

Order of Chivalry – Master/Mistress of Arms

Awarded for: supreme prowess in the art and skills of armoured combat, with teaching, service and peer-like qualities deemed worthy by the Order and the Crown

Token: a white baldric.

Prep: The **Herald** and the **Crown** must determine which is to speak the litany. The **Candidate** must state whether they do not wish to swear fealty and will be made Master/Mistress of Arms, or wish to be Knighted, and will thus swear fealty (see separate ceremony). They must also state if they are in a formal student relationship from which they need to be released.

The **Candidate** should provide the Herald with a list of people they wish to speak for them, and which Order or other group they represent. Establish who will be giving the baldric.

Establish if the candidate will have a sword (**not** regalia of the order, but the Chivalry have the privilege to be armed in the presence of the Crown.) The sword should have a metal blade (i.e. a dress weapon) and be able to be belted, preferably in a sheath.

Armigerous: Patent

Scroll: Yes – check if one has been prepared.

Crown litany: Yes

Note: This is a basic ceremony; it is expected that peerage ceremonies will be personalised each time; personalised ceremonies do not need to be based on this. Refer to Bombarde for help if needed.

A buffet is **not** an essential part of the ceremony unless **specifically requested by the Candidate.**

Herald: The strength and stability of the Kingdom lie in these virtues of its people: creativity, service, chivalry and prowess. Like links in a chain, each must be strong, for if one fails, all will fail.

The fighters of the Kingdom defend it with their swords, with their prowess bring it strength and with their honour bring it glory on the field.

Let the Members of the Order of Chivalry attend upon their Majesties.

The Order comes forward

Crown: We feel that your Order is lacking, and upon consultation, We find that you are in agreement. We are minded therefore to increase your number.

Herald, call forth the Candidate.

The order and nature of the ceremony should have been discussed with the candidate, and is done by their wishes. They may include but are not restricted to the following:

- ❖ *Calling upon members of the Peerages to speak to the fitness of the candidate,*
- ❖ *The Teacher of the candidate formally ending their student-teacher relationship,*
- ❖ *The candidate's Knight/Master/Mistress formally releasing them from their service.*

Herald/Crown:

[Name], mindful of your prowess upon the field, and responsive to the wishes of your peers, We are minded to admit you to the Order of Chivalry. Will you accept from Us this honour?

Candidate: I will.

Herald/Crown:

Will you 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 endeavours to be a noble example to Our people?

Candidate: I will.

Herald/Crown:

Will you promise further to treat all with Courtesy, and to uphold the Laws and traditions of Our Kingdom?

Candidate: I will.

Crown: [Name], We are aware that you may not swear fealty to us, and we know that this is a matter of honour that lessens no one. Will you accept from us the title and rank of Master/Mistress of Arms?

Candidate: I will.

Crown: Will you promise and assure us that you will always act as befits a Peer of the Realm, and will you promise to uphold the Ideals of Chivalry, and will you undertake to give good counsel to Us and to Our Heirs, and to defend those of Our Realm who have need of it?

Candidate: I will.

This next only if the Candidate has specifically requested the buffet.

Sovereign: Bow your head.

Let this blow remind you that to strive for Chivalry, you shall find pain as well as honour.

The Sovereign by Right of Arms delivers a symbolic blow to the cheek of the new Master/Mistress of Arms.

Crown: It is the right and privilege of the Masters and Mistresses of Arms alone to wear a baldric of white.

A baldric is brought forth and its history is given.

Crown/Herald: Wear this baldric, that all may know you are a Master/Mistress of the realm. It represents the Ideals of Chivalry, and it is white, to remind you that you must strive to keep those Ideals, for by carelessness and thoughtlessness you may dishonour them.

The Crown or a member of the Candidate's household places the baldric upon the Candidate.

Crown/Herald: [Name], We give you leave to be armed in Our presence, safe in the knowledge that you will defend Our person. Rise so that you may be girded and armed as befits you.

The candidate's partner, members of their household, or similar belts a sword onto the candidate.

Crown/Herald: Bring no dishonour to your sword, and carry it in defence of
any and all who have need of it, in this, Our Realm, and all the
lands of the Known World where ever you may travel.

Crown: Master/Mistress [*Name*], go forth and greet your Peers.

Herald: For Master/Mistress [*Name*], newest Master of Arms of the Order
of Chivalry, three cheers!
Be it known that their Majesties, [*Name*] and [*Name*], King and
Queen of Lochac, do on this day elevate their subject, [*Name*], to
the Peerage of this Kingdom, and do name him/her Master/Mistress
of Arms, 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 of recipient's registered device]*

OR

❖ *such arms as you may properly register with our heralds, in the
Kingdom of Lochac and throughout the Known World,*

to bear and to hold without let or hindrance throughout their Realm.

By Our word and hand this [number] day of [month], Anno
Societatis [year].

(*Name*) Rex

(*Name*) Regina