New Players' Guide

Welcome to Star Army! This article has the basic steps and info you'll need to participate. Please read it thoroughly.

Registration

Note: You must be **16 or older** to join Star Army.

- Register an account on the forums
- Register an account for the wiki (You'll need a wiki account to create an article for your character bio).

Creating a Character

The online Character Creation Guide (CCG) is your primary resource for making your character. Note that there are several **species-specific character creation guides** to help you. Before you make your character, if possible, do a little background reading on the role-play and get an idea of the plot you want to join. Once you're somewhat familiar with the role-play setting, you'll want to get started with the CCG. It should give you vital information for your character, based on your choices. The character creation guide is meant to be easy, but also to be in-depth, and you may find your brain feeling tired if you try to go through it too fast. Take plenty of time to think about your character in advance, and the possibilities of what he/she could be.

Join A Major Faction

We strongly suggest your first character serve in the star_army_of_yamatai or military; this is the best way for you to get a feel of the Star Army universe. With a **plot ship**, there will be other characters around to interact with, whereas if you made an independent character, you might be on your own. Civilian and other types of characters are available, but characters in major factions are usually easiest to play because they get the most resources and guidance and the most adventures and plots to be in (after all, it is a military themed RP).

Questions and Assistance

There are many ways to get help:

- The Your Questions Answered forum allows you to get your questions answered by the community. You will need a forum login.
- You can Connect to the Chatroom for live assistance (IRC Guide)
- You can call or text message the admin, Wes, at (209) STAR-ARMY (+12097827276).
- You can email the admin at stararmy@gmail.com

Submitting Your Character

When you're done with your character biography, you'll need to:

1. Add your bio to the wiki (if you're not sure how, see the steps below)
   1. Go the list_of_notable_characters, follow the link to your faction, and then click "Edit this page" and add a link to your your character.
   2. Save the page and then click the (red) link you just made. It'll take you to a page that says "This page hasn't been created."
   3. Click "Create This Page" and insert your character biography code you made using the Character Template.
   4. Make any final adjustments needed and then save your Wiki bio. After saving it, copy its URL.
2. Go to the new biography forum and create a topic containing a link to the bio page you just created.

Review and Approval

If there are no problems, approval will usually be quick and painless. If there are issues with your biography, the game master will do his best to help you adjust it so that it makes sense or fits in the role-play. The most common sources of problems are overpowered, glorious histories and skills, story continuity issues (things that wouldn't make sense, like joining the Star Army before it was founded), and lack of detail.

NOTE: If you update/edit your bio, post a reply to its thread so the reviewers will know to look at it again!

A character forum moderator will post approval of your character in the forum thread you posted. The topic will then be moved to the APPROVED forum (so if your character thread seems missing, check there!). The character forum moderator will should also send a private message to the GM of the plot you listed as your first preference. We encourage you to also send your own private message to the plot GM introducing yourself.

The plot GM should post in your approved character thread to tell you if your character is accepted into the plot. In the unlikely event your character is approved but cannot be accepted, the GM (or if he is not available, the Faction Manager or Setting Manager) will post a notice in the approved character thread

and then contact your second choice plot GM on your behalf. If your character is in the military, you will also get an orders thread in the appropriate communications forum. It will tell your character where to go and serves as a record of his/her military service including transfers, awards, and promotions.

Once you're accepted into the plot, edit the plot's page so your character is on their crew roster (or ask your GM to).

Start Roleplaying

Once you're in a plot, start role-playing! If it's a single-post plot you can start right away (or as soon as it makes sense in the plot). If it's a joint_post plot, then find out when the next chat session is (most plots have a scheduling thread in their forum).

Basic Rules

- Respect other players' player_rights.
  - Do not control other people's characters.
- Write well. Your posts should be easy to read. Please use proper spelling and grammar and post in third person.
- Communicate with your game_master.
- Don't disappear on us. Don't vanish and leave people waiting on a post that will never come.
  - Absences are fine as long as you give advance warning in your plot's OOC thread.
  - If you need to leave a plot, follow the instructions here: Leaving a Plot or The Community

Full rules are available here: Site Rules

Play-by-Post Roleplaying

Most Star Army roleplay is done by posting directly onto a thread (or start a new one), which is called a Single Post. Sometimes single posts are consolidated into compilations.

Joint Posts Roleplaying

For JPs, we usually arrange a meeting time or just spontaneously start role-playing with whoever is on Yahoo! Instant Messenger or IRC that fits into a plot. These RP sessions usually last about an hour or two and when we're done, one of the people in the RP session saves, edits, and posts the transcript (then referred to as a joint_post) onto the boards. The above methods of RP are why some parts of the board tend to have big, long posts with multiple characters and few replies–so don't let them intimidate you, they're just giant edited transcripts.

Group Posts

Etherpad and Google Wave are real-time multi-user communication tools that allow roleplayers to write a group RP post simultaneously. No plot has made this the standard RP method so far, but it is catching on and many GMs have expressed interest and have used it for roleplay posts.

Other helpful pages

- Character Creation Guide
- glossary_of_sarp_terminology
- frequently_asked_questions

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