

Order of the Mark



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 and at the butts.

Let the Members of the Order of the Mark 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/at the butts], and responsive to the wishes of your peers, We are minded to admit you to the Order of the Mark. 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 *[Master/Mistress/Companion]* of the Mark.

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

Herald: The regalia of your Order is a pair of white bracers or vambraces. Are there bracers?

The bracers are brought forward, and their history may be given.

The Crown places the bracers on the arms of the Candidate, saying:

Crown: Wear these bracers as a sign of your estate.

Herald: The badge of your Order is a set of nesting scale weights, within and conjoined to a masle fleury at the upper point. Is there a medallion with this badge?

The medallion is brought forward, and its history may be given.

The Crown places the medallion on the Candidate, saying:

Crown: Wear this medallion as a sign of your estate.

(If fealty was sworn:)

Herald: 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. Is there a chain?

The chain is brought forward, and its history may be given.

The Crown places the chain on the Candidate, saying:

Crown: Wear this chain in token of your fealty.

(If a weapon is being given:)

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 presented to the Candidate, who accepts it, then kneels again.

Herald: Bring no dishonour to this [bow/weapon/blade], 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.

(Once the Order's cloak is available:)

Herald: Let the Candidate be garbed as befits their new station.

The cloak is brought forward and introduced by a member of the Order, who places it on the Candidate.

Proclamation

Crown: We now proclaim you [Name], Companion of the Mark. Arise, and greet your peers.

Candidate stands and is welcomed by the Order.

Herald: For [Title] [Name], newest member of the Order of the Mark, 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 Mark, 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].