

Essential Elements of Ceremony - Order of the Laurel

Awarded for: supreme prowess in one or more fields of the arts and sciences, with teaching, service and peer-like qualities as deemed worthy by the Order and the Crown

Token: a medallion bearing the badge of the Order being a laurel wreath.

Armigerous: Patent

Scroll: Yes – check if one has been prepared.

Crown litany: Yes

If writing a customised ceremony, the following must be done in some form or other:

- ❖ The Crown must publicly confirm the Order has been consulted
- ❖ The Crown must invite the Candidate to join, with some word as to what responsibility that entails
- ❖ The Candidate must accept the invitation
- ❖ Once it is done, the Herald announces the Candidate has been granted a Patent of Arms; if the Candidate has registered heraldry, the blazon is included in the announcement.

The following is considered essential if, and only if, the Candidate is swearing fealty:

- ❖ The Crown and Candidate swear an Oath of Fealty in some form.

The following are not essential to the ceremony, but it would be controversial to leave them out:

- ❖ If the Candidate is an Apprentice/etc, their Peer formally releases them from Fealty
- ❖ A member of the Order of the Laurel addresses the Crown and Populace, to say why the Candidate has been recognised as their peer.
- ❖ Bestowal of a medallion of the Order, being a medallion bearing the badge of the Order.
- ❖ At the end, the Candidate is invited to greet their Peers/the Order is invited to welcome them.

The following are not essential to the ceremony, but are usually included:

- ❖ The Candidate formally processes in with their household and supporters
- ❖ A representative of each of the other Orders addresses the Crown and Populace, to say why the Candidate has been recognised as their peer.
- ❖ If the Candidate is swearing fealty, bestowal of a fealty chain – NOTE: while only a Knight may wear an unadorned open-linked chain, such may be given in the ceremony provided the Candidate attaches their Laurel medallion to it immediately following the ceremony (i.e. it is no longer unadorned.)
- ❖ The Candidate is robed with the Cloak of the Order.

Please note – a buffet is **not usual** for the un-bladed Orders but may be requested by the candidate. It is **strongly** recommended that the Candidate is not dubbed with a sword, unless being Laurellled for period sword work, and even then, this will be controversial if not also a member of the Order of Chivalry or the Order of Defense.

The Candidate may wish to, and is at liberty to, include other elements as they desire into their ceremony. It is strongly recommended that Bombarde Herald, being Crux's deputy Herald for Ceremony, and/or Crux Australis Herald, being the Kingdom Herald, be included in the creation of original customised ceremonies for Peerage.