

Writing New Ceremonies

At times, a Crown may decide that they would prefer to use some customised ceremonies during their reign, or they may create a new award and a ceremony to go with it, and this is something the Lochac College of Heraldry is happy to support.

We generally recommend consulting someone who has written ceremonies before, or who has significant experience delivering ceremonies, as they may be able to help you choose appropriately impactful language. If you aren't sure who to ask, reach out to Crux Australis (herald@lochac.sca.org) or Bombarde (bombarde@lochac.sca.org) for recommendations. The following advice may also be helpful.

General Advice

The beginning and end of each scripted section are what people will remember most, so make it distinctive. You should also look for opportunities to connect the name of the award, what it is being given for, and some sort of memorable imagery. This is often what sticks in people's minds. See, for example, the Silver Pegasus ceremony, which connects the flying pegasus with service that *“allows others to fly”*.

References to religion, myth, or legend should be framed as stories rather than truth (e.g. *“It is told in legends that the rolling thunder is the sound of Thor's hammer...”*, rather than *“During mighty storms, we hear Thor's hammer...”*).

On a practical note, aim to put the scripted words in the mouth of the herald, who has a Book of Ceremonies to read from, and keep those scripted words appropriately brief, to give plenty of time for the personal words spoken by the Crown. In most cases, the total scripted text should be 150 words or less.

Reign-Specific Custom Ceremonies

The ceremonies it is most meaningful to customise are the Award of Arms, the Royal Cypher, and the ceremony for inducting a new household member. The work of customising other ceremonies, which are given less frequently, tends to have diminishing returns.

Spare copies of any custom ceremonies created should travel with the Crown to ensure local court heralds are equipped.

Ceremonies for New Awards

New awards must have their names and devices registered with the College of Heralds, and the awards must also be added to Kingdom Law. If you are considering creating a new award, please consult Crux Australis early so that we can help this happen.

Some imagery and language will be easier to register than others. Working with Crux Australis to pick something registerable will allow you design an award and award ceremony that you can trust is unlikely to need later redesign.

The ceremony used for the first presentation of a new award does not need to be the one used regularly after that point. It is very appropriate to incorporate a longer announcement or explanation in the first ceremony for a new award, to provide context for the populace; in subsequent ceremonies, it can be assumed some of that is remembered by the populace.

Once a new ceremony is created, please make sure copies of the ceremony script are sent to Crux Australis and Bombarde as soon as possible, so it can be provided to court heralds across the kingdom.