

Using These Ceremony Scripts

In all ceremony scripts here included, there are certain elements which are regularly varied at the discretion of the court herald and the Crown.

Summoning the Recipient

The ceremony scripts in this edition mostly do not include a specific cue to summon the recipient. The recipient of an award can be summoned at the very beginning of the ceremony, or after the litany that introduces the award, and which option will be chosen should be discussed in advance by the herald and the Crown.

Summoning the recipient after the litany creates excellent suspense and is good for dramatic effect.

Summoning the recipient at the start can create suspense in a different way, as the populace wonder what they have been summoned for. It's also a practical solution to not knowing whether the person is actually present, as if they are summoned before the litany and don't appear, the surprise of which award is maintained, and court can move on more quickly.

Armigerous Awards

'Armigerous' awards are so called because they also convey an Award of Arms, and their ceremonies have an optional section in the proclamation which can be read to make this explicit. If the recipient already has an Award of Arms, this isn't necessary, and since most people receive an Award of Arms as their first award, many heralds will skip this section of the proclamation by default.

The main situation where that proclamation section is recommended is where, a) the herald and/or Crown is aware that the recipient does not already have an Award of Arms, and b) the Crown wishes to make a point that the Award of Arms is included.

Scripted Crown Words

In some ceremonies, the Crown has scripted ceremonial words. This is marked with a crown symbol at the top right of the ceremony script.

The Crown may choose to memorise these words, to write them out on palm cards or in a small book they can read from, or (most commonly) to be prompted by the herald. When planning such ceremonies, the court herald is advised to discuss with the Crown what their preferences are, and if prompting is preferred, what length of phrase the Crown prefers to have prompted.

Court heralds and the Crown are reminded that the herald is, ceremonially, ‘the voice of the Crown’. Even if certain parts of the script are normally said by the Crown, it is sometimes possible for the herald to speak as the Crown for those sections, if the Crown feels they would not be able to deliver the scripted words successfully.

Preferred Titles and Pronouns

In this edition of the Book of Ceremonies, ceremony scripts have been revised to avoid person-specific pronouns and titles as much as possible, to reduce the potential for error.

If a person's current title is going to be used in a ceremony (such as when summoning them to court), please check what title they prefer to use with a person who knows them, just as you might check the pronunciation of a name. Their title is part of their SCA presentation, and they have no doubt chosen it with care.

If announcing a person's name with their new title is going to be part of a ceremony (such as in the Court Barony ceremony), you should similarly check what their preference is likely to be. You can see some of the range of titles currently used in the SCA at <https://heraldry.sca.org/titles.html>

The SCA Date

Most ceremonies expect the date to be stated as part of the final proclamation, using the SCA year system. To make this easier, conversions for the SCA years 61-65 (mundanely, 2026-2031) have been included as a footer on all ceremonies.