The chatelaine was the mistress of the castle. She carried a keychain with keys to all the families valuables. She was the one who would direct the servants, housemaids, cooks and delivery servicemen and would open or lock the access to the valuables of the house. The term also refers to the key and other items she carried on her belt.

In the SCA the responsibilities extend to maintain a lender supply of garb, and assisting new members with learning the ropes of the society.

