men's Epee A2 event

Sparrow Belliveau-5

Shelby Saccomanno-8 earned C25

Raven Belliveau-17

Senior Men's Sabre E1 event

Raven Belliveau-6

SITS D & Under

February 23, 2025

Men's Epee C2

Calvin Brassard, Silver Medal, earned D25

Ben Wolford, Bronze Medal, earned D25

Sam Grenier, 5th, earned E25

Women's Epee D1

Klaire Gielegghem, Gold Medal, earned
D25

Mila Covino, 5th

Jordan Summerer, 8th

SITS In-House

March 9, 2025

Women's Epee

Klaire Gielegghem, Gold Medal

Mila Covino, Silver Medal

Aria Williamson, Bronze Medal

Bibhuti Marasini, Bronze Medal

Men's Epee

Shelby Saccomanno, Gold Medal

Nico Fry, Silver Medal

Sam Grenier, Bronze Medal

Ian Senerth, Bronze Medal

Mixed Sabre

Nico Fry, Gold Medal

Sam Grenier, Silver Medal

Justine Liu, Bronze Medal

Ian Senerth, Bronze Medal

Upcoming Local Events:

Youth Tournaments

Olympia D'Artagnan's Challenge 3A

(Y8/Y12 Epee)

March 16, 2025

Olympia Fencing Center

27 SMITH PLACE, Cambridge, MA 02138

www.askfred.net

Junior Tournaments

SITS Junior Epee Open

March 23, 2025

Sword in the Scroll Fencing Academy

90 South Park Street, Willimantic, CT

06232

www.askfred.net

Senior Tournaments

The Colonel Melee

April 12 - 13

Ledyard High School - Hosted by Ledyard
Fencing Club

24 Gallup Hill Rd, Ledyard, CT 06339

www.askfred.net

Regional Events:

Boston Fencing Club RJCC

March 29 - 30 2025

Boston Fencing Club

100 Holton Street, Boston, Massachusetts

02135

www.askfred.net

LI Div Summer Nationals Divisional

Qualifiers Div 2/3 & Y14

April 6 2025

Mission Fencing Center

346 Route 25A, Rocky Point, NY 11788

www.askfred.net

NEUSFA D and Under

May 17 - 18 2025

Worcester Fencing Club

243 Stafford St, Worcester, MA 01603

www.askfred.net

USAfencing will be requiring age verification for Regional and National events in the 2024/2025 season.

https://www.usafencing.org/news_article/show/1311293

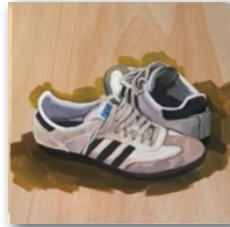
CREATIVE PRIZES ARE AWARDED AT THE SITS IN-HOUSE TOURNAMENT.

By Steve Martin

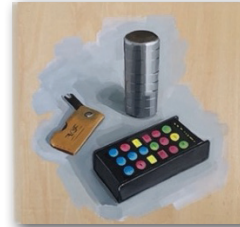
SITS hosted its second annual In-House Tournament on March 9th 2025. This tournament is unique in several ways. First, it is free to SITS fencers. Second, it is only open to SITS fencers. Third it requires a fence-off for third place. And fourth, the top four finishers are apt to receive awards that are out of the ordinary.

Congratulations to all SITS fencers who participated in this friendly competition. In 2024 the top three finishers in each event received a Japanese style sword, and the fourth-place finisher received desktop gong.

In 2025 the top four finishers were able to choose from a selection of commissioned artwork provided by our own resident artist and coach, Mabel Saccomoto. The art selected by this year's first-place finishers are depicted below.



Women's Epee
1st Place



Mixed Sabre
1st Place



Mens Epee
1st Place

First-place finishers also received tickets to a reality-fighting event at the Mohegan Sun Arena. This prize was donated by the Cuff family.

We expect that the SITS in-house tournament will be an annual event moving forward. Creative awards for our winning fencers will be part of the picture.

If you happen to have an idea you would like to have considered for future awards, don't hesitate to let a staff member know.

DREW PAGE FENCING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

To the Sword In The Scroll Community,

It gives us great pleasure to share details about this year's Drew Page Fencing Scholarship. This is the third year SITS has been able to offer academic scholarships to fencers who plan to pursue educational opportunities at the post-secondary level. This scholarship program was a dream of SITS founder Drew Page and is now made possible by generous donations to the SITS Endowment Fund by members of our community.

Beginning in 2023, the Endowment Fund has made scholarship money available annually. Because of the current size of the endowment, this year we will be able to award **two scholarships of \$1000.00 each**. Scholarship winners will receive a check directly from SITS. We plan to notify this year's winners and send them their checks by the end of May 2025.

Fencers are eligible to apply for the Drew Page Fencing Scholarship if they:

- are a current member of SITS,
- have been a member of SITS for at least a year,
- are a Junior or Senior in high school (or equivalent in home school) OR are in the first year of a post-secondary educational program. and
- are planning to begin or continue in a post-secondary educational program in the next year or two.

Applications may be made entirely online, entirely on paper, or a combination of both. **To access the application materials, simply click [HERE](https://swordinthescroll.com/scholarship/).**
<https://swordinthescroll.com/scholarship/>

(Note: We recommend that scholarship applicants completing their application online use the Google Chrome browser.)

Here at SITS we honor both the **sword** and the **scroll**, so keep fencing, and keep studying!

Check-In Scanner

SITS has a bar code scanner located at the front door. This system helps SITS track member attendance and USAFencing validity. At the time of this news letter:

We had a total of **2082** scans in 2024, 485 are from the Youth class. The Adult Open Fencing had 428 scans

Thank you for your consistent usage of the scanner. We succeed with your help.

SABER AND FOIL CLASSES STARTING 3/15 AT 1:00pm

Coach Ferris here.

I have some exciting news! SITS will be offering saber and foil classes. These classes will be run by our newest coaches, Mike Krumholz and Alejandro Toro. Both of these fencers have been fencing for many years with a long history of competitive success and have a great deal of experience.

These will run concurrently with the fundamentals class, which runs on Saturdays from 1-2:30 (ish).

As we continue to find new ways to utilize our space and leverage our improved assets, we feel that increasing our class offering is one of the best ways to do this. There has been an increased interest in foil recently, and Saber has really been growing on Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings. We feel that it's time to offer more support to these fencers and improve their competitive advantage with focused training through these dedicated classes.

If you, or anyone you know, has an interest in these weapons, there is now a home for them!

SITS is growing and this means that we are attracting more and more fencers with a variety of backgrounds. Help us grow and spread the word by sharing these new opportunities.

The cost of taking the saber or foil class will be the same as the fundamentals class - \$90/month, unless you are planning to take multiple classes or attend multiple days (which would increase the cost of the membership to the \$120). If you are already paying the full membership, these classes are available to you and we welcome all interested parties to come and explore these weapons and see if they're right for you.

Coaches Corner

This section of the newsletter is for the SITS Coach's to talk about fencing, the classes, and the future of fencing.

The Fundamentals class is going slowly in the summer, but it might be a good time for any experienced epee fencers who have a curiosity about the right-of-way aspects to come and explore in a safe space (no social pressure, no friends watching, etc).

As Fall kicks back up, I'll have some "tournaments" for the class to help provide some competition experience for the fencers who have been with me for a while.
~JF

Coach Nico is now present during Monday evening lessons to coach right of way weapons.

If trying Foil or Saber is something you're interested in, this is a great opportunity to get focused lessons on either.

USAFENCING MEMBERSHIPS

Make sure your memberships are current. If you had/have a temporary membership, please update this membership to a annual membership after the temporary membership expires. You will be able to access your membership information through the USAFencing membership portal.

<https://member.usafencing.org>

New Quickbooks Monthly Invoices

A friendly reminder that SITS membership fees are due on the 1st of each month.

In April we began sending membership invoices through Quickbooks. The invoices offer a variety of payment options. Paying through Quickbooks makes it easier on our end to log, categorize, and track payments and hopefully makes it simpler for you to make your payments. Of course if you prefer to continue paying by cash, check, PayPal, or website please feel free to do so. If paying by check please be sure to write in the memo line: fencers name, membership type, and month. (Example: " fencer Bob, Youth, April.) Then place the check directly into the payment box without an envelope. Please put cash payments into the provided envelope and write information on the front of the envelope. If paying with PayPal please write information in the description.

Fast and Easy Online Payment Option!

Use the membership tab on our website

www.swordinthescroll.com.

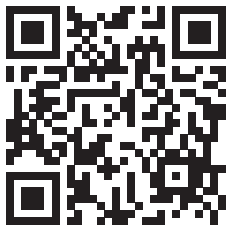
Just click on the membership tab and select the membership type you would like to purchase and follow the simple instructions.

If you would like, you may utilize our auto-pay option for easy monthly payments. When paying via the website, please note the fencer's name, class & month you are paying for.

Community

If you have anything that you feel the SITS Fencing community should know, you wish to submit a Fencing related filler, or just want to publish a SITS Newsletter appropriate article, you can do so through this link:

<https://forms.gle/hpidCGyMtBKmY9Fp8>



Group Equipment Order

March is an odd month so SITS will be placing an equipment order with Absolute Fencing Gear. I'll be placing the order on March 13th.

If you need to order something, you can do so online wherever you choose, or you can let me know, and I will make sure you get your equipment with this month's order. The order date is coming up quickly so let me know ASAP if you'd like to participate.

Just a quick reminder, there is a 5% service fee added to your order but shipping is free, so it does end up being cheaper if you participate in the group order!

SITS Apparel

We got merch! Represent! Sport our swag!

Head over to the [SITS Store](#) to buy some awesome Sword in the Scroll merchandise.

Whether you want a nice hoodie or some new fencing socks, we've got you covered!