

Order of Chivalry

HERALD

Let all members of the Order of Chivalry come forward, and attend Their Majesties.

The Knights come forward and kneel, including those who will escort the Candidate. A central aisle is kept open.

Since ancient times, it has been recognized that there are certain warriors who are much deserving of high honor, not only by their skill at arms, but by their noble behavior, which came to define the meaning of chivalry.

For a Kingdom is supported by these three things: service, art, and valor. And without any one of these, the Kingdom topples.

Therefore was created the Order of Knighthood of our Society, to recognize those who, possessing all the other skills, virtues, and attributes appropriate to members of the Peerage, shall also have distinguished themselves by their prowess at arms and chivalrous demeanor.

This Order is formed like unto the Knightly Orders of old, with the accolade passing in unbroken descent from knight to knight. And the symbols of this Order are a white belt and an unadorned chain. For the white belt betokens the honor with which the knight girds (himself/herself), and the chain, the duty (s/he) accepts. This Order ranks in precedence with the Order of the Laurel, the Order of the Pelican, and the Order of Defense, and carries with it a Patent of Arms.

KING

Sir N., please bring forward N.

The escort leads his brother knights of escort to the rear of the assembly, where the Candidate is waiting with his accoutrements. The knights escort the candidate before the thrones, arranged with the candidate in the center, flanked by the sponsor and the shield/banner bearer, followed by the bearers of the candidate's sword and spurs.

The procession halts and all bow. The two escorts kneel; the candidate and his escort remain standing. As an OPTION, the Sponsor may here say:

ESCORT

My Liege, it is my privilege to present N. that (s/he) may be made a part of our noble brotherhood.

KING

Sir N., do you and your brother knights affirm (his/her) worthiness for this high honor, accepting (his/her) as your peer in chivalry, honor, and valor on the field?

ESCORT

I do, my Liege, as do my brother knights.

KING

My Lady Queen, is it your judgment that N. fulfills all the requirements of a true knight?

QUEEN

It is my Lord. Further, I have inquired of many ladies of this kingdom who know N., and find (him/her) to be esteemed greatly as a gentleman/gentlewoman.

(End of OPTION. As an alternate OPTION, representatives from each of the bestowed peerages and a Royal Peer, usually a Lady of the Rose, may be prompted by the herald to speak for the candidate.)

KING

N., that the assembled court may know your worth, we would hear from a member of each of the Orders.

HERALD

Is there here a knight of Caid who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Knight speaks)

Is there here a Companion of the Laurel who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Laurel speaks)

Is there here a Companion of the Pelican who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Pelican speaks)

Is there here a Companion of Defense who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Defender speaks)

Is there here a Companion of the Rose who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Rose speaks. End of OPTION.)

KING

N., well pleased with your prowess on the field and your gentle conduct at all times, and responsive to the wishes of your peers, we are minded to create you a knight. Will you accept from us this honor, and these badges of your ability and knighthood, and will you swear fealty to this, our Crown and Throne in all matters concerning this realm?

CANDIDATE

I will, Your Majesty.

KING

Let the scroll be read.

The herald reads the scroll (or promissory, if no scroll is available. If preparing the ceremony beforehand and there is no scroll, use the standard scroll text from the College of Scribes. Promissory text appears below).

HERALD

To all and singular unto whom these presents shall come, K., King by right of arms, and Q., Queen by virtue of her courtesy, of the most Sovereign Realm of Caid, send commendations

and greetings! In acknowledgment of his/her chivalry and martial prowess, and after consultation with his/her Peers of Arms, We hereby elevate Our subject *N.* to the rank of Knight of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Furthermore do We affirm by these Letters Patent (his/her) exclusive right to bear the arms (Blazon). In token whereof, We grant (him/her) the privilege of displaying above (his/her) shield, in whole or in part, the achievement proper to this rank: to wit, a silver helmet with mantling (color) doubled (metal) with the chain of Knighthood surrounding the shield. This have We done on this (day)th day of (month), Anno Societatis (year), being the (n)th year of the Common Era. In witness whereof We here set Our hand and affix the Great Seal of the Kingdom of Caid.

K., Rex Caidis, *Q.*, Regina Caidis.

He hands it to the Crown, who hands it to the candidate. (It may be given to one of the candidate's entourage, or back to the herald if necessary.)

KING

Let the candidate be vested with the spurs.

HERALD

The spurs are a symbol of a knight's vow to guard the honor of the Knightly Order, to keep faith, to speak the truth, and to live for honor and not for reward. May they never be hacked off in shame and degradation.

The sword-bearer hands the sword to the banner-bearer or another knight, and kneels to buckle the spurs to the candidate's heels, assisted by the sponsor. The king returns the Great Sword of Caid to the Seneschal, who remains nearby. The sponsor returns to the candidate's side, and the sword-bearer retrieves the candidate's sword.

KING

Let the candidate's sword be brought forward.

The sword-bearer presents the sword to the king, who gives it to the sponsor. The sponsor girds the candidate with it.

Remain forever worthy of this sword, *N.*, and remember that the sword has two edges, Justice and Mercy.

HERALD

Be mindful that a knight guides, not only by (his/her) word, but also by the example (s/he) sets for others. Continue to live by the Code of Chivalry: to protect the weak and defenseless; to respect and defend the honor of ladies; and to teach these values to others that may seek the true standard of knighthood.

Their Majesties stand.

KING

With what sword do you wish to be knighted?

The candidate answers. The king receives the named sword, and lightly strikes the candidate thrice with the flat of the blade: first on the right shoulder, then on the left shoulder, then on the crown of the head.

Be thou a true knight, Sir *N.*

The King returns the sword to its rightful place, then raises the new Knight. (As an OPTION: If the new knight wishes to receive the buffet, the king at this point braces him, then delivers it: a good solid punch to the right shoulder, of sufficient strength to stagger the recipient.

Let this be the last blow you receive unanswered.

End of OPTION.) The queen receives the white belt, and girds it around the new knight's waist.

QUEEN

Wear this belt, Sir N., in token of your chivalry.

Once girded with the belt, the new Knight kneels.

NEW KNIGHT

Your Majesties, I wish now to pledge you my fealty.

KING

On which sword do you wish to swear?

The new knight answers. The named sword is presented hilt-first to the king, who holds it across his palms. The new knight lays his hands on the king's hands, with the blade between them. (As an OPTION, the new knight may swear fealty by placing his hands between those of the king.)

NEW KNIGHT

Prompted as needed by the herald.

Here do I swear, by mouth and hand, fealty and service to the Crown and Kingdom of Caid: to speak and to be silent; to do and to let be; to come and to go; to strike and to spare, in such matters as concern this realm; in need or in plenty, in peace or in war, in living or in dying, until the Crown depart their throne, or death take me, or the world end. So swear I, N.

KING AND QUEEN

And this do We hear, Sir N. And We, for our part, swear fealty to you and to all your household, to protect and defend you against every creature with all Our power, until We depart from the throne, or death take Us or the world end. So say We, K., King of Caid.

And so say We, Q., Queen of Caid.

The new knight remains kneeling as the sword is returned to its proper place. The king receives the chain of Knighthood from whoever is providing it, and places it around the neck of the new knight.

KING

Take now this chain, and let its weight ever remind you of the fealty you have sworn.

The new knight raises his joined hands, and the king raises him up.

Congratulations, Sir N. Go now to your brothers.

The new knight joins the other knights, who all turn back to the thrones.

Thank you, my lords and ladies. You may retire.

The Knights bow, draw theirs swords, salute, sheath their weapons, and retire, while the herald exhorts cheers from the populace.