

Order of Defense Ceremony

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

Herald: Throughout history there have been men and women who excelled in the use of myriad weapons and skills of the art of Defense, the Sword and Buckler, Case, Longsword, Dagger, Staff, Bill, Halberd, Falchion and Pike.

They stood the trials of their guild, rising from novice to journeyman, aspiring to the vaunted rank of a Master or Mistress of Defense.

In the 50th year of the Society, there was created the Order of Defense to recognize such men and women of great skill and perseverance, 'well-tryed and sufficient with diverse weapons',

In the Kingdom of the Outlands, a Master or Maestra of Defense shall be one who has demonstrated skill in the use of the rapier and/or cut-and-thrust combat, and in the study of the Art and Science of Defense, who is generous with their talents and knowledge, and who has dedicated their skills and efforts to benefit the Society and the Outlands, as befits a Peer of the Realm.

Let now all members of the Order of Defense come forward so that they may bear witness to this ceremony.

Members of the Order come forward and kneel, leaving a wide aisle.

Herald: The Crown now calls _____ to come before this Court and Company.

Escorting Herald: (*Own words, or:*) Your Majesties, Now before you comes _____ <FULL AWARDS AND TITLES> who bears the arms, to wit: <BLAZON>.

(_____ *kneels before the Crown*)

King: _____ have you undertaken to accept admittance to the Most Distinguished Order of Defense that was offered to you at _____?

Candidate: I have.

King: This greatly pleases us.

Queen: Bring forth the Collar of the Order of Defense.

Throughout history, livery collars have been used to signify those belonging to great and noble Orders, so that members may remember always the vows that they have taken and that they may be recognized as members of their Order and seen to represent the high ideals to which they aspire . Thus, the Masters of Defense display their symbol on a white collar-symbolizing the purity of spirit with which they share their talents to all who would seek their guidance.

Let this collar pass from hand to hand among the members of the Order of Defense gathered here, to symbolize the bond you shall have with each of them,

Queen:

_____, (*Chivalry representative*),
_____, (*Laurel representative*),
_____, (*Pelican representative*),
_____, (*Defense representatives*)
_____, (*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?

<Peers respond>

King: Gentle Peers, we thank you for your wise counsel. Bring forth Lightning, the Great Sword of State.

(*Sword bearer hands Lightning to His Majesty, who holds it so Her Majesty and the Candidate can support it.*)

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 shall be true from this day forward to the last day of your life, loving truth, hating falsehood and not grudging or disdaining any master of this science, any peer of this realm, or any person of good will.

Candidate: I will.

King: If it chance that you come to any manner of prize or game or any kind of play at weapons touching your science, you shall without favor or hatred of either party, speak and give true judgement of that which you shall see, so near as you can or may?

Candidate: I will.

Queen: That you shall be merciful, and whereas you happen to have the upper hand of your enemy, that is to say without weapon or under your feet or his back towards you, you shall not kill him, saving yourself harmless, without danger of death, except it be in the service of the Crown.

Candidate: I will.

King: That you will be courteous and honor your peers, of whatsoever order, as ye all are equal in your steadfast dedication to the Realm.

Candidate: I will.

King: Then having sworn these solemn oaths, know now that We, _____, by right of arms, King and Queen of the Outlands, do proclaim you to be a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Defense.

Queen: Let the collar be brought forward.

(The collar is handed to Their Majesties.)

We bestow upon you this collar of the Order of Defense. Let this betoken your mastery of the skills at diverse arms. You are now trusted to practice and teach the

arts of defense amongst all of our subjects as a Master of our Order of Defense in these Outlands.

King: Bring forth the Sword.

(The sword is brought forward and handed to Their Majesties)

Accept this sword, which shall represent your prowess at arms.

Queen: The badge of your Order is three rapiers in pall inverted, crossed at the tips, a symbol of brotherhood and community. Let this blade ever remind you of your duty to grow and nurture that community.

<OPTIONAL>

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

King: It shall please Us to accept your fealty.

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

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

by Right of Arms, and Grace and Favor,
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, upon my sword and by 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
that We will honor your order
and defend your rights as Peers,
and that We will protect the trust
that you have placed in Us,
mighty with justice, tempered with mercy.

King: Arrise Master/Maestra _____. 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 _____, it is our
intent to advance [him/her] in honour and admit [him/her] to the Order of Defense.
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 _____, HIP, HIP,..... (3 cheers).