

Order of the Laurel

Awarded for: supreme prowess in the Arts and Sciences, with teaching, service and peer-like qualities deemed worthy by the Order and the Crown

Token: a medallion bearing the badge of the Order

Prep: You **must** establish beforehand if the candidate wishes to swear fealty, and 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 **Herald** should determine what skill set the Candidate is being Laurellled for. 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. The **Herald** should determine if the Candidate wishes to swear fealty, and if so, do they wish to do so upon a sword, and if so, whether upon the Great Sword of State or another sword. It should be established beforehand who will be giving the medallion. If the candidate is swearing fealty, establish if there is a fealty chain being given. Check if the medallion and the chain will be given separately. The **Herald** should discover if the Candidate has registered arms, and if so, should make note of the blazon.

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.

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.

There are many who defend our Kingdom with their strength of arms, and many upon whose service the Kingdom stands strong, but the Artists and Artisans of the Kingdom glorify it with their work, bring those varied Arts and Sciences that might be lost to vibrant life, enriching not only Our Kingdom of Lochac, but all the Known World. It is these people who, by their labours, allow us to step from the ordinary into the extraordinary. Moreover, they not only serve us by giving our game form and substance, but they teach others their skills, so that nothing may be lost.

Let the Members of the Order of the Laurel 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 skills in the field(s) of [*field of expertise*], and responsive to the wishes of your peers, We are minded to admit you to the Order of the Laurel. 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.

< If swearing upon a sword: >

<Herald/Crown: >

< On what sword do you wish to swear fealty? >

< Candidate states which sword. Crown holds the sword horizontally before them. >

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 Laurel Wreath, that may be displayed
upon a medallion.

A medallion is brought forth and its history is given.

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

Crown: Wear this token 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.

Crown: [Name] We make thee Master/Mistress of the Laurel.
From this day forward, always stand with honour, courage and nobility. We command you to have care for the defenceless, seek justice for those of every station, and maintain the honour of your Order.

Crown: Let [Name] be cloaked as befits his/her station.

The Cloak of the Order is brought forward and placed on the new Peer's shoulders.

Crown: We now proclaim you Master/Mistress [Name in full], Member of the Order of the Laurel.
Arise and greet your Peers.

Herald: For Master/Mistress [Name], newest member of the Order of the Laurel, 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 the Laurel, 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