



The Order of St. George
Grand Priory of the United Kingdom
BM The Order of St. George,
London WC1N 3XX

The symbols and ranks of the Order and protocols.

THIS IS A POLICY OF THE ORDER AND APPLIES TO ALL CURRENT AND PAST MEMBERS.

The neck decoration of the Order of St George is a cross flory bearing an oval panel depicting the mounted figure of St George slaying the dragon, which is suspended from the Holy Crown of St Stephen of Hungary (distinguished by its shape and the tilted cross which surmounts it).

The Holy Crown of St. Stephen is the national symbol of Hungary – the President, ministers of state and officers of the armed forces all take their oath of allegiance to it. In the sixteenth century, when he was Grand Master, Pope Paul III added the image of the crown to the insignia of the Order of St. George. Today, the insignia of The International Knightly Order Valiant of Saint George (The Order) incorporates the Crown of St. Stephen, surmounting a cross centred with a depiction of St. George slaying a dragon.

The Coat of Arms of the Order

Our coat of arms is based on the Hungarian coat of arms of King Karoly Robert of Hungary (Charles 1) who founded the first Order of Knighthood in 1326. He combined the red stripes of the coat of arms of the previous royal house (the Arpads) with the Angevins fleur-de-lis. Our coat of arms includes a white cross and a Knight's sword.

Ranks within the Order of St. George and entitlements.

There are five ranks (grades) within the Order:

- Squire/Demoiselle – for young people between the ages of 14-21.
- Officer. Post nominal OStG
- Knight/Dame. Post nominal KStG or DStG
- Knight/Dame Commander. Post nominal KCStG or DCStG
- Grand Cross. Post nominal GCStG.

Squire/Demoiselle – The Order's Constitution allows young people to join the Order. The age group is set within the Standing Orders. Young people within this age group are welcomed through a formal ceremony held at a consecrated place; either within their local Commandery/Encampment, if there is one, or at another of the Order's formal investitures.

We have a separate document in regard to Squires and Demoiselles within the Order which is sent to them when they join. It is hoped that Squires and Demoiselles, who meet the

requirements, will be offered advancement to Knight or Dame within their 21st year or they can choose to be an Officer.

Please ask the Director of Membership for details if you have a suitable young person in mind as a Squire or Demoiselle.

The Officer grade is our standard 'entry level' for membership for those 21 and over. Officers are not formally invested into the Order, although they are encouraged to attend our Investiture Service or their local Commandery/Encampment service where they will be formally welcomed as members of the Order.

Knights/Dames are formally invested into the Order at a formal ceremony held at a consecrated building. Prior to investiture they are a Knight/Dame Expectant.

Promotion from Officer to Knight/Dame, and to the higher ranks of the Order, is not automatic but will be awarded by the Grand Prior in recognition of a member's contribution to the work of the Order and/or to other good works. As in true chivalric orders, promotion or advancement should never be solicited.

The Magisterium can invite any member, including Squires and Demoiselles, to attend Grand Council meetings where their contribution will be of value to the Order in meeting its aims and objectives and in regard to specific developments or deeds.

Each grade of membership has its own regalia:

- Squire/Demoiselle – Neck Jewel with a white ribbon. Three Quarter length black mantle (cape) with the Order's Moto in white 'In Veritate Iustus Sum Huic Fraternali Societati', 1326, on a red roundel surrounding a depiction of St George and the Dragon. (Regalia for this rank is loaned by the Order and returned on advancement or if they leave).
- Officer - Neck Jewel with a black ribbon.
- Knight/Dame - Neck Jewel with a blue ribbon; full length mantle (cape) in black with the Order Crest (shield on the left breast).
- Knight/Dame Commander - Neck Jewel with a red ribbon; mantle (cape); breast star.
- Grand Cross - Neck Jewel with purple ribbon; mantle (cape); breast star; red sash (from the right shoulder across to the left hip) with a 'weight' hung from the bow depicting St George slaying the dragon.
- A Grand Prior and Magisterium Officium and a Grand Prior Emeritus have specific regalia and mantles to identify their office.
- The Magisterium have specific regalia but wear the Knight/Dame mantle.

Prior to investiture, a Knight/Dame and above are known as a Knight/Dame Expectant and will be sent an Officer Neck Jewel. This is replaced on investiture with the appropriate coloured ribbon according to their rank.

On advancement from Knight/Dame and from Knight/Dame Commander to the higher levels of Knighthood, if the Grand Prior so decrees, the advancement can be immediate. In such circumstances the lower grade Neck Jewel ribbon can be replaced with the appropriate coloured ribbon. The new Neck Jewel may then be worn but not any associated breast star or sash. These can only be awarded at a formal ceremony held for the investiture of Knights/Dames and above.

Those of Knight/Dame grade and above are known as Chevalier/Dame. These are honorary titles and must not be confused with United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories titles of Sir and Dame bestowed by The Sovereign (Crown) and recognised by the Court of St James.

The UK

Companion – invitation only. (Associate membership) – Used to recognise those who have given of their time and effort to support the Order without wishing to be members. This honour can only be offered by the Magisterium and a Grand Prior; including any token of appreciation.

Companions do not have voting rights. *Please ask the Director of Membership for details if you know of a person who could be recognised through a Companionship.*

Members can, with the approval of The Magisterium, set up groups within a county or adjoining counties or geographical regions or country (international). A Commandery is usually made up of at least 28 members although this is flexible according to region and membership distribution in that region. Below that number we have encampments. Both groups enable members to meet and organise events themselves overseen and supported as necessary by the Grand Council of the Order. Members do not have to join a Commandery/Encampment. Members can join as many groups as they like.

If you would like to set up a local group of members your initial interest and proposals should be sent to the Director of Membership.

The Grand Priory of the Americas

In the Americas, the Companion level is used for younger people. Companions do not receive a Neck Jewel but they do receive a version of the mantle. The term ‘Squire’ is used for under age children of current members. There is no regalia for this level.

In the Americas, there is a grade of honorary member. Honorary members wear a Neck Jewel with a white ribbon.

About the Neck Jewel

The jewel, with which members are invested or presented is called the Order’s Neck Jewel. It is normally only worn at official events of the Order such as investitures and dinners.

See separate information sheet on protocols and procedures for wearing honours, decorations and medals for different events.

Wearing the Order’s regalia

It is vital that members of the Order adhere to the strict protocols and procedures, set by the Order and upheld through the Magisterium, when wearing any of the Order’s regalia.

Many people and other orders have been brought into disrepute by members or individuals claiming that, or behaving as if, they are important or deserving of merit when such is not the case. This is often marked by an extravagant or presumptuous outward show which is nothing less than ostentatious. Our Order is based on humble origins and this has been maintained in

the Order after its reformation. Showing or betraying an attitude of superiority will not be tolerated.

If you wish to wear the Order's regalia at events and at other orders and societies you must:-

1. have been given permission in advance to do so by the protocol officer of that event, order or society.
2. get final permission from the Grand Prior and the Grand Chancellor of our Order through the Office of the Director of Membership. The shortest period we allow for a request is 48 hours in advance of the event.
3. If permission is not given by the Grand Prior and Grand Chancellor, you must not wear the Order's regalia. There are no exceptions to this as the decision is final.
4. The Neck Jewel, and any other regalia of the Order, **should not** be worn when attending **Crown or State functions (in the UK, its overseas territories or in other country)** or at any organized event in the UK and its overseas territories or in other country unless permission has been given in advance as above.
5. Without exception, that permission must always be forwarded to the Grand Prior and the Grand Chancellor through the Director of Membership. It must be forwarded at least 48 hours in advance.

Only the Grand Prior and the Grand Chancellor can approve or reject the wearing of the Order's regalia at an event.

The Order's regalia can be worn (as permission has been given) at:-

- a) events organised at the Royal Hospital Chelsea
- b) our affiliated regiment - The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR)
- c) formal ceremonies by invitation of Guildford Borough Council – Armed Forces Flag Raising Ceremony, Remembrance Day. Special commemorative events when invited to represent the Order of St George.
- d) formal invitation to events organised by the Royal Society of St George who we are affiliated to
- e) invitation to events organised by the Kaotic Angels who are affiliated to the Order

When attending functions of the Order of St George, only the regalia of the Order may be worn along with any UK honours and decorations that you are entitled to wear. You may not wear the regalia, awards, honours or decorations of any other Order to which you belong or subscribe; UK or overseas when wearing any of the Order's regalia.

The reason why the Order places strict restriction on the wearing of regalia is to maintain appropriate standards and to not bring the Order and its members into disrepute publicly or privately. Please see the protocol for wearing medals and honours as this goes into further depth than covered here.

The Medal of Merit of the Order (see Medal of Merit below as it is the same)

At the discretion of the Grand Prior and on the advice of the Grand Council, Squires/Demoiselles of the Order and young people from youth organisations, can be awarded with the Medal of Merit of the Order to recognise outstanding achievement or

service to others. A brevet is given at the same time as the medal. It is awarded/given at a formal investiture of the Order or at another ceremony agreed by the Grand Prior and or Chancellor – for example at a meeting of a local commandery/ at their school/ college or place of employment. Round full-sized medal in brushed silver with a gold edge depicting St George. Red ribbon with a white line (as for membership cross) in from each edge to distinguish the recipient as a youth member or from a youth organisation.

Membership cross – No post-nominal

Full sized cross with a centre depicting St George and the Dragon. Red ribbon with a white line in from each edge. Miniature also available. This is not an award and should not be treated as such. Available through our shop for any member of the Order to purchase – worn in-line with our protocols. Miniature also available.

All members may buy and wear the membership cross in-line with our protocols for wearing the Order's regalia.

The Order of Merit – Grade 2 - Medal of Merit – Post-nominal MMStG

Awarded to members of the Order and worthy people who have given meritorious service to the Order or others. Round full-sized medal in brushed silver with a gold edge depicting St George; along with a miniature. Yellow ribbon.

The Order of Merit – Grade 1 - Knight/Dame of Merit – Post-nominal KMStG/DMStG

Awarded to members of the Order. Round full-sized medal in polished silver with a gold edge depicting St George; along with a miniature. Yellow ribbon.

For those of Grand Cross rank GCStG

Members who do not hold the MMStG of KM/DMStG wear a red silk sash from their right shoulder to their left hip with a sash weight in bronze. If in uniform, the sash goes under the belt if worn. In both cases it sits by the left hip, not above at the waist and not lower.

MMStG recipients have a silver coloured weight.

KM/DMStG recipients have a gold coloured weight.

For continued meritorious service a bar to each medal is being considered.

Dress Code

The dress code when wearing the Order's regalia must be complied with **without variation**.

Squire/Demoiselles. – The Order's Neck Jewel with a white ribbon. The Order's $\frac{3}{4}$ mantle.

Officers – The Order's Neck Jewel with a black ribbon.

Knight/Dame – The Order's Neck Jewel with a blue ribbon. Knight/Dame mantle.

Knight/Dame Commander – The Order's Neck Jewel with a red ribbon. The Order's Breast Star worn below the left pocket or a formal jacket. Knight/Dame mantle.

Knight/Dame Grand Cross – The Order’s Neck Jewel with a purple ribbon. The Order’s Breast Star worn below the left pocket of a formal jacket. Grand Cross Sash with the St George ‘weight’. Knight/Dame mantle.

UK honours, awards and decorations granted/awarded to a member by the Crown may be worn in-line with the UK protocols for wearing such. Please see our Medals and Honours Protocols for UK citizens and the protocols set by the Court of St James and, for military personnel serving and retired, the rules set down by the Royal British Legion.

Overseas members must comply with the Order’s dress code when representing the Order and must comply with the Order’s protocols for wearing its regalia at overseas events.

When wearing the Order’s regalia, you must ensure that no medals, decorations or honours are worn on or over the gown/mantle. Medals, honours and decorations are worn under the gown/mantle.

We wear our regalia at formal functions. This means that if you are not appropriately dressed you cannot wear the Order’s regalia. For example, a Knight Commander who is not wearing a formal jacket (formal suit, morning suit, uniform, black/white tie attire) cannot wear the breast star. The neck jewel is worn with a formal shirt and tie or bow tie. Ladies would wear it in formal dress or suit and when wearing evening gown. The mantle is only worn at formal events if required. Ladies wear the breast star in a similar place to men.

Use of Post-nominals.

Members must not use the post-nominals or any associated titles granted by the Order through the Magisterium in any form outside the Order unless specific permission has been granted by the Magisterium.

Within the Order we only use the titles and post-nominals of the Order approved by the Magisterium.

As in a member’s professional and private life, and therefore within the Order, unless recognised and authorised through the Court of St James, titles, honours and post nominals awarded by other countries, States or Orders cannot be used by Citizens of the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories.

Examples within the Order:-

- 1) His Excellency The Chevalier John Bloggs MBE GCStG KMStG.
- 2) Major Dame Emily Watts DCStG
- 3) Air Vice Marshall Sir Ivor Wing KCB CBE DL KCStG MMSStG
- 4) The Chevalier Christopher Sparrow KStG
- 5) Dame Gloria Treadwell DStG
- 6) George Crossworthy BA(Hons) OStG

N.B – Within the Order, holders of the Grand Cross are known as His or Her Excellency.

Outside the Order for the same people above

1. John Bloggs MBE
2. Major Emily Watts

3. Air Vice Marshall Sir Ivor Wing KCB CBE DL
4. Christopher Sparrow
5. Gloria Treadwell
6. George Crossworthy BA (Hons)

Some members of the Order have letters patent and been granted the honorific (USA spelling) title of Colonel by The Governor of the State of Kentucky. Whilst it can be used in the USA, it cannot be used in the UK prior to your name. However, as a number of members of the Order are Kentucky Colonels, the Magisterium has agreed that such members may use the honour **within the Order** if they so wish.

Example: - Colonel Henry Blowfelt OStG. Similarly for ladies, Colonel Dame Edna Blowfelt DStG.

The membership list will record the title as Kentucky Colonel so as not to be confused with the military rank of Colonel.

Your agreement with the Order as a Condition of Membership.

None of us are perfect and we all make mistakes and forget.

Every member has a responsibility to care for and look after the best interests of the Order and its members, maintain its standard and support others to meet and adhere to them.

Commanders Primus, Commanders Designate, Officers of the Order, and every established member, has a duty to ensure, that where another member, within their group, encampment, commandery or gathering is either not aware of or has forgotten the protocols and policy for using and /or wearing regalia, honours and decorations, that they politely, with care for that member's feelings, with utmost discretion and privacy, help that member, in good faith to correct their mistake.

Please note that as a condition of membership and continuing membership, entitlements, post-nominals, honours, decorations and medals of the Order are strictly forbidden to be worn or used publicly or privately for professional or personal gain, advancement, commercial gain or media use without the express permission of the Grand Prior and the Grand Chancellor in advance.

Members may not write or publish anything about the Order of St George and their membership publicly or privately for professional or personal gain, advancement, commercial gain or media use without the express permission of the Grand Prior and the Grand Chancellor in advance.

No member can represent the Order without the formal permission of the Magisterium.

Members who deliberately or consistently do not comply with the Order's rules, protocols and procedures or bring the Order into disrepute will have their membership revoked by the Magisterium. They must not continue to use, wear or exhibit any entitlements that they may have had as a member of the Order. Only the Magisterium can revoke a membership.

The Order's lapel pins, cuff links and tie may be purchased and worn freely by all.

Please see the information sheet on complying with wearing medals and honours protocols.

If you are in any doubt about when or where to use entitlements or wear the regalia of the Order then please get in touch in the first instance with The Director of Membership who will respond within 48 hours:-

membership@orderofstgeorge.co.uk

Updated February 2023.

Approved by The Magisterium February 26th 2023

This document will be reviewed very two years and as and when necessary.

N.B The Magisterium consists of The Grand Prior of The Grand Priory of the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories who is also the Magisterium Officium, The Grand Prior of The Grand Priory of the Americas, The Grand Prior Emeritus, and The Grand Chancellor.