

Order of Defense

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

Token: a White livery collar, bearing the badge of the Order

Prep: You **must** establish beforehand if the candidate wishes to swear fealty, & if they are in a formal student relationship from which they need to be released. The **Herald** and the **Crown** must determine which is to speak the litany. 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. It should be established beforehand if the medallion is to be given as part of the livery collar, or separate to it. If the candidate is swearing fealty, establish if there is a fealty chain being given. Establish if there is a sword to be given during the ceremony (note that the sword is a meaningful gift but is **not** regalia of the order). The sword should be untipped (i.e. a dress weapon) and 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 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.

The Order of Defense considers the bestowing of the livery collar to be essential, and the dubbing to be essential if the Candidate is swearing fealty.

A buffet is **not** considered to be 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 blades, with their prowess bring it strength and with their honour bring it glory on the field.

Let the Members of the Order of Defense 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 Master/Mistress/Knight formally releasing them from their fealty.*

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 Defense. 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.

Fealty

This next ONLY if the candidate chooses to swear fealty.

Herald/Crown:

Will you swear fealty to Us, Our Crown, and the Throne and
Kingdom of Lochac?

Candidate: I will.

Herald/Crown:

On what sword do you wish to swear fealty?

Candidate states which sword.

Crown: Place your hands upon Our own.

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 Lochac,
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 honour,
and by 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 Crown depart from Their Throne,
or death take me, or the world end,
so say I (Name).

Crown: This We do hear, nor shall we fail to remember,
and We for Our part do swear fealty to you, (Name),
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, Lochac.

End fealty

Resume

Crown: The badge of your Order is a White Livery Collar.

A White Livery collar is brought forth and its history is given.

The Crown places the collar around the candidate's neck.

Crown: Wear this collar as sign of your estate.

In Fealty

This next ONLY if the candidate has sworn fealty

Crown: We give you the right to wear a chain of fealty, adorned according
to your rank. Remember that this is no jewel to be admired, but a
representation of the binding oaths you have sworn this day.

The giver of the chain stands and gives the history of the chain, then passes it to the Crown.

Crown: Wear this chain in token of your fealty.

Gift of
Sword

This next ONLY if a sword is to be given;

Crown: It is fitting that you should be armed with a blade of steel.

The person giving the sword should stand and state the history of the sword, and why they are giving it. The sword is then passed to their Majesties, OR the Crown may indicate for it to be given directly to the candidate.

Crown: [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 the giver of the sword belts the sword onto the candidate.

Crown: Bring no dishonour to this blade, 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.

Candidate kneels once more. Gift of sword ends.

Resume

Crown: By which sword do you wish to be dubbed?

Candidate: *[says which sword]*

Crown: And by what name shall you be recognised?

Candidate: *[Name in full]*

Continues...

Crown takes the sword and taps the candidate with it three times; once upon each shoulder and finally upon the head, saying the following:

Crown: I dub thee once
I dub thee twice,
I dub thee Master/Mistress of Defense
From this day forward, let no blade touch you,
save that you reply with honour, courage and prowess.
We command you to succour the defenceless,
seek justice for those of every station,
and maintain the honour of your Order.

Crown: We now proclaim you, *(Name)*, Master/Mistress of Defense.
Arise and greet your Peers.

Herald: For Master/Mistress *(Name)* , newest member of the Order of Defense, 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 Knight, 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 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