

THE ORDER OF THE LAUREL

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 peirage, 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 the Laurel** are responsible for:

- A MEDALLION
- A [Chain of Fealty | Peerage Collar] if the candidate wishes to swear fealty.
- The Laurel Cloak
- 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 (People showing the works of the candidate to the populace)?
- 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)

LAUREL 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, prowess, and **creativity** - for if any of these are lacking, the Kingdom fails. The artists and artisans of the Kingdom glorify it with their work, and the teaching of their skills brings to it the Light of Learning.

Let the Members of the Order of the Laurel 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 skill in (field) {and (field)}, 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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LAUREL CEREMONY, OPTION 2 – FINDING THE CANDIDATE

Herald: The strength and stability of the Kingdom lie in these virtues of its people: service, prowess, and **creativity** - for if any of these are lacking, the Kingdom fails. The artists and artisans of the Kingdom glorify it with their work, and the teaching of their skills brings to it the Light of Learning.

Let the Members of the Order of the Laurel 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 the Laurel of the West feel our numbers are not complete, and that there is one here present whose honor and achievement in the arts and sciences 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 skill in (field) {and (field)}, 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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LAUREL 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, prowess, and **creativity** - for if any of these are lacking, the Kingdom fails. The artists and artisans of the Kingdom glorify it with their work, and the teaching of their skills brings to it the Light of Learning.

Let the Members of the Order of the Laurel 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 skill in (field) {and (field)}, 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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LAUREL CEREMONY, OPTION 4 SPOKESMAN FIRST

(This should be proceeded by an example of the candidate's work)

Herald: _____ (Spokesman) approach Their Majesties!

Spokesman: _____ has shown great skill in (field) {and (field)}, 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 the Order of the Laurel.

 **King:** **We are minded to admit _____ to the Right Noble Order of the Laurel. 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, prowess, and **creativity** - for if any of these are lacking, the Kingdom fails. The artists and artisans of the Kingdom glorify it with their work, and the teaching of their skills brings to it the Light of Learning.

Let the Members of the Order of the Laurel 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 in (field) {and in (field)}, and mindful also of the wishes of your Peers, it is Our intent to admit you to the Order of the Laurel. Will you accept from Us this honor?

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

★ **APPRENTICE**

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

Candidate: Your Majesty, I am apprenticed to _____.

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

(The Laurel approaches and stands next to his/her apprentice.)

 **King:** **[Master | Mistress] _____, We are minded to admit your apprentice _____ to the Order of the Laurel. 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] _____, from all of the responsibilities and duties you took upon yourself when I became your apprentice. [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)*

 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.)

 King/
 Queen: ***(The King and Queen take the hands of the new Laurel between theirs (the right hand of the King and the left hand of the Queen, placing the new Laurel'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 the Laurel.**

 Queen: **Receive from Our hands the token of the Order of the Laurel.**

 King: ***(The King may ask the history of the token, if there is any.)***

 CHAIN/COLLAR OF FEALTY

 King/ **Wear this [chain | collar] in token of your fealty.**
 Queen:

 Queen: ***(Queen puts medallion/chain/collar around 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.)

(The King takes both the new Laurel'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 the Laurel, Hip, hip!**

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

(Admittance of a New Member to the Order of the Laurel, 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 the Laurel. 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 the Laurel, 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 THE LAUREL

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

Herald: Let the members of the Order of the Laurel 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 skill in (field) {and (field)}, 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 the Laurel
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 the Laurel
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 THE LAUREL

WHEN THE INVESTITURE OF THE PEER HAPPENED AT AN EARLIER DATE

Herald: Let the Members of the Order of the Laurel 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 the Laurel,
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 skill in (field) {and (field)}, 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.