

Mouse Guard

Awarded for: recognition of the work done for the Kingdom by children aged 4 to 12 independently of their parents.

Token: A pouch embroidered with the badge of the order, being *gules, a mouse sejant erect to sinister tail nowd argent within and orle Or.*

Prep: **Crown** should have a prepared list of the child's work. You may wish to give parents of very young children the nod before court. It should be discussed ahead of time if the **Crown** wish to have the Mouse Guard called up at the start of court, or when the award is to be given.

Herald If the Guard are called at the start of court, the line in square brackets beginning "and so, let.." should be omitted.

Armigerous: No

Scroll: No

Crown litany: No

NOTE: traditionally there was no ceremony attached to the Mouse Guard. Some Royalty may wish to honour this past and dispense with the ceremony, simply calling the current Mouse Guard forward, and then the recipient.

ALSO NOTE: admittance to the Mouse Guard should not prevent the giving of other awards if merited.

ALSO NOTE: the Queen is named first in the acknowledgement, not the King.

Herald: When we speak of those who deserve recognition, we talk of their great service and their mighty deeds. But let us not forget the fable of the small mouse who chewed through the hunter's ropes and freed the lion. The smallest and youngest of us is capable of noble deeds, [*and so, let the Mouse Guard come forward to sit in their Majesties' court.*]

If not already assembled, all members of the Mouse Guard present come and sit in front of the Royal Court and at the Crown's feet, facing the populace.

Herald: Keridwen the Mouse, 17th Princess of Lochac, decided that she had need of a special guard, and that Lochac needed to recognise the service of its children, done independently of their parents. And so the Mouse Guard was formed, and as the Kingdom of Lochac, we honour it to this day. But just as Principalities grow into Kingdoms, so the Mouse Guard grow up and are called to other duties, and new Guards must come to join them.

Let [*Name*] come before their Majesties.

Recipient comes forward. The child, especially a young child, may not be aware of correct protocol – be prepared to take some time to allow them to come forward, find the right place to stand, etc. Don't get precious about having them kneel, although you may wish to direct older children where to do so.

Crown: *Speak of the recipient's deeds as appropriate. Explain to the recipient what they are expected to do.*

Present the token of the Order to the recipient.

Herald: Know all that their Majesties, Queen [Name] and King [Name] have this [day] of [month] Anno Societatis [year] made [Name] the newest member of the Mouse Guard – three cheers!