

Order of Chivalry



Items:	Sword of State (if requested by Candidate). Candidate should arrange regalia, any weapons being given, and other sword if desired for fealty or dubbing.
Preparation:	This ceremony will almost always be customised in some manner, which is planned by the Candidate before approval by the Crown. See <i>Peerage Ceremonies: Options</i> .

Opening

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 weapons, with their prowess bring it strength, and with their honour bring it glory on the field.

Let the Members of the Order of Chivalry attend upon their Majesties.

The Order comes forward.

Crown: We feel that your Order should grow, and upon consultation, We find that you are in agreement. We are minded therefore to increase your number.

Herald: Let [Name] come before Their Majesties.

Candidate comes forward, with procession if desired.

Testimonies

Herald: Who would speak of the candidate, that all may know their deeds?

One or more speakers come forward in turn to speak about the candidate.

Herald: [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 Chivalry. Will you accept from Us this honour?

Candidate: I will.

(If the Candidate is being released from their teacher:)

Herald: Is there any teacher who must release you from their tutelage so that you may take up this rank?

Candidate: There is.

Herald: Then let them come forward.

Teacher comes forward and formally releases the Candidate.

Peerage Oaths

Herald: [Name], 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: Will you promise further to treat all with Courtesy, and to uphold the Laws and traditions of Our Kingdom?

Candidate: I will.

Fealty (Optional)

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

Candidate: I will.

(If swearing on a sword:)

Herald: On which sword do you wish to swear fealty?

Candidate states which sword, and the sword is brought forward and placed over the hands of the Crown.

Crown: Place your hands upon Our own.

Herald: To your Liege and before your peers, repeat after me:

Herald: 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, 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.

Elevation

(If the Candidate has requested a buffet:)

Herald: The Candidate has requested a buffet.

Sovereign: Bow your head. Let this blow be the last that you accept unanswered.

Sovereign delivers a symbolic blow to the cheek of the Candidate.

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

Candidate: *[States which sword.]*

Crown: And by what name shall you be recognised?

Candidate: *[Full Name]*

Crown takes the sword and taps the candidate on each shoulder and then on the head, saying the following:

Crown: I dub thee once,

I dub thee twice,

I dub thee *[Knight/Master of Arms/Mistress of Arms]*.

From this day forward, let no one pursue you at arms, 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.

Regalia

(Knight:)

Herald: In our Society, it is the right and privilege of the Knights alone to wear spurs, for gilded spurs are the ancient badge and symbol of knighthood. Are there spurs?

Spurs brought forward, and their history may be given.

Herald: Wear these spurs that all may know your rank. Honour them and keep them in good order, for you share these tokens of knighthood with all who have come before you, for as long as there have been Knights.

Two knights, or a knight and the Candidate's consort place the spurs on the Candidate's heels.

Herald: It is the right and privilege of the Knights alone to wear a belt of white. Is there a belt?

A belt is brought forward, and its history may be given.

Herald: Wear this belt, that all may know you are a Knight of the realm. It represents the Ideals of Chivalry, and it is white, to remind you that you must strive to keep those Ideals, for by carelessness and thoughtlessness you may dishonour them.

The Crown or a member of the Candidate's household buckles the belt around the Candidate's waist.

...cont.

(Knight, cont.:)

Herald: It is the right and privilege of the Knights alone to wear an unadorned chain of fealty. Is there a chain?

A chain is brought forth, and its history may be given.

Herald: Wear this chain, that all may know you are in fealty to the Crown and the Kingdom. It is unadorned, for this is no jewel to be admired, but a representation of the binding oaths you have sworn this day.

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

(Master of Arms:)

Herald: It is the right and privilege of the Masters and Mistresses of Arms to wear a baldric of white. Is there a baldric?

The baldric brought forward, and its history may be given.

Herald: Wear this baldric, that all may know you are a Companion of the Chivalry. It represents the Ideals of Chivalry, and it is white, to remind you that you must strive to keep those Ideals, for by carelessness and thoughtlessness you may dishonour them.

The Crown or a member of the Candidate's household places the baldric on 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 armed as befits your new station.

The weapon is brought forward and its history may be given. It is belted on the Candidate, who remains standing.

Herald: Bring no dishonour to this sword, 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 wherever you may travel.

Proclamation

Crown: We now proclaim you [Title] [Name], Companion of the Chivalry. Go, and greet your peers.

Candidate stands and is welcomed by the Order.

Herald: For [Title] [Name], newest [Knight/Master of Arms/Mistress of Arms] of the Order of Chivalry, three cheers! (*Hip hip, etc.*)

Be it known that their Majesties, [Name] and [Name], [Title] and [Title] of Lochac, do on this day elevate their subject, [Name], to the Peerage of this Kingdom, and do admit them to the Right Noble Order of the Chivalry, [*and do name them Knight*], and they do grant unto them by Letters Patent such arms as they may have properly registered with our heralds, in the Kingdom of Lochac and throughout the Known World.

By Our word and hand this [day] of [month], Anno Societatis [year]. [Name], [Title]. [Name], [Title].