

THE ORDER OF DEFENSE

This section contains the “standard” ceremony for admittance of a new member, the alternate for a spokesman, 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 peage, 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 Defense** are responsible for:

- A MEDALLION or (WHITE) LIVERY COLLAR bearing the badge of the Order.
- A Favor from the Queen
- The Defense Cloak (*If any*)
- The name of the Spokesperson (if any)_____
- Attendants (if any)_____
- Which ‘Optional Opening’ is to be used? (There are 4)

The **Candidate** is responsible for:

- A Processional
- Does the candidate wish to swear fealty?
- Does the candidate wish to swear fealty on the Great Sword of State, or to do so by holding of hands with the Royalty?
- Which ‘Optional Opening’ is to be used? (There are 4)

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.
- Does the candidate wish to swear fealty?
- Does the candidate wish to swear fealty on the Great Sword of State, or to do so by holding of hands with the Royalty?
- Which ‘Optional Opening’ is to be used? (There are 4)

ORDER OF DEFENSE CEREMONY, OPTION 1 SUMMONING THE CANDIDATE OR PROCESSIONAL

(If this is to be a Processional, the candidate should have their retinue ready to go at the back of court.)

Herald: The strength and stability of the Kingdom lie in these virtues of its people: service, creativity, and prowess - for if any of these are lacking, the Kingdom fails. The path of prowess can take different forms – that of chivalry and that of **defense**. The fencers of the Kingdom defend it with their rapiers and with their skill upon the field bring honor to Our Queen and to Our Kingdom.

Let the Members of the Order of Defense attend upon Their Majesties.

(The Members of the Order, saving only the Spokesman and the Attendant, approach and kneel in a semi-circle. All should be wearing their cloaks, if they have them. The Spokesman and Attendant should borrow them if they do not have personal cloaks.)

 **King:** **We are minded to admit _____ to your Right Noble Order. Let [him | her] now be brought forth.**

Herald: Let _____ be brought before Their Majesties.

(The Spokesman and Attendant go to the Candidate, who is standing at the back of Court. If this is a Processional, the Spokesman/Attendant do not have to move, the processional will come forward to the front of court. They bring the candidate forward, who then kneels before Their Majesties.)

 **King:** **[Master | Mistress] _____ (Spokesman), let all know in what manner _____ has enriched Our Realm.**

(Here will answer the Spokesman, giving the reasons why the Candidate would be a suitable Member of the Order. This speech may be altered in many ways to suit the specific Candidate, but should always include the final phrase below.)

Spokesman: _____ has shown great prowess with the blade, and has shared these talents by example and instruction, {(and has especially benefitted the Kingdom by (specific example),)} and further has governed [himself | herself] in all ways as befits a Member of our Order.

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ORDER OF DEFENSE CEREMONY, OPTION 2 – FINDING THE CANDIDATE

Herald: The strength and stability of the Kingdom lie in these virtues of its people: service, creativity, and prowess - for if any of these are lacking, the Kingdom fails. The path of prowess can take different forms – that of chivalry and that of **defense**. The fencers of the Kingdom defend it with their rapiers and with their skill upon the field bring honor to Our Queen and to Our Kingdom.

Let the Members of the Order of Defense attend upon Their Majesties.

(The Members of the Order, saving only the Spokesman and the Attendant, approach and kneel in a semi-circle. All should be wearing their cloaks, if they have them. The Spokesman and Attendant should borrow them if they do not have personal cloaks.)

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

(Spokesperson shall stand and say,)

Spokesperson: Your Majesty, we, the Companions of the Order of Defense of the West feel our numbers are not complete, and that there is one here present whose honor and achievement with the rapier on the field of defense 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.)

Spokesman: 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.**

 **King: [Master | Mistress] _____ (Spokesman), let all know in what manner _____ has enriched Our Realm.**

(Here will answer the Spokesman, giving the reasons why the Candidate would be a suitable Member of the Order. This speech may be altered in many ways to suit the specific Candidate, but should always include the final phrase below.)

Spokesman: _____ has shown great prowess with the blade, and has shared these talents by example and instruction, {(and has especially benefitted the Kingdom by (specific example),)} and further has governed [himself | herself] in all ways as befits a Member of our Order.

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ORDER OF DEFENSE CEREMONY, OPTION 3 CANDIDATE ALREADY IN COURT (SURPRISE)

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

The strength and stability of the Kingdom lie in these virtues of its people: service, creativity, and prowess - for if any of these are lacking, the Kingdom fails. The path of prowess can take different forms – that of chivalry and that of **defense**. The fencers of the Kingdom defend it with their rapiers and with their skill upon the field bring honor to Our Queen and to Our Kingdom.

Let the Members of the Order of Defense attend upon Their Majesties.

(The Members of the Order, saving only the Spokesman and the Attendant, approach and kneel in a semi-circle. All should be wearing their cloaks, if they have them. The Spokesman and Attendant should borrow them if they do not have personal cloaks.)

 King: **We are minded to admit _____ to your Right Noble Order.**

 King: **[Master | Mistress] _____ (Spokesman), let all know in what manner _____ has enriched Our Realm.**

(Here will answer the Spokesman, giving the reasons why the Candidate would be a suitable Member of the Order. This speech may be altered in many ways to suit the specific Candidate, but should always include the final phrase below.)

Spokesman: _____ has shown great prowess with the blade, and has shared these talents by example and instruction, {(and has especially benefitted the Kingdom by (specific example),)} and further has governed [himself | herself] in all ways as befits a Member of our Order.

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ORDER OF DEFENSE CEREMONY, OPTION 4 SPOKESMAN FIRST

Herald: _____ (*Spokesman*) approach Their Majesties!

Spokesman: _____ has shown great prowess with the blade, and has shared these talents by example and instruction, {(and has especially benefitted the Kingdom by (specific example),)} and further has governed [himself | herself] in all ways as befits a Member of our Order.

 **King:** **We are minded to admit _____ to the Right Noble Order of Defense. Let [him | her] now be brought forth.**

Herald: Let _____ be brought before Their Majesties.

(The Spokesman and Attendant go to the Candidate, who is standing at the back of Court. They bring the candidate forward, who then kneels before Their Majesties.)

Herald: The strength and stability of the Kingdom lie in these virtues of its people: service, creativity, and prowess - for if any of these are lacking, the Kingdom fails. The path of prowess can take different forms – that of chivalry and that of **defense**. The fencers of the Kingdom defend it with their rapiers and with their skill upon the field bring honor to Our Queen and to Our Kingdom.

Let the Members of the Order of Defense attend upon Their Majesties.

(The Members of the Order, saving only the Spokesman and the Attendant, approach and kneel in a semi-circle. All should be wearing their cloaks, if they have them. The Spokesman and Attendant should borrow them if they do not have personal cloaks.)

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★ **CONTINUE** at this point of the ceremony, no matter which of the options is used
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 **King:** _____, mindful of the honor you have brought to this Our Realm by your accomplishments on the field of rapier combat, [and mindful also of the wishes of your Peers,]it is Our intent to admit you to the Order of Defense. Will you accept from Us this honor?

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

★ **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 on Your Guard. I return this baldric to You as a sign that my service to You in that capacity is ended.

★ **CADET**

 **King:** If you are a cadet to any member of this Order, name [him | her] now.

Candidate: Your Majesty, I am cadet to _____.

Herald: [Master | Mistress | Don] _____, approach Their Majesties.

(The member approaches and stands next to his/her cadet.)

 **King:** [Master | Mistress | Don] _____, We are minded to admit your cadet _____ to the Order of Defense. Will you now release [him | her] from your service and release [him | her] from whatever fealty exists between you?

Laurel: 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, [Master | Mistress | Don] _____, from all of the responsibilities and duties you took upon yourself when I became your student. [I here return this token of my bond to you.]

(Candidate returns whatever token there may have been, 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)*

 **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)*

★ **IF IT IS KNOWN THAT THE CANDIDATE WISHES TO SWEAR FEALTY**

 **King:** **Will you now swear fealty to the Crown and Kingdom of the West?**

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

(The King and Queen either put out Their Hands, and the Candidate places his hands in them, or uses the Great Sword of State, held over Their Majesties' hands, and the candidate places his/her hands on top of Their Majesties' hands and the sword.)

Herald: To your Liege and before your Peers, swear your oath:
Here do I swear by mouth and by 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 command 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:** **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.**

(This ends the portion of the Ceremony dealing with the giving and return of fealty oaths. If the Great Sword of State was used, it should be given back into the keeping of the Earl Marshall.)

CONTINUE HERE WHETHER OR NOT AN OATH WAS SWORN:

 **King/**
 **Queen:** ***(The King and Queen take the hands of the new Master/Mistress of Defense between theirs (the right hand of the King and the left hand of the Queen, placing the new Master's hands between theirs. NOTE: If multiple candidates are being done, then this needs to be done for each.)***

 **King:** **Then We now proclaim you, _____,
[Master | Mistress] of Defense.**

 **BUFFET** (If the new Master of Defense wishes, the buffet may be given)

 **Queen:** **Look upon me.**

(The new Master shall face the Queen.)

 **Queen:** **Know that you are made a Master of Defense, that you must uphold your honor and the honor of your Order, defend those in need, and seek justice for all. You must face all foes and trials as you face me now, and defend the right even if it brings you pain.**

(The Queen shall deliver a light, symbolic slap to the cheek of the new Master.)

 **King:** **Receive from Our hands the token of the Order of Defense.**

 **Queen:** ***(The Queen may ask the history of the token)***

★ LIVERY COLLAR

🌹 Queen: **Wear this collar in token of your rank.**

(The Queen puts medallion/collar round Candidate's neck.)

★ KINGDOM CLOAK PRESENT

👑 King: **Let (First Name) be robed as befits [his | her] new estate.**

(The former newest member of the Order comes forward wearing or carrying the "Kingdom" cloak, and gives it to the Attendant, who stands and places it on the Candidate.)

🌹 Queen: **Receive from Our hands this favor, a white scarf bearing a red rose. Wear this as a symbol of the special relationship between the members of the Order of Defense, the Queen, and the Order of the Rose.**

(Queen fastens the favor to the new member of the Order in some fashion.)

(The King takes both the new Member's hands in His own and raises him/her up.)

👑 King: **Arise, [Master | Mistress] _____, and greet your Peers.**

Herald: For [Master | Mistress] _____, newest member of the Order of Defense, Hip, hip!

👑 King: **Let the proclamation be read.**

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

(If there is a scroll present, the herald shall read the scroll, otherwise, the Herald shall read the appropriate proclamation below:)

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 admit [him | her] to the Right Noble Order of Defense. 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. Done 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 elevate Their subject _____, to the Right Noble Order of Defense, and do confirm [his | her] right to bear [his | her] arms by Letters Patent, to wit: **Blazon**. Done by Our word and hand this _____ day of _____, in the _____ year of the Kingdom of the West,
_____, Rex Occidentalis
_____, Regina

(After the proclamation or scroll has been read, the Herald will hand the promissory or scroll to the Spokesman.)

THE CREATION OF A MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF DEFENSE

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

Herald: Let the members of the Order of Defense come before Their Majesties.

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

Principal: Your Majesty, you have consulted with the Order as is required in custom and in Law. But others in the Kingdom may not know of the virtues of _____.

 **King:** *(Tells why the candidate is worthy. Use speech below as a model. OR)*

Is there one who will speak for the worthiness of this candidate?

(Here will answer the Spokesman, giving the reasons why the Candidate would be a suitable Member of the Order. This speech may be altered in many ways to suit the specific Candidate, but should always include the final phrase.)

Spokesman: _____ has shown great prowess with the blade, and has shared these talents by example and instruction, {(and has especially benefitted the Kingdom by (specific example),)} and further has governed [himself | herself] in all ways as befits a Member of our Order.

Principal: Is the candidate willing to accept this honor?

 **King:** We have spoken with _____, and [he | she] will accept this honor from Us.

(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 _____ (title/name) as Our Royal Emissary.
We charge you to visit _____
(branch) for the _____ (event) on _____ (date),
and to invest _____ (title/name)
as a Companion of the Order of Defense
with all due ceremony,
and to confirm to [him | her] all duties,
dignities, and insignia of this rank.

 **COMMISSIONER ALREADY APPOINTED**

 **King:** We have appointed _____ (title/name) as Our Royal Emissary.
We have charged [him | her] to visit _____ (branch)
For the _____ (event) on _____ (date),
and to invest _____ (title/name)
as a Companion of the Order of Defense
with all due ceremony,
and to confirm to [him | her] all duties,
dignities, and insignia of this rank.

 **King:** We thank you for your time. You have Our leave to depart.

THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE CREATION OF A MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF DEFENSE WHEN THE INVESTITURE OF THE PEER HAPPENED AT AN EARLIER DATE

Herald: Let the Members of the Order of Defense 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 Defense,
and did invest [him | her] in [his | her] new rank
with all due ceremony.

Principal: Your Majesty, you consulted with us as is required in custom and Law. But others in the Kingdom may not know of the virtues of _____.

 **King:** *(Tells why the candidate is worthy. Use speech below as a model. OR)*

Is there one who will speak for the worthiness of this candidate?

(Here will answer the Spokesman, giving the reasons why the Candidate would be a suitable Member of the Order. This speech may be altered in many ways to suit the specific Candidate, but should always include the final phrase below.)

Spokesman: _____ has shown great prowess with the blade, and has shared these talents by example and instruction, {(and has especially benefitted the Kingdom by (specific example),)} and further has governed [himself | herself] in all ways as befits a Member of our Order.

 **King:** **We thank you for your time. You have Our leave to depart.**

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

Hic Nihil Deficit