

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana

Uniform Regulations and Specifications

2024

The Knights Templar is a Uniformed Order. Our uniforms should be clean and in good repair at all times. Wear your uniform with great pride!

The Templar Uniforms are worn in conclave meetings and in conferring the Orders. They are only worn in public at authorized ceremonies, events, funerals, churches, and other times as may be authorized by special dispensation of the Grand Commander.

Templar Uniforms may be worn for all Templar occasions, provided that when appearing in public, the entire Commandery MUST be dressed in Class "A" Full-Dress Uniform, or Fatigue Uniform.

The purchase of Templar Uniforms by a petitioner for the Orders in this Grand Jurisdiction is strongly encouraged after receiving the Orders, yet optional with the petitioner. However, each and every elected officer of a Constituent Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction is required to own or possess a Class "A" Full-Dress Uniform prior to his installation.

The Summer Uniform may be worn from Memorial Day until Labor Day each calendar year, however, this policy may be amended at the discretion of the Grand Commander.

In lieu of the above Templar Uniforms, a Constituent Commandery may provide and use Caps and Mantles within the confines of the Asylum.

USED UNIFORMS

Uniforms are not required to be new if one currently authorized for wear in this Grand Commandery should be procured and is in good condition. However, Chapeau, Emblems, Shoulder Straps, Belts, Jewels, Medals, Ribbon Bars, Fourragère Shoulder Cords, Corded Jewels, and Neck Jewels must conform to the specifications set forth in the Uniform Regulations and Specifications of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana.

CLASS “A” FULL DRESS UNIFORM

Uniform shall be in accordance with the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America and consists of the following:

- Black Regulation Coat
- Emblems on Coat Sleeves
- Black Trousers with plain Black dress belt, or military style Black web belt, with black buckle.
- White Shirt
- Black Tie
- Black Shoes or Boots, Black Socks
- Shoulder Straps, if entitled
- Sword Belt
- Sword and Scabbard
- Gloves, optional as directed by senior officer present
- Chapeau
- Jewels, Medals, Ribbon Bars, Fourragère Shoulder Cords, Corded Jewels, Neck Jewels, And Lapel Pins

COAT

Black double-breasted coat, cut on the lines conforming to the Officers Uniform of the U. S. Navy. The coat to have two lower side welt pockets and one welt pocket on the left breast; to be one half lined with deep yoke made of good quality Celanese, with two inside pockets; material to be ten-ounce black tropical worsted. The front of the coat shall have 6 Black Knights Templar Buttons with Cross and Crown and Motto of the Order encircled around the edge with 3 buttons down each forepart and shall close with 3 of the buttons; and, 3 sleeve buttons of the same design on each sleeve.

EMBLEMS ON COAT SLEEVES

- *For Elected Grand Officers*

A 2" Templar Cross of red silk velvet, bordered with a single row of No. 26 gilt or gold bullion embroidery $\frac{3}{16}$ " wide, mylar embroidery is also authorized.

- *For Past Grand Commanders*

Same as Grand Officers except the Templar Cross to be of Purple Silk Velvet.

- *For Past Eminent Commanders*

A Passion Cross of red silk velvet embroidered on each side with one row of No. 26 gilt or gold bullion or mylar embroidery, with rays between the arms of the crosses alternately in either, gold bullion, or mylar embroidery in solid pattern. The Cross, including

embroidery, to be 2" high; cross arm to be 1- $\frac{1}{3}$ " long; center of cross between edges of embroidery to be $\frac{3}{16}$ " wide.

- *For all Sir Knights below the rank of Past Eminent Commander*

A Passion Cross without rays, of red silk velvet embroidered on each edge with one row of No. 26 silver plated or silver bullion embroidery, mylar embroidery is also authorized, the cross to be the same dimensions as for Past Eminent Commanders, except it shall be silver plate or silver and without rays.

TROUSERS

Trousers shall be regulation military cut, with two side and two hip pockets, with plain bottoms without cuffs, in black material same as coat, with plain black dress belt, or military style Black web belt, with black buckle and no ornamentation.

SHIRT

Shirt shall be a clean, plain white turn down collar, dress shirt.

BLACK TIE

Plain black tie shall be knotted with "Four-In-Hand" knot and shall not have a stick pin.

SHOES or BOOTS and SOCKS

Black Military style low quarter shoes, black military or black western style boots, high gloss, clean, and in good repair worn with black socks.

SHOULDER STRAPS

As defined in Sections 243 and 244 of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

WORD BELTS

- *For Past Eminent Commanders*

The belt shall be of black grain leather, 1- $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide, mounted with a lace woven of gold plated wire and black silk, 1- $\frac{5}{8}$ " wide, with colors in parallel stripes four of gold and three of black, the black stripes to be of equal width and the gold stripes to be $\frac{5}{32}$ " of an inch wide. The belt clasped with gold plated belt plate of pattern hereinafter described, and to have three demountable slings of black grain leather on which to hang the sword, standard gold plated barrel chains are also authorized, each $\frac{7}{8}$ " wide, two short and one long, upon which shall be mounted a lace of the same material as the belt, $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide, consisting of two stripes of gold, each $\frac{5}{32}$ " wide, and one black $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide. The slings to be suspended by gold plated clasps from a leather strap, fastened to inside of belt; each sling to have lengthening buckles and heavy gold-plated swivels at the lower ends. On the second, at the lower edge of the belt, to be placed a gold-plated rigid sword hook. The belt plate shall be rectangular in shape 2" by 3" in size, of hard metal, with $\frac{1}{8}$ " polished

raised beveled edge, without ornamentation whatsoever, except the face stippled in vermicelli patterns, dull finish. In the center of the plate shall be the Passion Cross of hard enamel, bright red in color; perpendicular arm of cross 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide; transverse arm $\frac{7}{8}$ " in semi-circle the word "IN HOC SIGNO VINCES", in block style letters in relief, with polished face. The plate is to be attached to the belt with a French Fastener and the return end of the belt is to be held in place by a sliding loop of black grain leather, $\frac{1}{2}$ " width. The plate shall be devoid of any jeweled ornamentation of any kind whatsoever and no name or inscription shall be placed thereon other than that above described.

- *For Elected Grand Commandery Officers*

Same as for Past Eminent Commanders, except that the emblem on belt plate shall be a Red Templar Cross. The elected Grand Commandery officers are the only Sir Knights authorized to wear the red Templar cross regalia.

- *For Past Grand Commanders*

Same as for Past Eminent Commanders, except that the belt is purple with gold wire lace. The emblem on Belt Plate shall be a Purple Templar Cross. Past Grand Commanders and Honorary Past Grand Commanders are the only Sir Knights authorized to wear Royal Purple Templar Cross regalia.

- *For all Sir Knights below the rank of Past Eminent Commander*

Same as above, except that the mountings shall be silver-plated and the lace on the belt body and slings shall have silver wire substituted for gold plated wire, standard silver barrel chains are also authorized. The Belt Plate shall be of silver plate and the Passion Cross without rays between the arms of the cross.

SWORDS and SCABBARDS

- *For Elected Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, and Past Eminent Commanders*

The sword shall be thirty-four to forty inches in length, inclusive of scabbard, with helmet head at pommel, straight cross guard, metal scabbard, white grip and chain from pommel to Cross guard. The scabbard to have three hard metal mountings, two metal rings at upper and one at lower mount. The white grip to be ornamented in front with or without monogram of the owner, and opposite side with the Passion Cross with rays. All metal to be gold plate.

- *For Eminent Commanders and all other Sir Knights*

Same as for Eminent Commander except all metal trimmings shall be silver plate, with, or without monogram of owner.

GLOVES

Cotton Buff-colored, lisle thread or chamoisette without ornamentation.

CHAPEAU

- *For Elected Grand Officers*

A military Chapeau, the only headgear authorized for wear with a Class "A" Full Dress Uniform, trimmed with black silk velvet binding four to six ply white over black Ostrich plumes; front and rear peaks of chapeau to extend not more than 4-¼" from the head. Side of Chapeau to be beveled, being an inch smaller at the top than at the head; two eyelet ventilators on each side near the top, and cork ventilator on front inside; body of chapeau blocked. Diagonally across the peaks, both front and back, slashing of gold plated or gold wire lace fifteen lines wide of vellum pattern No. 1962; in front a gilt or gold plated tassel, half round in shape, with bright bullions and dull head; on felt side a rosette oval in shape, 5" in height by 4" in width, composed of not less than thirty three satin points in single fold, on top of which so as to display said points to the distance of ½" from the edge, is laid one row of quilled black satin ribbon in folds of from ⅛" to ¼" of an inch in width, and on top of this is laid an oval black silk velvet rosette 3-¼" in height by 2-⅝" in width, surrounded by one row of gilt cord, thus displaying the quilled satin ribbon around the edges of said velvet rosette to a distance of from ⅜" to 1-½". On the velvet oval shall be a Templar Cross of red silk velvet, bordered by a single row of No. 26 gilt or gold bullion embroidery ¼" in width. Said Cross to be 2-½" square, including embroidery.

- *For Past Grand Commanders*

The same as for Grand Officers, except use Purple Cross on the Rosette.

- *For Past Eminent Commanders*

The same as for Grand Officers, except that in place of the Templar Cross, there shall be a Passion Cross, the upright arm 3", the transverse arm 2", of red silk velvet, bordered by No. 26 gilt of gold bullion embroidery, ¼" wide, leaving the velvet exposed in the center to the width of ⅝", mylar embroidery is also authorized. Said Cross to have at the point of intersection alternate rays of No. 26 and No. 27 gilt or gold embroidery in solid pattern.

- *For Eminent Commanders and Sir Knights below the rank of Eminent Commander*

Same as described for Grand Officers, rosette shall be a Passion Cross of red silk velvet bordered with silver plated, silver bullion, or mylar embroidery, of the same size and dimensions as that prescribed for Past Eminent Commanders, except that said cross shall have no rays. Tassel and slashing shall be silver versus gold.

JEWELS, MEDALS, RIBBON BARS, FOURRAGÈRE SHOULDER CORDS, CORDED JEWELS, NECK JEWELS, and LAPEL PINS

Jewels and Medals

The **Right side**, or “**sword arm**” side of the Class “A” Full-Dress Uniform is used for Grand Encampment Jewels and Medals unless otherwise specified by Grand Encampment.

- *Grand Cross Templar (GCT) and Knight Grand Cross of the Temple (KGC) Jewels are worn beneath the left pocket as specified by Grand Encampment.*

The **Left side**, or “**bridle arm**” side, of the Class “A” Full-Dress Uniform is used for Jewels, Medals, Ribbon Bars, Military Fourragère Shoulder Cords, and Corded Jewels that have been authorized for wear by the Grand Commandery of Louisiana in two rows, as follows:

- *Jewels/Medals may be worn in two rows on the left pocket by order of precedence listed below.*

Order of Precedence

1. Current Jewel of Office, must be worn
2. Past Eminent Commander or Past Grand Commander Jewel
3. Grand Commanders Unity Award Medal
4. Legion of Merit (w/bronze or silver oak leaves)
5. Eminent Commander, Recorder, Sir Knight Meritorious Service Medal
(w/bronze or silver oak leaves)
6. 25- or 50-Year Meritorious Service Medal
7. Knights Templar Leadership Award Medal
8. Knight of the Holy Land Jewel (w/bronze or silver oak leaves) or Holy Land Service Medal w/silver star
9. Knight Crusaders of the Cross Jewel

10. Order of Malta Jewel, must be worn (*It may be commandery specific version, general issue version from Grand Encampment, or uniform supplier version*)

11. Illustrious Order of the Red Cross Jewel

Ribbon Bars

Masonic Service Ribbon Bar, Military Service Ribbon Bar, or the combination Masonic/Military Service Ribbon Bar is herein classified as a Meritorious Service Jewel and authorized for wear centered above the left pocket.

Shoulder Cords

When a Sir Knight is authorized to wear a shoulder cord, only one may be worn which shall be at the option of the Sir Knight.

Purple and White Aiguillette Shoulder Cords denoting membership in the CADRE of the Grand Commandery of Louisiana are authorized for wear on the left Shoulder of a Class A Full Dress Uniform. Red and White Aiguillette Shoulder Cords may be worn on the left shoulder by those who earned Proficiency in Swordmanship.

Fourragère Shoulder Cords denoting membership in local Commandery Temple Guard units are authorized for wear on the left shoulder of a Class "A" Full-Dress Uniform. The Grand Commandery reserves the right to reject certain color choices for this item. Example: Fluorescent colors will not be allowed.

Corded Jewels

There are only two Grand Commandery Corded Jewels authorized for wear with the Class "A" Full-Dress Uniform. They are the Jewel of Office of the Right Eminent Grand Commander and the Past Grand Commander Jewel. Grand Encampment Corded Jewels take precedence over Grand Commandery Corded Jewels and simultaneous wear of both is not authorized.

- *The Jewel of Office of the Right Eminent Grand Commander is suspended from a red silk cord set worn around the neck.*
- *Past Grand Commander's may wear their Jewel suspended from a royal purple silk cord set worn around the neck.*

Neck Jewels

There are only two Neck Jewels authorized for wear with the Class "A" Full-Dress Uniform. They are the Knight Templar Cross of Honor (KTCH), and the Knight Companion of the Temple (KCT). These jewels are Grand Encampment Honors. Simultaneous wear of both in the Neck Jewel format is not authorized.

Lapel Pins

No lapel pins of any kind are authorized for wear on jewels, medals, or anywhere on the Class "A" Full-Dress Uniform, including, but not limited to Knight Crusader of the Cross, and Knight Preceptor lapel pins.

FATIGUE UNIFORM

The Fatigue Uniform for all Sir Knights and Officers shall be the same as the Class "A" Full-Dress Uniform, except that it shall be worn without the Sword, Scabbard and Chapeau. The Scabbard slings shall be gathered together on sword belt hook or metal medallion keeper appropriate to rank.

The Fatigue Uniform is typically worn to our various houses of worship for our Easter observance.

Lapel Pins

No lapel pins of any kind are authorized for wear on jewels, medals, or anywhere on the Fatigue Uniform, including, but not limited to Knight Crusader of the Cross, and Knight Preceptor lapel pins.

SUMMER UNIFORM

This Grand Commandery authorizes the wearing of the Summer Uniform as prescribed by the Uniform Regulations and Specifications of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

The Summer Uniform is typically authorized for wear after Memorial Day until Labor Day each calendar year, however, this policy may be amended at the discretion of the Grand Commander.

Trousers, Tie, Sword Belts, Swords and Scabbards, Shoes or Boots, and Socks

Trousers shall be plain black with plain black dress belt, or military style Black web belt, with black buckle as prescribed for Class "A" Full-Dress Uniform.

Black Four in Hand Tie is optional at the discretion of the Senior Officer present. When tie is worn it shall be clipped to the center of the shirt with a gold color metal tie bar with LOUISIANA engraved in black capital letters and a Crown and Cross affixed onto a circular emblem at the end of the bar.

Sword Belt, Sword, and Scabbard as prescribed for Class "A" Full-Dress Uniform.

Shirt shall be white, short sleeves, of military style with shoulder epaulets and two flap pockets, one on each breast.

Name Badge

The name badge shall be of metal, gold color, ½" wide by 2 ½" long, with the full name of the wearer in black letters to be worn centered above the wearer's right pocket.

Malta Jewel

A Malta Jewel of current design, available from the Grand Encampment Office, can be worn centered over the wearer's left pocket.

A Commandery Jewels Metal Ribbon Bar centered over the wearer's left pocket may be worn instead of the Malta Jewel. The metal bar shall contain three black panels, each surrounded with a silver line, each panel 1" wide. On the left panel shall be a miniature Red Cross Jewel, on the center panel shall be centered a miniature Malta Jewel, and on the right panel, shall be a Templar Cross with a Cross and Crown in the center.

Ribbon Bars

Masonic Service Ribbon Bar, Military Service Ribbon Bar, or the combination Masonic/Military Service Ribbon Bar is herein classified as a Meritorious Service Jewel and is authorized for wear centered above Malta Jewel or Commandery Jewels Metal Ribbon Bar on left side.

Shoulder Insignia

Shoulder Insignia are miniatures of currently prescribed shoulder straps in metal, and of similar configuration.

- *For Elected Grand Commandery Officers*

A red 1" Templar Cross surrounded by a gold line to be worn in the center of each epaulet.

- *For Past Grand Commanders*

The same except the color shall be purple.

- *For Eminent Commanders, Generalissimos, and Captains General*

A metal bar, $\frac{3}{4}$ " by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " green in color surrounded by a silver line, with appropriate emblems of their rank as currently prescribed, to be worn centered on each epaulet with long edge parallel with shoulder.

- *For Past Eminent Commanders*

The same except the color shall be Red surrounded by a gold line.

Collar Insignia

Collar Insignia are worn centered on the collar and parallel with the top edge and set back $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the leading edge of the collar.

- *For Grand or Past Grand Commandery Officers*

$\frac{1}{2}$ " gold cut out letters with the abbreviation of the State as prescribed by the US Postal Service (no periods) to be worn on the wearer's left collar, and $\frac{1}{2}$ " gold "KT" cut out letters (without periods) on the right collar.

- *For Past Eminent Commanders*

$\frac{1}{2}$ " gold State Abbreviation as above on the left collar with $\frac{1}{2}$ " cut out gold Commandery Number on right collar.

- *Sir Knights below the rank of Past Eminent Commander*

The same as for Past Eminent Commanders, except the color shall be silver.

Garrison Cap (summer uniform only)

- *For Past Grand Commanders*

Military style Navel Garrison Cap with white top, black band, and black visor with one row of gold oak leaves and acorns, metal purple Templar Cross, 2 ¼" square, fixed to the front of the black band and a gold chin strap attached with gold buttons.

- *For Grand Commanders*

Same as above except red Templar Cross.

- *For Elected Grand Commandery Officers*

Same as above except plain black visor.

- *For Past Eminent Commanders*

Same as above except with a 1-¾" by 2" red metal Passion Cross trimmed in gold with rays.

- *For Eminent Commanders and all other Sir Knights*

Same as above except using a red metal Passion Cross trimmed in silver without rays and a silver chin strap attached with silver buttons.

Lapel Pins

No lapel pins of any kind are authorized for wear.

CAP AND MANTLE

This Grand Commandery authorizes the use of the Cap and Mantle as an alternative to the Class "A" Full-Dress Uniform of a Knight Templar, except for Grand Commandery Officers.

Sir Knights are encouraged to acquire their Class "A" Full-Dress Uniform as quickly as they can afford to do so. However, to assist all such Knights to be in uniform, Commanderies are encouraged to use the Cap and Mantle with sling sword for Knights while they acquire the Class "A" Full-Dress Uniform so that all may be in uniform, including sword, during regular conclave meetings and ceremonies.

Mantle

The Mantle shall consist of white material, with hood, reaching to approximately 12" from the floor. A jewel of office conforming to official Grand Encampment design may be worn suspended on a chain collar worn on top of the Mantle. The distinctive badge of a Constituent Commandery may be worn on the right breast of the Mantle. No other ornamentation or Templar jewels or medals or recognitions shall be worn on the Mantle except as required below.

- *For Grand Commander and Grand Commandery Officers*

Cap and Mantle are not authorized.

- *For Past Grand Commanders*

The Mantle shall be of white material with a single purple ribbon, 1 ½" wide, stitched ¾" from the outer edge; the hood lined in purple with similar material; and the Templar Cross in purple material on the left breast, 9" in height; the Mantle to tie closely around the neck with purple cords with purple tassels.

- *For Past Eminent Commanders*

The Mantle shall be of white material with a single red ribbon, 1" wide, stitched ½" from the outer edge; the hood to be lined with similar red material; the Passion Cross in red with gold rays, 9" in height on the left breast; the Mantle to tie closely around the neck with red cords with red tassels.

- *For Eminent Commanders and all other Sir Knights*

The Mantle shall be of white material; the hood lined with silky white material; the Passion Cross in bright red, 9" in height on the left breast; the Mantle to tie closely around the neck with white cords with white tassels.

Cap

The Cap shall follow the design and specifications of the style worn by the Sovereign Great Pories, 3" in depth and very slightly flared at the top.

- *For Past Grand Commanders*

The Cap shall be of purple velvet (or silk) and the cross displayed on the front of the Cap shall be the Purple Templar Cross.

- *For Past Eminent Commanders*

The Cap shall be of bright red velvet (or silk) and the cross displayed on the front of the Cap shall be the red Passion Cross outlined in gold and with gold rays.

- *For all other Sir Knights*

The Cap shall be of bright red velvet (or silk) and the cross displayed on the front of the Cap shall be the red Passion Cross outlined in white and without rays.

Sword and Scabbard

The Sword and Scabbard shall conform to the regulations of the Grand Commandery.

Sword Sling

The Sword shall be suspended over the right shoulder on a Sling of black leather 1 ½" wide, of tailored or adjustable length according to the height of the Sir Knight, to terminate in two straps to fasten to the two upper rings of the scabbard.

Chain Collar (optional for wear)

The Chain Collar shall be of the following design:

- *For Past Grand Commanders*

The Chain Collar shall consist of rectangular links that may or may not be attached to a fabric backing of black material and shall rest upon the shoulders. The total circumference of the Chain Collar is to be not more than 48". The links, gold in color for Past Grand Commanders and Past Eminent Commanders, shall contain designs appropriate to rank such as purple or red Templar crosses, designs general to Templary such as crosses indicating the orders of Templary, Cross and Crown insignia or designs not indicative of any other degree or body of Freemasonry or other private organization. The wearers appropriate jewel of office can be suspended from the collar.

- *For all other Sir Knights*

The Chain Collar as above except that the links shall be silver in color.

Commandery Badge (optional for wear)

The distinctive badge of a Constituent Commandery may be worn on the right breast of the Mantle. The badge will be no less than 5" or more than 8" high. The badge of the Commandery shall be superimposed upon the Malta Cross, or the Malta Cross shall be incorporated within the Commandery badge. The Grand Commandery reserves the right to reject a Commandery's distinctive badge design.

Lapel Pins

No lapel pins of any kind are authorized for wear.