

Order of Defense

HERALD

Their Majesties command the presence of all Companions of the Order of Defense.

The Defenders assemble, kneeling before the Throne to either side, leaving a center aisle.

It has long been recognized that there certain warriors who are much deserving of high honor, not only by their skill at arms, but by their valor and noble behavior. For a kingdom is supported by three things: valor, art, and service. And without any one of these, the kingdom topples.

Therefore was created the Order of Defense, to recognize those who, possessing all the other skills, virtues, and attributes appropriate to members of the Peerage, shall also have distinguished themselves by outstanding achievement on the field of rapier combat.

And the symbols of this Order are three crossed rapiers, showing the camaraderie particular to their Order and community; and a white livery collar showing the fealty and duty they are required to accept. And this Order ranks in precedence with the Order of Chivalry, the Order of the Laurel, and the Order of the Pelican, and carries with it a Patent of Arms.

If the Candidate does not choose an escort, the herald calls the Candidate forward.

Their Majesties call forward *N.*

The candidate comes forward and kneels before the thrones. If the candidate has chosen to be escorted, the escort will here say:

ESCORT

Your Majesties, having consulted with the Order, is it your desire to increase our numbers at this time?

KING

It is. Please bring the candidate forward.

The escort and such other Masters of Defense as the candidate will have selected, stand and walk to the candidate, who will be at the rear of the hall or otherwise have arranged to easily come forward. As they escort the candidate forward, the herald announces the candidate's name.

(As an OPTION: The Candidate may choose to present their blade, representing the skill which has earned elevation and as a token of continued fealty. The Herald states:

Your Majesties, in token of (his/her) craft, and in pledge of (his/her) continuing fealty, *N.* here renders up to you (his/her) sword into Your Majesties' keeping.

The Candidate comes forward and kneels before the thrones.

(As an 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 Companion of Defense who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Defender 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 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 Rose who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Rose speaks. End of OPTION.)

KING

N., right mindful of your achievement and service to our realm, and responsive to the wishes of your peers, we are minded to create you a Master of Defense. Will you accept from us this honor, and the badge of your achievement, and will you swear fealty to this, our Crown and Realm?

CANDIDATE

I will, Your Majesty.

QUEEN

Will you, to the best of your ability, continue your quest for honor and skill, as you most surely have until now, as befits a nobleman, and train any dependents you may have to do likewise, so far as is within your powers?

CANDIDATE

I will.

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.* and *Q.*, undoubted King and Queen of the Sovereign Realm of Caid, bid you greetings. In acknowledgment of (his/her) courtesy and skill in rapier combat, and after consultation with the members of the Order, We hereby elevate Our subject, N., to the Most Noble Order of Defense of the Society for Creative Anachronism, and 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 the Order: to wit, a silver helmet with mantling (Color) doubled (Metal), with the white livery collar of the Order surrounding the shield. This have we done on this (day)th day of (month), A.S. (year), being the (n)th year of

the Common Era. In witness whereof We here set Our hand and seal. *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, for safekeeping if necessary.) The King then receives the medallion from that member of the Order who is providing it.

KING

***N.*, take from our hands this collar and token of your achievement and our esteem, and as a reminder of the fealty you are about to swear.**

The king places the medallion around the candidate's neck. As an OPTION, if the king is not a member of the Order of Defense, a member of the Order may assist the king in placing the medallion around the candidate's neck.

As an OPTION, the Order may present the new Defender with a cloak of the Order. The cloak bearers come forward and place the robe on the candidate's shoulders.

QUEEN

As this cloak folds you in warmth, so does the Order enfold you in camaraderie.

(End of OPTION.)

KING

With what sword do you wish to be dubbed?

The candidate answers. The king receives the named sword. If the king is not a member of the Order of Defense, a member of the Order places a hand on the hilt of the sword. The king 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.

Henceforth be *Master/Mistress N.* in this our realm.

HERALD

Place your hands between Their Majesties', for the oath of fealty.

NEW MASTER OF DEFENSE

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 say I, *N.*

KING AND QUEEN

And this do We hear, *Master/Mistress 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 Master/Mistress remains kneeling as the sword is returned to its proper place.

OPTION: The Monarch of choice produces a pair of gloves or a single glove.

KING or QUEEN

We, *K.* and *Q.*, King and Queen, charge and command you, *N.*, to protect always this our Realm of Caid, and to defend, sustain and promote the art of defense, and so charging and commanding, we challenge you to take up your duty as a Master of Defense. Let the call to defend Caid never go unanswered.

OPTION: the gloves may be thrown at the knees/feet; the gloves held loose are slapped across the face; gloves are then thrown at the knees; a slap across the face with hand in the glove; the gloves are then thrown at the knees. The new Master/Mistress of Defence picks up the gloves, returns one to the Crown delivering the Challenge, keeping the other at his/her belt.

NEW MASTER OF DEFENSE

I accept, Your Majesty.

(End of OPTION.)

The King raises the new Defender. The Queen returns the sword to the new Master/Mistress at this time, saying:

QUEEN

Receive back this symbol of your fealty and achievement, and keep it well, as you have hitherto.

(End of OPTION.)

KING

Congratulations, *Master/Mistress N.* Go now to your peers.

The new Defender joins the rest of the Order.

KING

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

The Defenders bow to the Throne and retire while the herald exhorts cheers from the populace.