

## Order of Defense Ceremony

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

**Herald:** Throughout history there have been those men and women who excelled in the use of myriad weapons and skills of the art of Defense.

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 50<sup>th</sup> year of the Society, there was created the Order of Defense to recognize those of great skill and perseverance.

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, and not grudging or disdaining any master of this science, or any person of good will.

**Candidate:** I will.

**Queen:** That you shall be merciful, and if you have the upper hand of your enemy, you will maintain your honor acting only with the high ideals of chivalry, courtesy, and service to the Crown of the Outlands?

**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,

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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.

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**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).