

THE ORDER OF CHIVALRY

This section contains the “standard” ceremony for admittance of a new member, the alternate for a spokesman, the alternate for a Master-of-Arms, a ceremony to let the populace know that a member will be admitted at a future date, and a ceremony to acknowledge a new member who was admitted at a point in the past.

HERALD: CHECK WITH THE ROYALTY BEFORE TALKING TO THE CANDIDATE. This may be a surprise peerage, and if so, you could spoil the surprise by talking to the candidate first.

Before the ceremony, the following items need to be assembled or arranged:

The **Order of Chivalry** are responsible for:

- A CHAIN (Knight)
- A BELT (Knight) or BALDRIC (Master-of-Arms)
- A PAIR OF SPURS (Knight)
- The name of the Spokesperson (if any) _____
- Attendants (if any) _____
- Which ‘Optional Opening’ is to be used? (There are 3)

The **Candidate** is responsible for:

- What sword to swear fealty on? _____
- What sword to be knighted by? _____
- Will the candidate swear fealty? _____ If not, use the MASTER OF ARMS alternate (Page 92).
- Is the candidate a member of the Queen's Guard? _____
- Is the candidate squired to a knight? _____
- Will the candidate accept the buffet? _____
- Which ‘Optional Opening’ is to be used? (There are 3)

The **Heralds** are responsible for (talk to the candidate *if not a surprise*):

- The blazon of the candidate's arms. This should be placed on a post-it note, and placed in the appropriate box in the (appropriate) ceremony below.
- Will the candidate swear fealty? _____ If not, use the MASTER OF ARMS alternate (Page 92)
- Is the candidate a member of the Queen's Guard? _____
- Is the candidate squired to a knight? _____
- Will the candidate accept the buffet? _____
- Which ‘Optional Opening’ is to be used? (There are 3)

Regarding Fealty:

This was changed so that the Knights are swearing fealty to both the King and Queen as required by Corpora -- VI. Branch Administration, A. Royalty, 1. General, a. Definitions, “6) Crown. The Sovereign and Consort of a kingdom, acting together” and VII. Personal Awards and Titles, A. Patents of Arms, 4. Patent Orders, a. The Chivalry, 1) Specific Requirements, b) “To join the Order of Knighthood, the candidate must swear fealty to the Crown of his or her kingdom during the knighting ceremony.”

CHIVALRY CEREMONY, OPTION 1 — SUMMONING THE CANDIDATE OR PROCESSIONAL

Herald: The strength and stability of the Kingdom lie in these virtues of its people: creativity, service and **chivalry** - for if any of these are lacking, the Kingdom fails. The fighters of the Kingdom defend it with their swords and with their honor bring it glory on the field.

Let all Members of the Order of Chivalry of this Kingdom here present come forward and kneel before the Crown.

(The Chivalry shall come forward and kneel before the Throne.)

 King:

**We are minded to admit _____ into the Order of Chivalry.
Let [him | her] now be brought forward.**

Herald: Let _____ approach Their Majesties.

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CHIVALRY CEREMONY, OPTION 2 FINDING THE CANDIDATE

Herald: The strength and stability of the Kingdom lie in these virtues of its people: creativity, service and **chivalry** - for if any of these are lacking, the Kingdom fails. The fighters of the Kingdom defend it with their swords and with their honor bring it glory on the field.

Let all Members of the Order of Chivalry of this Kingdom here present come forward and kneel before the Crown.

(The Chivalry shall come forward and kneel before the Throne.)

 **King: What business have you before us?**


(Spokesperson shall stand and say,)

Spokesperson: Your Majesty, we, the Chivalry of the West feel our numbers are not complete, and that there is one here present whose honor prowess, and chivalry, both on the field and in the hall, entitles [him | her] to recognition as our Peer.

 **King: We are agreed. Go forth and bring the candidate to Us.**

(The spokesperson shall turn, with attendants, and with some indirection, search the assembled populace. Then they shall find the Candidate and bring him/her before the King.)

Spokesperson: We here present _____ for Your Majesty's consideration as a Candidate for membership in Our order.

 **King: You have spoken with Us of [him | her] before. We are in agreement that [he | she] is worthy of Membership in your noble Order.**

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CHIVALRY CEREMONY, OPTION 3
CANDIDATE ALREADY IN COURT (SURPRISE)

Herald: You do not have Their Majesties Leave to depart.

The strength and stability of the Kingdom lie in these virtues of its people: creativity, service and **chivalry** - for if any of these are lacking, the Kingdom fails. The fighters of the Kingdom defend it with their swords and with their honor bring it glory on the field.

Let all Members of the Order of Chivalry of this Kingdom here present come forward and kneel before the Crown.

(The Chivalry shall come forward and kneel before the Throne.)

 King:

We are minded to admit _____ into the Order of Chivalry.


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★ **CONTINUE** at this point of the ceremony, no matter which of the options is used.

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 **King:** Kneel.

(When the candidate has knelt on the cushion(s):)


 **King:** _____,
right mindful of your prowess upon the field,
and responsive to the wishes of your peers,
We are minded to create you
a Member of the Order of Chivalry.
Will you accept from Us this honor,
and will you swear fealty to this,
Our Crown and Throne of the Kingdom of the West?

(If the Candidate does not feel that he/she can swear fealty, go to Page 92. If the candidate feels that he/she can swear fealty, then he/she shall answer:)

Candidate: Yes, Your Majesty.

(If the Candidate is a member of the Queen's Guard, then the Queen shall say:)

★ **QUEEN'S GUARD MEMBER**

 **Queen:** You are a member of my Queen's Guard.
I thank you for your service to me
and only regret that I must lose you from my Guard
to your new estate.

Candidate: It was my honor to serve you on your Guard. I return this baldric to you as a sign that my service to you in that capacity is ended.

(If the Candidate is the squire of a Knight or the fosterling of a Master-of-Arms, then the King should say:)


★ **SQUIRE**

 **King:** If you are squired to any Knight of this Realm, name him now.

Candidate: Your Majesty, I am squired to Sir _____.

Herald: Sir _____, approach Their Majesties.


(The Knight approaches and stands next to his squire.)

 **King:** **Sir _____, We are minded to Knight your squire _____. Will you now release [him | her] from your service and release him from whatever fealty exists between you?**

Knight: I now release you, _____, from my service and the fealty we have had between us.

Candidate: It has been my honor and pleasure to train with you. I release you, Sir _____, from all of the responsibilities and duties you took upon yourself when I became your Squire. [I here return this token of my bond to you.]

(Candidate returns his squire's belt, if there was one.)

 **King:** **Will you now give Us your word that you will henceforth comport yourself as befits a Peer of Our Realm, as you most surely have until now, and that you will attempt in all your endeavors to be a noble example to Our people?**

Candidate: I will. *(or equivalent speech)*

 **King/**
 **Queen:** **Will you promise further to treat all with Courtesy, and to uphold the Laws and traditions of Our Kingdom?**

Candidate: I will. *(or equivalent speech)*

 **King:** **On what sword do you wish to swear fealty?**


(The Candidate shall reply, and this sword shall be presented, hilt foremost, to the King. The King shall take it and lay it across his upraised palms.)

 **King:** **Place your hands upon Our own.**

(The Candidate shall place his hands upon the hands of the King.)

(Admittance of a New Member to the Order of Chivalry, Cont.)

Herald: To your Liege and before your peers, repeat after me:
Here do I swear
by mouth and hand
fealty and service
to the Crown and Kingdom of the West
to speak and to be silent
to come and to go
to strike and to spare
to do and to let be
in such matters as concern the Kingdom
on my honor
and the lawful commands of the Crown
in need or in plenty
in peace or in war
in living or in dying
from this hour henceforth
until the King depart from His Throne
or death take me
or the world end
so say I ____.

 **King:** **And this do We hear,
nor fail to remember,
and We for Our part do swear fealty to you,
____,
to protect and defend you
and all your household,
with all Our power,
until We depart from Our Throne,
or death take Us,
or the world end.
So say We, _____, King of the West.**

 **Queen:** **So also say We, _____, Queen of the West.**


 **King:** **By what sword do you wish to be Knighted?**

(The Candidate shall reply. If the sword chosen is a different sword, then the sword of fealty shall be returned to its owner and the new sword shall be presented hilt foremost to the King.)

 **King:** **By what name do you wish to be Knighted?**

(The Candidate shall reply.)

(The King shall then lightly strike the Candidate three times with the flat of the blade, first upon the left shoulder, next upon the right shoulder, and finally upon the top of the head, while saying:)

 **King:** **I dub thee once ... I dub thee twice ... I dub thee Knight.**


(The sword shall be returned to its owner.)

(If the new Knight wishes, the buffet may be given.)

★ **BUFFET**

 **King:** **Bow your head.**

(The new Knight shall bow his head.)

 **King:** **Know, now that you are made a Knight,
that you must aid the defenseless,
seek justice for those of every station,
and maintain the honor of Knighthood.
Let this blow remind you that Knighthood
shall bring you pain as well as honor.**

*(The King shall deliver a light, symbolic slap to the cheek
of the new Knight.)*


 **King:** **Rise, Sir _____.**

 **King:** **Are there spurs?**

*(If spurs are to be presented to the new Knight, two knights shall come forward
and place the spurs upon his heels. When they have finished, the King shall
say:)*

 **King:** **Wear these spurs in token of your rank.**

Is there a chain?

 *(The King may ask of the history of this chain, if there is
any. The Knight shall briefly tell of the history of the
chain.)*

*(The King shall take the chain of knighthood and place it
about the neck of the new Knight, saying:)*

 **King:** **Wear this chain in token of your fealty.**

Is there a belt?

*(A Knight will hand the King a Knight's belt. The King will hand the Knight's belt
to the Queen, and may optionally ask if there is a history of the belt.)*



(The Queen shall take the belt of Knighthood and fasten it about the waist of the new Knight, saying:)



Queen: Wear this belt in token of your chivalry.

(Then the King and Queen shall congratulate the new Knight, and the King shall say:)



King: Go now to your peers.

(The herald shall exhort the cheers of the populace. The Chivalry shall congratulate the new knight. While this is being done, the herald shall read the scroll of proclamation - if no scroll is present, the herald shall read the appropriate text below:)

Herald:

For Sir _____, newest Knight of the Kingdom of the West, Hip, hip ... *(Read Scroll Text after the cheers)*

This box is a place for the herald to place a Post-it with the arms of the new Count.

★ NO SCROLL - NO PRIOR PATENT

Herald:

Be it known that Their Majesties, _____ and _____, King and Queen of the West, do on this day elevate Their subject, _____, to the Peerage of this Kingdom, and do name [him | her] Knight, and do admit [him | her] to the Right Noble Order of Chivalry. And They do grant unto [him | her] by Letters Patent these arms: Blazon, to bear and to hold without let or hindrance throughout Their Realm. By Our word and hand this ___ day of _____, in the _____ year of the Kingdom of the West.

_____ Rex Occidentalis;
_____ Regina

★ NO SCROLL - PRIOR PATENT


Be it known that Their Majesties, _____ and _____, King and Queen of the West, do on this day create Their subject, _____, Knight, and do admit [him | her] to the Right Noble Order of Chivalry, and do confirm [his | her] right to bear [his | her] arms by Letters Patent, to wit: Blazon. By Our word and hand this ___ day of _____, in the _____ year of the Kingdom of the West.

_____ Rex Occidentalis;
_____ Regina

CHIVALRY ALTERNATES -- CREATION OF A MASTER-OF-ARMS

(If the Candidate does not feel that he/she can swear fealty, then he/she shall answer:)


Candidate: No, Your Majesty, I may not.

 **King:** **Will you then accept the title of [Master | Mistress]-of-Arms in token of your prowess and chivalry upon the field?**

Candidate: Yes, Your Majesty.

(If the Candidate is a member of the Queen's Guard, then the Queen shall say:)

☆ QUEEN'S GUARD MEMBER

 **Queen:** **You are a member of my Queen's Guard. I thank you for your service to me and only regret that I must lose you from my Guard to your new estate.**

Candidate: It was my honor to serve you on your Guard. I return this baldric to you as a sign that my service to you in that capacity is ended.

(If the Candidate is the squire of a Knight or the fosterling of a Master-of-Arms, then the King should say:)


☆ SQUIRE

 **King:** **If you are squired to any Knight of this Realm, name him now.**

Candidate: Your Majesty, I am squired to Sir _____.

Herald: Sir _____, approach Their Majesties.


(The Knight approaches and stands next to his squire.)

 **King:** **Sir _____, We are minded to name your squire _____ a [Master | Mistress]-of-Arms. Will you now release him from your service and release him from whatever fealty exists between you?**

Knight: I now release you, _____, from my service and the fealty we have had between us.

Candidate: It has been my honor and pleasure to train with you. I release you, Sir _____, from all of the responsibilities and duties you took upon yourself when I became your Squire. [I here return this token of my bond to you.]

(Candidate returns his squire's belt if there is one.)

 **King:** Will you now give Us your word that you will henceforth comport yourself as befits a Peer of Our Realm, as you most surely have until now, and that you will attempt in all your endeavors to be a noble example to Our people?

Candidate: I will. *(or equivalent speech)*

 **King/**
 **Queen:** Will you promise further to treat all with Courtesy, and to uphold the Laws and traditions of Our Kingdom?

Candidate: I will. *(or equivalent speech)*

 **King:** Rise, [Master | Mistress] _____.

(The Queen shall take the white baldric and place it across the right shoulder of the new Master/Mistress.)

 **Queen:** Wear this baldric in token of your prowess and chivalry.

(Then the King and Queen shall congratulate the new Master, and the King shall say:)

 **King:** Go now to your peers.

(The herald shall exhort the cheers of the populace. The Chivalry shall congratulate the new Master. While this is being done, the herald shall read the scroll or proclamation:)

Herald: For [Master | Mistress] _____ newest [Master | Mistress]-of-Arms of the Kingdom of the West, Hip, hip ... *(Read Scroll Text after cheers)*

★ NO SCROLL

This box is a place for the herald to place a Post-it with the arms of the new peer.

★ NO SCROLL - NO PRIOR PATENT

Herald:

Be it known that Their Majesties, _____ and _____, King and Queen of the West, do on this day elevate Their subject, _____, to the Peerage of this Kingdom, and do create [him | her] a [Master | Mistress]-of-Arms, and do admit [him | her] to the Right Noble Order of the Chivalry. And They do grant unto [him | her] by Letters Patent these arms: Blazon, to bear and to hold without let or hindrance throughout Their Realm.

_____ Rex Occidentalis;

_____ Regina

★ NO SCROLL - PRIOR PATENT

Be it known that Their Majesties, _____ and _____, King and Queen of the West, do on this day elevate Their subject, _____, [Master | Mistress]-of-Arms, and do admit [him | her] to the Right Noble Order of Chivalry, and do confirm [his | her] right to bear [his | her] arms by Letters Patent, to wit: Blazon.

_____ Rex Occidentalis;


_____ Regina

(After the proclamation or scroll has been read, the Herald will set it aside, to be conveyed to the new Master later.)


THE ORDER OF CHIVALRY

WHEN THE INVESTITURE OF THE PEER WILL HAPPEN AT A LATER DATE

Herald: Let the Members of the Order of Chivalry come before Their Majesties.


 **King:** **We are minded to create _____, who lives in Our _____
(name of branch), a member of your Order.**

Principal: Your Majesty, you have consulted with the Order as is required in custom and Law, and we are agreed that the prowess and chivalry of _____ are such that he should be admitted to our Order. Is the candidate willing to accept this honor?


 **King:** **We have spoken with _____,
and he will accept this honor from Us.
He [will | will not] swear fealty
to the Crown and Throne,
and will be named [Knight | Master-of-Arms].**

*(The King shall use one of the following two paragraphs,
one if the commissioner is being appointed, the other if
already appointed.)*

★ COMMISSIONER BEING APPOINTED

 **King:** ***We now appoint _____ (full name and title of
Commissioner) as our Royal Emissary. We charge [him |
her] to visit _____ (branch) for the _____ (event) on
_____ (date), and to invest _____ (title and name) as a
Companion of the Order of Chivalry, and to name him
[Knight | Master-of-Arms] with all due ceremony, and to
confirm to him all duties, dignities, and insignia of this
rank.***


★ COMMISSIONER ALREADY APPOINTED

 **King:** ***We now have appointed _____ (full name and title of
Commissioner) as our Royal Emissary. We have charged
[him | her] to visit _____ (branch) for the _____ (event) on
_____ (date), and to invest _____ (title and name) as a
Companion of the Order of Chivalry, and to name him
[Knight | Master-of-Arms] with all due ceremony, and to
confirm to him all duties, dignities, and insignia of this
rank.***

THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE CREATION OF A MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF CHIVALRY

WHEN THE INVESTITURE OF THE PEER HAPPENED AT AN EARLIER DATE

Herald: Let the Members of the Order of Chivalry come before Their Majesties.

 **King:** We would have you know that on _____ (date)
at _____ (event) in _____ (branch),
Our Royal Emissary _____ (Commissioner)
did by Our will and at Our command admit _____
to the Order of Chivalry,
and did invest him in his new rank
with all due ceremony.

Principal: Your Majesty, you have consulted with the Order as is required in custom and
in Law. We ask at this time whether _____ has sworn fealty to the Crown and
Throne of the West.

 **King:** **He has. Welcome him as your brother Knight.**

OR

**He has chosen not to swear fealty.
Welcome him as a Master of Arms.**