

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

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Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

Read More About It:  
Attire

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First Edition  
2021  
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## INTRODUCTION



## Dress and Deportment

People say you should not judge by appearances, but how you present yourself — your deportment — matters. How you dress, speak, look and carry yourself is all part of deportment or demeanor.

The following is a guide for what badge and insignia items of the Order are authorized for wear and the methods for wearing them.

## Protocol

ultimately comes from Late Greek *prōtókollon*, a compound noun meaning “the first *kóllēma* (sheet) on a papyrus roll,” formed from *prōto-*, a combining form of *prōtos* “first” (and completely naturalized in English) and the noun *kóllēma* “something bound or glued together” (the plural *kollēmata* means “sheets of papyrus glued together to form a roll,” usually 20 sheets, averaging 20–26 feet in length).

*Prōtókollon* is first recorded in the *Novels*, one of the four divisions of the *Corpus Juris Civilis*, compiled by order of the emperor Justinian (a.d. 483–565), the last native Latin-speaking emperor. A *prōtókollon* protected the outside of a rolled-up scroll (and therefore was sometimes reinforced with parchment). The protocol was the equivalent of the modern copyright page and table of contents, bearing official authentication, date of manufacture, author, and contents. In Medieval Latin *prōtocollum* acquired the meaning “draft (of a document), minutes (of a meeting), public register, a document bearing an official seal.” By the middle of the 19th century, French developed the sense “official norms of behavior or etiquette to be maintained between states and their ministers; the accepted and customary codes of behavior in polite society.” In late 19th-century Russia, *protokol* ( *protokól* ) meant “an official police record of a case or incident,” its meaning in the infamous “Protocols [ *protokóly* ] of the Elders of Zion,” first published in Russia in 1903.

# Attire

Like the Knights Templar of old, we operate as a modern-day worldwide network of educated professionals in such widely diverse protocols as senior government officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, senior clergy, military officers, physicians and surgeons, engineers, historians, and humanitarian aid caregivers.

There are many descriptions of attire/dress found on invitations and may be taken to mean different things – Casual, Business Casual, Formal, Full Dress, Evening Dress, White Tie, Highland, etc. here are some general guidelines.

## INFORMAL FUNCTIONS

Note: No neck badge, shield, or cordon should be worn at informal/social functions.

### Casual

Casual is basically a non-dress code, and you can wear comfortable clothing. Nevertheless, remember you still represent the Order.

*Knights:* Casual shirt, jeans and sneakers are appropriate. You may also opt to step it up a notch with khakis, cargos, a polo shirt or Henley.

*Dames:* Jeans or you may opt for a comfortable tee or dress things up a bit with a stylish top, jewelry or even a blazer. Depending on the nature of the event, your footwear can range safely from sneakers to heels to boots.

### Business Casual

Business Casual is what many people would typically wear to work at the office.

*Knights:* Wear a pair of nice khakis paired with a polo shirt or other collared shirt. Dress shoes or loafers are appropriate.

*Dames:* Dress pants or khakis with a fashionable top is appropriate. A casual skirt is also an option. Feel free to dress up your outfit with heels, jewelry and/or accessories if desired.

The Order has several styles of men and women’s shirts available through the Armory.





## Rosettes

A **rosette** is a small, circular device that is typically presented with, or in lieu of, a medal. The rosettes are either worn on the medal to denote a higher rank, or for situations where wearing the medal is deemed inappropriate, such as on a suit. Rosettes are also sometimes called **bowknobs**, due to their shape. Moreover, a large rosette is sometimes pinned onto the ribbon which suspends a medal, typically the Officer (and sometimes Grand Officer)'s badge of certain orders of chivalry. Historians say that the rosette award ribbon dates back as far as the 8th or 9th century. Unlike the rosettes we know today, designed to resemble a rose, the first millennium rosettes are said to have been created to symbolize the moon and planets. In 1802, Napoleon Bonaparte instituted the use of rosette award ribbons as a part of the Legion of Honor award. These early rosettes, much larger than the rosettes we see today, were attached to the ribbon that displayed the Legion medal and presented to deserving individuals in recognition of outstanding military or civic service. Around the mid-1800s, rosette ribbons began to be crafted in smaller sizes to be worn on clothing, and became popular for civilian use. Records show that use of rosettes in the US began in 1877, when the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States became the first organization in this country to identify its members by a rosette worn on the lapel. Although the Purple Heart previously bore a rosette, the only US government medal currently issued with a rosette is the Medal of Honor.

## Business

Business attire often signals the need for suits, ties and dresses.

*Knights:* Wear a business suit with tie. You may also opt for nice slacks with a sports jacket and tie. There are several approved tie designs of the Order:



*Dames:* Wear a business suit or business style dress with heels (high or low).

A lapel pin or rosette of the Order may be worn on the left lapel of the coat.



If a dark blue blazer is worn, a blazer patch may also be worn on the left breast pocket. There are several versions including:



*Note:* The blazer patch should never be worn with evening dress or on a dinner jacket.

## FORMAL FUNCTIONS

### Formal

For functions where Formal Wear (Dinner Jacket/Black Tie) is specified, unless the invitation states "decorations" or the like, members should wear a lapel pin or rosette only. When decorations are in order, most members will wear the neck ribbon (or bow for Dames) of the order, in which case the lapel pin or rosette

would not be worn. In such cases, a Grand Officier may wear the star of the Order, as may a Grand Croix, but the Grand Croix does not wear the sash.

## Full Dress

For functions where Full Dress - White Tie and Tails - is specified, it is generally considered inappropriate to wear a lapel pin or rosette with full dress, except in France. If the invitation omits "decorations" or the like, wear none. Either large or miniature insignia are appropriate, but miniatures are most often worn. Miniature and full-sized insignia are never worn at the same time. Grand Officier and Grand Croix may wear the star of the Order, and Grand Croix may wear the cordon sash. If the cordon sash is worn the star must also be worn. Miniatures should also be worn in this case.

## Highland Attire

A number of members wear Highland attire at informal and formal events of the Order. The same rules apply for wearing devices and insignia of the Order.

The term Highland attire describes the traditional dress of Scotland. It is often characterized by tartan patterns in some form. Male highland dress includes kilt (or trews - pants), sporran, sgian dubh and ghillies. Ghillies, or ghillie brogues, are traditional thick soled shoes with no tongues and long laces. The laces are wrapped around and tied above the wearer's ankles so that the shoes do not get pulled off in mud. The shoes lack tongues so the wearer's feet can dry more quickly in typically damp Scottish weather. The ghillie brogue is named after the ghillie, the traditional Scottish gamekeeper and outdoorsman. Female highland dress includes women's shoes, also called ghillies, that are tied in the same way but have thin soles for indoor wear and dancing. Traditionally, women and girls do not wear kilts but may wear ankle-length tartan skirts. A tartan sash or shawl may also be worn. Women may also wear *dress tartans* which are modified versions which include white in place of a more prominent color.

The most common form of kilt jacket is the **Argyle** (sometimes spelled Argyll); it is the equivalent of a sport coat. It can be worn with a black bow tie for "black tie" affairs. It can also be worn equally well with a neck tie for a less formal look. It is typically worn with a five button waistcoat, but can be worn with equal flare with a three button waistcoat for more formal occasions or without for casual events. If you are to only acquire one kilt jacket to serve for both formal and semi-formal functions, the black Argyle is an excellent choice. Argyle jackets are usually available in a variety of other colors. Darker colors, such as navy blue, also lend themselves well to more dressy occasions. Argyle jackets made from lighter colored wool or tweeds are considered day wear jackets.



*Highland daywear attire*

A variation of the Argyle is the **Doublet**. There are four distinct types of highland kilt doublets: the **regulation**, the **Balmoral**, the **Kenmore**, and the **Sheriffmuir**. The regulation kilt doublet is a typically black double-breasted jacket with satin peaked lapels, buttoned gauntlet cuffs, and epaulettes. The Regulation doublet was at one time the regulation uniform jacket of the Highland regiments, and is worn



## GPUSA

### Tartan

A tartan has been designed by Douglass Talley of Marietta, Georgia, USA for the exclusive use of Templars in the USA. The tartan is registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans, STA #6503. Tartan fabric may be ordered from the GPUSA Armory. A 3' X 5' Tartan Flag is also available. For *Dames*, a tartan with rosette is available for displaying insignia and awards.



with a three-button waistcoat which may be made from the same cloth as the jacket or kilt. The Balmoral kilt doublet is a double- or single-breasted jacket traditionally made from velvet. It is usually worn with a belt and black bow tie. It may be worn for both black tie and white tie events. The Kenmore kilt doublet is a single-breasted jacket, worn buttoned up (no lapels) and without a waistcoat. It is traditionally made from velvet and is always worn with a belt, lace jabot and cuffs. It may be worn on all formal occasions. The Sheriffmuir kilt doublet is a double-breasted jacket with gauntlet cuffs and a stand collar with no lapels. It is typically worn open with a waistcoat, lace jabot and cuffs.



Regulation, Balmoral, Kenmore, and Sheriffmuir Doublets

There are also Acara, Montrose, and various styles of military doublets.



Acara, Montrose, and Military Doublets



The Prince Charlie is a "Tailcoat" or "Coatee." A tailcoat is a coat with the front of the skirt cut away, so as to leave only the rear section of the skirt, known as the *tails*. The historical reason coats were cut this way was to make it easier for the wearer to ride a horse, but over the years tailcoats of varying types have evolved into forms of formal dress for both day and evening wear. The Prince Charlie has a square cut away front and the tails are cut short.



The mess jacket features either a non-fastening double breast cut or a single-breasted version that fastens. The jackets have shawl or peak lapels. Used in military mess dress, during the 1930s it became a popular alternative to the white dinner jacket in hot and tropical weather for black tie occasions. It also was prominently used, in single-breasted form, as part of the uniform for underclassmen at Eton College, leading to the alternate name **Eton jacket**.

**Highland Casual** typically includes:

- Kilt
- Dark hose and contrasting flashes
- Day sporran
- Optional belt
- Optional sgian dubh; typically made of horn or antler

**Highland Black tie** traditionally comprises:

- Black barathea jacket with silver buttons—Regulation Doublet, Prince Charlie, Brian Boru, Braemar, Argyll, and black mess jackets are suitable. There is some contention about whether the Duke of Montrose and Sheriffmuir doublets are too formal for black-tie occasions.
- Matching or tartan waistcoat
- Kilt
- White shirt with shirt studs, French or barrel cuffs, and a turn-down collar (wing collars are often reserved for white tie in most locales)
- Black bow tie or white lace jabot
- Evening dress brogues
- Full-dress kilt hose (diced, tartan, white, or off-white)
- Silk flashes or garter ties
- dress sporran with silver chain
- Black, silver-mounted Sgian dubh
- Dirk (optional)
- Highland bonnet with crest badge (only suitable out of doors)

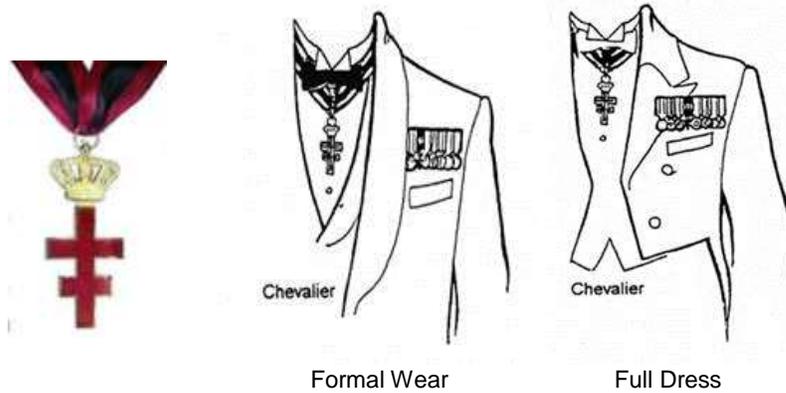
**Highland White tie** consists of:

- Formal kilt doublet in barathea or velvet— the regulation doublet, Montrose doublet, Sheriffmuir doublet, and Kenmore doublet are suitable in a variety of colors
- Waistcoat in white marcella, tartan (to match the kilt), or the same material as the doublet; no waistcoat is worn with the Kenmore doublet
- Kilt with formal kilt pin
- White stiff-front shirt with wing collar and white, gold, or silver studs and cufflinks for the regulation doublet, or a white formal shirt and optional lace cuffs for the Montrose, Sheriffmuir, and Kenmore doublets
- White lace jabot; a black silk or white marcella bow tie may be worn in place of the jabot with the regulation doublet (highland wear often includes a black bow tie even at white-tie events)
- Black formal shoes or black buckle brogues
- Tartan or diced kilt hose
- Silk garter flashes or garter ties
- Silver-mounted Sporran in fur, sealskin, or hair with a silver chain belt
- Black, silver-mounted, and jeweled Sgian dubh
- Short belted plaid with silver plaid brooch (optional)
- Scottish dirk (optional)
- Highland bonnet with badge (only worn out of doors)

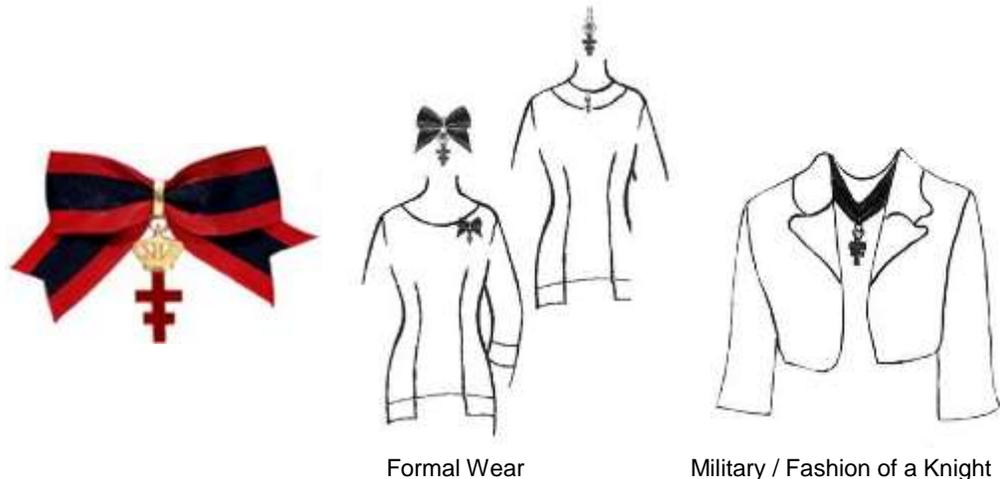
## Insignia and Dress

**The Ribbon of the Order.** The Grand Council changed the color of the ribbon and the cordon of the Order in the U.S.A. to black, with red borders, in 1998. Prior to that, the ribbon had been solid black to commemorate the destruction of the original Order in France. Members who received brevets before 1998 may continue to wear the awarded black ribbons and cordons until such time as they need replacement.

For functions where Formal Wear (Dinner Jacket/Black Tie) is designated, a **Knight (KTJ)** wears a red, patriarchal cross edged in gold, suspended below a crown, on the red and black neck ribbon of the Order. For full dress, the neck insignia is worn either under or over the tie with the medal just below the bow tie. If the ribbon is worn under the tie, it can support the stiff collar, which all too often cannot be laundered with proper stiffness. The miniatures should be worn on a bar, four inches below the left shoulder seam.



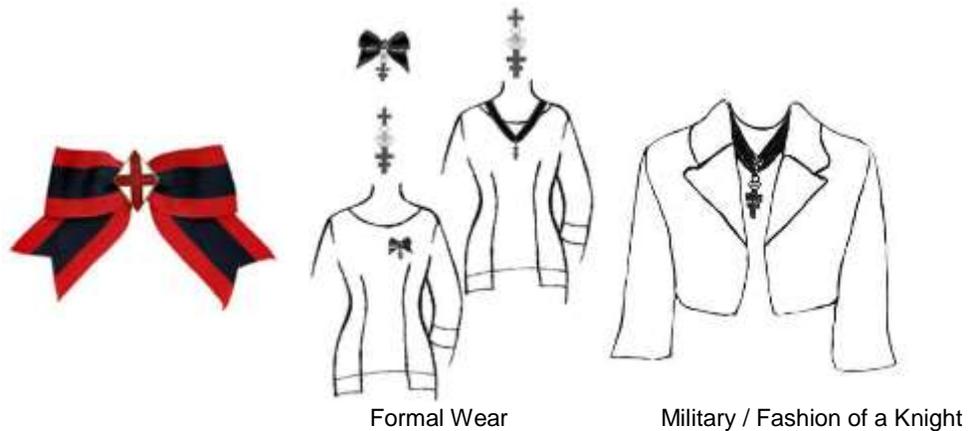
For formal wear, a **Dame (DTJ)** wears a small red, patriarchal cross edged in gold, suspended below a gold crown. The cross may be worn by Dames in one of three ways. A cross with crown, suspended from a bow made with the red and black ribbon of the Order may be worn over the heart. A cross with crown may also be suspended from a gold chain, or the ribbon of the Order, and worn around the neck. For Dames dressed in military attire or in the fashion of a Knight, they wear the same insignia as a Knight: the full-sized red, patriarchal cross edged in gold, suspended below a crown, on the red and black neck ribbon of the Order.



A **Knight Commandeur (KT)** wears a red, patriarchal cross in gold, suspended below a crown, suspended below a trophy shield on a red and black neck ribbon for formal wear. The attire for full dress is the same as Knight with the addition of the Commandeur trophy.



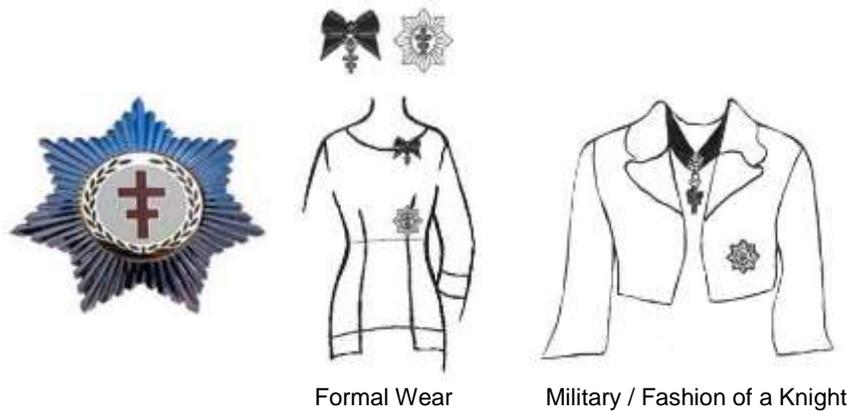
A **Dame Commandeur (DCT)** wears the same insignia as a Dame for formal wear, with the addition of a white, diamond-shaped lozenge edged in gold, with a single red cross emblazoned upon it. The cross and lozenge may be worn in the same three ways previously discussed, beneath a bow or suspended from gold chain or neck ribbon. For military or in the fashion of a Knight, a Dame Commandeur wears the same cross, with the addition of a trophy suspended from the neck ribbon.



A **Knight Grand Officier (GOT)** wears a red, patriarchal cross in gold, suspended below a crown, suspended below a trophy shield on a red and black neck ribbon with Formal Wear. Additionally, the Grand Officier wears a plaque, or star of the Order, which consists of a silver starburst with a wreath surrounding the red patriarchal cross at the center.



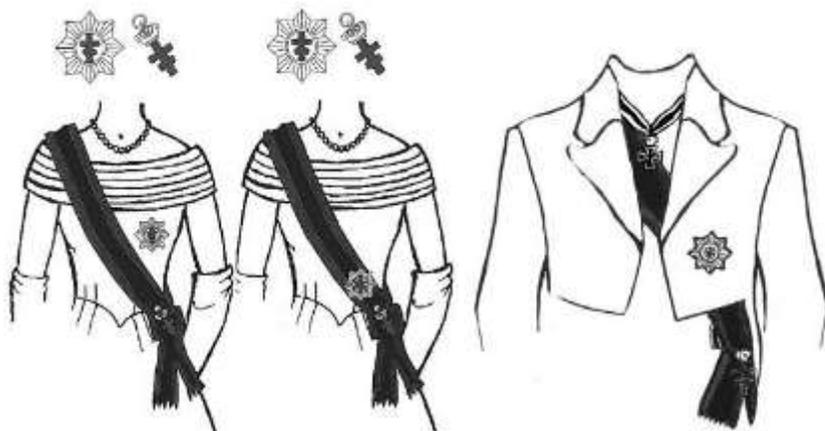
With formal wear, a **Dame Grand Officier** (DGOTJ) wears the same insignia as a Dame Commandeur, with the addition of a silver starburst of the Order worn on the left side just above the waistline. (*A small starburst has been approved as well*). In military or Knight fashion, a Dame wears the same insignia as the Dame Commandeur, with the addition of a silver starburst of the Order worn on the left side just above the waistline.



In formal wear, a **Knights Grand Croix** (GCTJ) wears a red cross *formy* (cross patteé edged in gold, suspended below a crown on a red and black neck ribbon). Additionally, the Grand Croix wears the plaque, or star of the Order. Knights selected for the dignity of Grand Croix are also entitled to wear the Grand Cordon, or sash of red and black (over the right shoulder). The Grand Cordon is worn *only* with full dress (white tie and tails).



A Dame **Grand Croix** (GCTJ) in formal wear wears a Grand Cordon of the Order, or sash of red and black, from which the patriarchal cross and crown are suspended directly below the bow over the left hip. Either the wide Grand Cordon or a narrow one, designed especially for women, may be worn at their choice. A silver starburst of the Order is also worn on the left side just above the waistline, or on the cordon at a point just above the waistline. (*A small starburst has been approved as well*). A Dame Grand Croix also has the option of wearing the full-sized red cross *formy* (Croix Patteé) in gold, suspended below a crown on a red and black neck ribbon in military or fashion of a Knight.

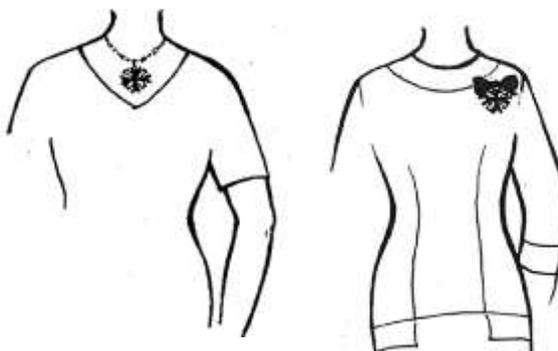


Formal Wear

Military / Fashion of a Knight



A Knight **Companion** (OMTJ) of the Order of Merit wears the insignia of the Order on a red neck ribbon. A Dame **Companion** (OMTJ) of the Order of Merit have the option of wearing the insignia of Companion around the neck, suspended either by the red ribbon or a simple but sufficiently strong gold link chain. (Note: The gold chain must, under no circumstances, be of such thickness or construction to be liable to be mistaken for a collar. There is no award of a collar in the Order of Merit.) Alternatively, lady Companions may have their award mounted at their own expense, as shown in the drawings below.





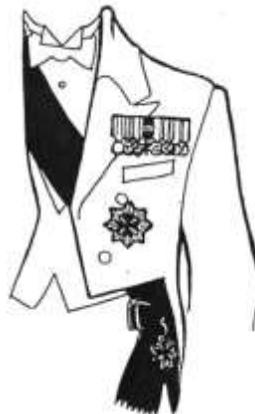
The insignia of Knight/Dame **Commander** (COTJ) is the same as that of the Companion, except that a trophy is attached above the Companion's insignia. The trophy is the same as for the SMOTJ rank of Commandeur, with the exception that, while the red cross and white background remain, the trophy is made of silver-colored metal. The regular gold trophy of the SMOTJ may be used as an alternative to silver. The variation of wear as a breast medal in the

case of members of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem is the same as directed for Companion. The Trophy should not be worn when the Order of Merit emblem is worn as a breast insignia.



The insignia of the higher degree of the Order of Merit – Knight/Dame **Grand Commander** (GMTJ) – is similar in design to that of Commander except that the arms of the windmill are gold and enamel mounted on a breast star of silver and it is worn pinned to the left side of the formal coat or formal jacket above the waist.

Knight/Dame **Grand Cordon** (GCMTJ) is the highest award in the Order of Merit, is a red cordon sash worn over the right shoulder with the insignia of the Order of Merit suspended beneath a bow directly over the left hip. The breast star of Grand Commander should be worn with the cordon.



## Wearing of Insignia at Other Functions

Informal Wear at functions sponsored by other organizations is the same as described above for informal functions of the Order.

For functions where Formal Wear (Dinner Jacket/Black Tie) is specified, unless the invitation states "decorations" or the like, wear a lapel pin or rosette only. When decorations are in order, most members will wear the neck ribbon of the order, in which case the lapel pin or rosette would not be worn. In such cases a Grand Officer may wear the star of the Order, as may a Grand Croix, but the Grand Croix does not wear the sash.

For functions where Full Dress - White Tie and Tails is specified, it is generally considered inappropriate to wear a lapel pin or rosette with full dress, except in France. If the invitation omits "decorations" or the like, wear none. Either large or miniature insignia are appropriate, but miniatures are more often worn. Miniature and full-sized insignia are never worn at the same time, although miniatures may be worn with the neck ribbon of the Order. Grand Officer and Grand Croix may wear the star of the Order, and Grand Croix may wear the cordon sash. If the cordon sash is worn the star must also be worn. Miniatures should also be worn in this case.

## Where Insignia May Be Obtained

All Insignia of the Order must be ordered by a Priory/Commandery from the Grand Armorer. It is good practice for local Pories to maintain a supply and for postulants to order insignia in advance of installation and investiture.

The Grand Council of the Grand Priory of the United States of America has granted the Grand Armorer exclusive authority to license manufacturers to produce all items of insignia and regalia for the Order. The Grand Armorer was given this authority to ensure standardization of design for insignia and regalia and consistency of quality control on the items produced and sold to members.

The Grand Armorer, together with the GPUSA Administrative Services Provider (Grand Priory Administrator), administers the procurement, sale, and inventory of all insignia and regalia for the Grand Priory.

Any member or subordinate organization of the SMOTJ seeking to produce items of insignia or regalia bearing trademarked symbols or language trademarked by the SMOTJ must first submit their plan to do so and designs to the Grand Herald, Grand Armorer and Grand Avocat for approval.

It is the strict policy of the Grand Priory, affirmed by the SMOTJ Corporate Board, that no items with any trademarked symbols or wording on them may be sold to non-members.

## Swing Mount and Court Mount

There are two styles of mounting full- and miniature medals – swing mount and court mount.



Swing mounting (above) is when a medal is suspended by its ribbon from a brooch pin. Several medals can be attached to a long brooch pin. The medals tend to swing when the person wearing the medals is walking.



Court mounting is when the ribbon is stretched over a stiff mounting board with a medal bar brooch at the top. The medals fixed in place and do not move when the person walks.

## Miniatures

Miniatures of many of the Order's ranks and awards are available as well as miniatures for special occasions and Priory awards.

It is inappropriate to wear the Order's insignia on federal duty uniforms. The general exception normally applies to social events requiring formal attire (e.g., Dining-Out military social functions). Knights and Dames should consult agency and Armed Forces regulations for guidance on when or if such insignia can be worn with certain uniforms.

Miniatures should never be combined and worn with regular full-size decorations, except when full size is worn around the neck.

The miniatures of the Order do not come with a pin for mounting. It is necessary to have them mounted on a bar – there are many different styles.

The precedence – order in which the miniatures are mounted – are as follows:

The position of honor on a bar is to the wearer's right. Medals, Decorations and Orders are mounted in the following descending order of precedence:

1. Federal Decorations of Honor or Valor and Campaign Medals in order of precedence set by the United States Government.
2. Foreign Decorations in the order in which they were received.
3. State Awards: Decorations, Campaign Medals, Organizational and Long Service Medals.
4. Medals of Military, Veterans, Hereditary, and Patriotic Societies in order of founding within each category,
  - a. Military,
  - b. Veteran,
  - c. **SMOTJ**
  - d. Hereditary and
  - e. Patriotic.

Mounted miniatures should be worn on the upper part of the lapel of the coat, if appropriate, or above the pocket, and should not cross the arm seam.

While the United Kingdom limits miniatures to one bar only, the United States permits the wearing of several rows of medals. In the U.S., it is inappropriate for regular active duty military personnel to wear State decorations on a uniform except on special occasions, making it necessary for these decorations to be put on separate bars. Medals of hereditary and patriotic societies may be placed either on the second or third row. This facilitates attendance of military personnel at social functions by allowing them to simply add or subtract a row of medals, depending upon the circumstances. The following guidelines may be used to separate medals in this fashion:



## Mantles

The mantle was originally a cape worn simply to ward off the cold. The mantle was first mentioned in the Old Testament, as a garment worn by several prophets including Elijah and Elisha. In 2 Kings 2:11–14, the mantle passing from Elijah the prophet, to Elisha, his successor, symbolizes the passing of prophetic authority. Depictions of monks on [icons](#) show the mantle in use from the earliest Christian times. The original monastic mantle was of simple material: black, brown or grey, depending on what was at hand. As time went on, the use of mantles of a particular color and style came to be established as specific monastic vesture. From the papal Council of Troyes in 1129, the Templars were permitted to wear the white mantle but the red cross with equally sized arms was not added for nearly another twenty years. This was a decision made by pope Eugenius III in 1147 at the height of the second crusade and after intense lobbying by the Templar's great champion Bernard of Clairvaux.

- a. *Primary Row.* Federal Decorations and Medals and Foreign Decorations.
  - i. Federal in the order set by regulations
  - ii. Foreign in the order of Award
- b. *Secondary Row.* State Awards: Decorations, Campaign Medals, organizational and Long Service Medals as well as Military and Veterans Societies.
- c. *Tertiary Row.* Hereditary and Patriotic Societies in the order of their founding. Since the SMOTJ medal is neither a foreign decoration nor a Military and Veteran's organization, but a revival of an order of chivalry, it should be given a place of prominence among hereditary and patriotic society medals.

All rows should be of uniform height and the bottom line of the medals should be even unless clear authority to the contrary can be found.

## Cape

The cape, or mantle, is a unique and well-known symbol of the Knights Templar. It originally reflected the pure motives of those who wore it. It was symbolic of the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience taken by the first Knights Templar--nobles who shed all their worldly distinctions to become Knights of the Order for the sole purpose of opening the road to Jerusalem to provide safe journey there for all pilgrims. The original capes used in battle by the early knights were plain white mantles with a red cross on the left breast. These capes also were worn in convent, where their wearing came to symbolize the fact that all knights were considered equal before God. Because of that, the cape was worn in such a manner as to cover armor, jewelry, and any other earthly distinctions of rank or office.

In respect for that tradition, the Order in the United States consequently adopted a similar cape of uniform white color with a large red cross attached to the left breast. During the first four decades, the red patriarchal cross, which is a trademarked symbol of the SMOTJ, was affixed to the left breast.

By subsequent action of the Grand Council, the cross used on the mantle was changed to a red cross patteé, effective April 28, 2007. Commensurate with that decision, those Knights and Dames whose robes were originally adorned with the patriarchal cross are granted the right to wear that cross on their capes in perpetuity. However, all those Knights and Dames are encouraged to switch to the new cross design to assure uniformity of appearance.

The capes of all new Knights and Dames must be adorned with the red cross patteé. If there is a local source for having a cape made, it must be pre-approved by the armory. The style and pattern must be sufficiently similar to the cape available through the armory. The cape must have the armory cross patteé affixed to it in the appropriate place.

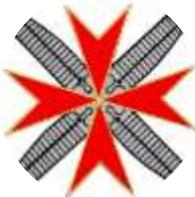
Capes should be worn only when in Convent, and then they should be worn fully down in such a manner as to cover most earthly distinctions, including medals and jewelry. The bottom edge of the cape should reach to approximately 8" above the ground and may be lined in red at the discretion of the Priory.

In keeping with the tradition noted above, all capes should be made to achieve a uniformity of design and appearance. No distinctions of rank are intended to be reflected in the capes, with the following exceptions:



1. The mantles of the Religious and Royal Patrons of the SMOTJ are adorned with the red cross pattée, ensigned by a gold crown, affixed to the left breast.

2. The mantle of the sitting Grand Prior and former Grand Priors historically was adorned with a large and unique triple-barred red Cross badge on the left breast. In 2002, a new symbol of office for the present and former Grand Priors was approved by the Grand Council: a gold Grand Prior's "collar" (necklace) from which a red, triple-barred cross edged in gold is suspended. Grand Priors may wear this unique collar and cross over the cape as a symbol of their leadership role. Since the wearing of both the collar and the triple-barred cape cross simultaneously is redundant, Grand Priors are encouraged to discontinue use of the triple-barred cross badge on their capes, reverting to the use of the patriarchal cross or cross pattée badge, as appropriate.



3. Those individuals who are not members of the Order, but who are greatly honored by induction from outside the Order directly into an honorary membership status as Companions of the Order of Merit, should wear only the registered logo/badge of the Order of Merit affixed to the left breast.



*Order of Merit - non-SMOTJ members*



4. Knights and Dames of the Order who have been inducted into the Order of Merit as a unique honor to recognize their extraordinary service within the Order will continue to wear the patriarchal cross or cross pattée (as appropriate) on the left breast of the cape, but are also permitted to wear the logo of the Order of Merit on the right shoulder of the cape.

5. In keeping with tradition, sitting and former Grand Priors and Priors may also wear neck fasteners made of gold chain and the red Prior's tassel affixed to the peak of the hood.

*Order of Merit - SMOTJ members*





ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

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