

## **Ceremony for creating a Companion of the ORDER OF THE LAUREL**

*The candidate and their entourage should assemble at the back of court.*

**Herald:** Since olden times, life was often made more gracious and history preserved, through the works of artists and craftsmen. Untold hours were spent in the creation of master works that would outlive them in beauty and service, for the love of the art alone.

In the second year of the Society the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Laurel was ordained and instituted; the fit mark of a Peer recognized for excellence in the arts and sciences.

A companion of the Order of the Laurel is an artisan, but also has knowledge of the martial sciences and the wellhead of chivalry from which they flow, and has given of time and works to the benefit of the Common Weal.

The Crown now calls before them the Companions of The Ancient and Honorable Order of the Laurel here present:

{OPTION 2}

**Herald:** Within the fellowship of the Society four orders of great merit have been created to honor those who have excelled in Arms and Chivalry, in Arts and Sciences, in Service to the Realm, and in Rapier and Courtly Comportment.

A companion of each of these four orders is one whose skills are freely manifested and willingly taught, whose efforts on behalf of others are unstinting and above all, who is an example of courtesy and grace.

The Order of Chivalry honors martial achievements in armor; the members of the Order are the swords of the King. The Order of the Pelican honors those of sustained and exemplary service to the Society. The Order of Defense honors those wielding the deadly rapier and with noble comportment.

In the second year of the Society, there was called into being the second great order of Peerage: The Ancient and Honorable Order of the Laurel; to recognize those artisans and craftsmen that spend untold hours creating master works that outlive them in beauty and service, for the love of the art alone.

It is the privilege of the Crown to elevate into companionship in this order such persons as it sees fit.

The Crown now calls before them the Companions of The Ancient and Honorable Order of the Laurel here present:

*As an option, the members of the order may be called forward by name, in order of precedence, but this must be arranged in advance.*

*Members of the Order come forward and kneel, leaving an aisle.*

**Herald:** The Crown now calls \_\_\_\_\_ to come before this Court and Company.

**Escorting Herald:** Your Majesties, Now before you comes \_\_\_\_\_, <FULL AWARDS AND TITLES> who bears the arms, to wit: <BLAZON>

*Their Majesties stand.*

*{if wanted the candidate would surrender their apprentice belt here}*

**King:** \_\_\_\_\_, have you undertaken to accept Companionship in the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Laurel that was offered to you at \_\_\_\_\_.

**Candidate:** I have.

**King:** This greatly pleases us.

**Queen:** Bring forth the medallion.  
*Medallion bearer hands it to Her Majesty and may explain the significance or history of it.*

Let this Medallion pass from hand to hand among the members of the order gathered here, to symbolize the bond you shall have with each of them.

*Her Majesty hands the medallion to the nearest Laurel.*

**Queen:** Sir/Master/Mistress \_\_\_\_\_  
(*Chivalry representative*),  
Master/Mistress \_\_\_\_\_, (*Laurel representative*),  
Master/Mistress \_\_\_\_\_, (*Pelican representative*),  
Master/Maestra \_\_\_\_\_, (*Defense representative*),  
<OPTIONAL> \_\_\_\_\_, (*Royal Peer representative*),

as members of the Peerage, do you now affirm that  
\_\_\_\_\_ has grown in gentle virtue and chivalrous grace, the hallmarks of a true and faithful Peer?

**Chivalry Rep.:** *Replies in their own fashion, or says:*  
Your Majesties, of my own certain knowledge, I am able to affirm that \_\_\_\_\_ is a chivalrous [gentleman/lady]

knowledgeable in the arts and weapons of war, and an example of courtesy and gentility for all Your Majesties' subjects.

**Laurel Rep.:** *Replies in their own fashion, or says:*

Your Majesties, of my own certain knowledge I am able to affirm that \_\_\_\_\_ has shown great talent in the arts, particularly in the area(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and has given of [his/her] time and skills in encouraging others in the practice of various arts and sciences in Your Majesties' realm.

**Pelican Rep.:** *Replies in their own fashion, or says:*

Your Majesties, of my own certain knowledge I am able to affirm that \_\_\_\_\_ has given freely of [his/her] time in support of many worthy projects in Your Majesties' Kingdom.

**Defense Rep.:** *Replies in their own fashion, or says:*

Your Majesties, of my own certain knowledge I am able to affirm that \_\_\_\_\_ has given freely of [his/her] time in support of many worthy projects in Your Majesties' Kingdom.

<OPTIONAL>

**Royal Peer Rep.:** *Replies in their own fashion, or says:*

Your Majesties, of my own certain knowledge I am able to affirm that \_\_\_\_\_ is a dutiful and loyal subject to Your Majesties' Crown.

**King:** Gentle Peers, we thank you for your wise counsel.

Bring forth Lightning, the Great Sword of State.

*Swordbearer hands Lightning to His Majesty, who holds it so Her Majesty and the Candidate can support it.*

*The Candidate can either state their oaths in full, or answer as scripted below:)*

**King:** \_\_\_\_\_, you have been deemed fit for this high estate by your peers, and have indicated your willingness to accept this honor from Our hands. Do you now swear by all that you hold sacred, true, and holy that you will honor and defend the Crown and Kingdom of the Outlands?

**Candidate:** I will.

**King:** That you will persevere in your pursuit of excellence in the arts and sciences, thereby bringing honor to yourself, your Order, and the Outlands?

**Candidate:** I will.

**Queen:** That you will share your skills with those who have an earnest desire to learn?

**Candidate:** I will.

**King:** That you will be courteous and honor your peers, of the Chivalry, and of the Laurel, of the Pelican, and of the Defense?

**Candidate:** I will.

**Queen:** That you will conduct yourself in all matters as befits a Peer, continuing to practice the virtues of chivalry, nobility, and personal integrity, to the benefit of your own good name and the greater glory of the Outlands?

**Candidate:** I will. *Or some more elaborate response.*

**King:** Then having sworn these solemn oaths, know now that We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, by right of

arms, King and Queen of the Outlands, do proclaim you to be a Companion of the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Laurel.  
*His Majesty hands Lightning back to the swordbearer.*

**Queen:** Let the medallion be brought forward.

*Medallion is handed to Her Majesty.*

Take from Our hands this medallion, which bears the laurel wreath that is the symbol of your Order. Wear it always with great honor; wear it always with humility.

*Her Majesty places the medallion around the new Laurel's neck.*

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<OPTIONAL>

*If a laurel wreath is to be given, say the following:*

**King:** Bring forth the wreath, this wreath represents the noble plant from which your Order takes its name. It was, in ancient times, the preeminent mark of excellence. Wear it then, in token of the merited opinion of your companions in the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Laurel.

*His Majesty places the laurel wreath upon the new Laurel's head.*

<OPTIONAL>

**Laurel:** Your Majesties, at this time I would swear fealty to the Crown of the Outlands.

**King:** It shall please Us to accept your fealty.

Hand me my sword.

*Swordbearer hands Lightning to His Majesty.*

**Laurel:** *Speaks own words, or text below, prompted by the herald:*

This day do I render  
homage and fealty  
to my Sovereign Lord and Lady,

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
by Right of Arms,  
King and Queen of the Outlands,  
who will, from this day forward,  
Be my Liege Lord and Lady.  
I will remain true in all ways,  
serving them faithfully.  
This do I swear,  
by my honor and the high ideals  
which I hold as a Peer of this Realm.  
So say I, \_\_\_\_\_.

**King:** We accept your homage and fealty  
and pledge to you that from this day forward  
until the end of Our Reign  
you are Our Liege [man/woman]  
that We will honor your order  
and defend your rights as a Peer,  
and that We will protect the trust  
that you have placed in Us,  
mighty with justice, tempered with mercy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**King:** Arise [Master/Mistress] \_\_\_\_\_!  
Let the scroll be read!

**Herald:** *Reads the scroll or text below:*

We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, King and  
Queen of the Outlands, having heard good report of Our subject  
\_\_\_\_\_ whose diverse and great talents as a  
\_\_\_\_\_ have shone forth to the enrichment of the Common  
Weal, it is our intent to advance [him/her] in honour and admit  
[him/her] to the Order of the Laurel.

We do hereby elevate and affirm those Arms previously granted by the College of Arms by these Letters Patent, to with: <BLAZON> which [Master/Mistress] \_\_\_\_\_ shall hold for [his/her] sole and unique use throughout the Known World as a sign of the high esteem in which [he/she] is held.

To which We set Our hands this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, Anno Societatis \_\_\_\_\_, being \_\_\_\_\_ Gregorian.

\_\_\_\_\_, King \_\_\_\_\_,  
Queen

**King:** Go now and greet your Peers.

**Herald:** For [Master/Mistress]  
\_\_\_\_\_, HIP, HIP,..... (3 cheers).