



Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

United States Northern Lieutenancy

Uniform and Dress Guide

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Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

Uniform and Dress Guide

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by

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Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Table of Contents

The Importance of Tradition	4
Ceremonial Uniform.....	5
Knight’s Ceremonial Dress	6
Dame’s Ceremonial Dress	6
Clerical Ceremonial Dress	7
Formal Dress.....	9
Formal Dress for a Knight (KHS)	10
Formal Dress for a Dame (LHS).....	11
Formal Dress for a Knight Commander (KCHS).....	12
Formal Dress for a Dame Commander (LCHS)	13
Formal Dress for a Knight Commander with Star (KC*HS)	14
Formal Dress for a Dame Commander with Star (LC*HS).....	15
Formal Dress for a Knight Grand Cross (KGCHS).....	16
Formal Dress for a Dame Grand Cross (LGCHS)	17
Special Dress Considerations for the Jerusalem Palm.....	18
Decorations from Other Groups.....	19
Clerical Formal Dress	19



Uniform and Dress Guide

United States Northern Lieutenancy



The Importance of Tradition

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is one of the oldest organizations within the Catholic Church. It was founded in the 11th century at the end of the First Crusade. For almost 950 years it has stood as a witness and protector for the people and the historical Christian sites in the Holy Land.



Crest of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

Part of this witness is the preservation and observance of the traditions of the Order handed down to us over the centuries by the many Knights and Dames who preceded us. Today these traditions are kept alive in our special liturgies and Feast Days and in our uniform and dress rules. By observing these rules, we unite ourselves with our fellow Knights and Dames around the world and honor those who kept the Order and its ideals alive.

This guide provides certain ceremonial and formal dress rules for the annual Investiture weekend. Additional information about the insignia of the Order and dress for other occasions can be found in the Orientation Handbook.



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Ceremonial Uniform

The uniform of a Knight and Dame vary in certain important liturgical and traditional ways. Both wear a cape (sometimes called a mantle) adorned with the Jerusalem Cross. A Knight's cape is white linen while a Dame's cape is black satin. Knights wear a distinctive beret bearing their badge of rank while Dames wear a mantilla. Both Knights and Dames wear their neck insignia which also vary by rank. Knights wear white gloves while Dames wear black gloves.



The Knight's Beret



The Dame's Cape



The Knight's Cape

The only insignia permitted on the cape is the Pilgrim's Shell, pinned to the center of the Jerusalem Cross.



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Knights' Ceremonial Dress

When participating in a liturgical event, a Knight's cape is worn over a dark business suit, white shirt and a dark business tie with the neck ornament tied so that the insignia is suspended just below the knot of the tie. Knights Grand Cross never wear the black sash under the cape, but should substitute their neck insignia (which is the same one received as a Knight Commander).



*Knights in ceremonial dress. Denver 2014
Photo courtesy of Sir Allan Eckert, KHS*

The beret and white gloves are worn during the procession and recession, but are removed during the liturgy.

Dame's Ceremonial Dress

A Dame's cape is worn over a modest plain black dress with black hose and black closed toe shoes. A black mantilla is worn at all times. Black gloves are worn during the procession and recession but are removed at all other times. A Dame or Dame Commander wears her Jerusalem Cross suspended on a black ribbon around her neck under her cape. A Dame Commander with Star or a Dame Grand Cross wears her Star suspended on a black ribbon around her neck under her cape. Jewelry other than the insignia should be modest and consistent with the dignity and proper decorum suitable for a member of the Order.



*Ladies in ceremonial dress. Denver 2014
Photo courtesy of Sir Allan Eckert, KHS*

Members may not wear the uniform or even the cape in public functions and ceremonies without prior authorization from the respective Lieutenancy or their local Bishop.



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Clerical Ceremonial Dress

Clerical ceremonial dress varies depending on the celebration and their role.

Welcome and Departure Masses

If concelebrating the Mass:

Bishops: cassock, amice, alb, cincture and white mitre.

Priests: amice, alb, cincture, white stole adorned with the Jerusalem cross.

Chasuble (and in some cases, the stole) are provided by the Order or the host diocese.

If sitting in choir and not concelebrating:

Bishops: choir cassock, fascia, rochet, mozetta, zucchetto, biretta, pectoral cross.

Priests: cassock, surplice, mozetta, biretta (optional)

Deacons vest and process **only if assisting in the Mass**. Otherwise, Deacons follow the same dress and procession and seating rules as their lay rank in the Order.

Vigil-At-Arms and Prayers Service

Bishops: choir cassock, fascia, rochet, mozetta, zucchetto, biretta, pectoral cross

Priest Investees: cassock of the proper rank, surplice, and biretta (optional).

Other Priests: cassock, surplice, mozetta, biretta (optional)

Deacons vest and process **only if assisting in the Service**. Otherwise, Deacons follow the same dress and seating rules as their lay rank in the Order.



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy



Rite of Promotion & Memorial Mass

Bishops: cassock, amice, alb, cincture and white mitre.

Priests: amice, alb, cincture, white stole adorned with the Jerusalem cross.

Promotees: amice, alb, cincture, white stole adorned with the Jerusalem cross.

Chasuble (and in some cases, the stole) are provided by the Order or the host diocese.

Deacons vest and participate in the liturgical procession **only if assisting in the Mass**. Otherwise, Deacons follow the same ceremonial dress as their lay rank in the Order and process and sit with the other members. Deacons do not process or sit together.

Rite of Investiture & Mass

Bishops: cassock, amice, alb, cincture and white mitre.

Priests: amice, alb, cincture, white stole adorned with the Jerusalem cross.

Priest Investees: cassock and surplice. Bring with you your mozetta to carry in procession. Also bring your amice, alb, cincture, and white stole adorned with the Jerusalem cross on a hanger with your name attached to the hanger.

Chasuble (and in some cases, the stole) are provided by the Order or the host diocese.

Deacons vest and participate in the liturgical procession **only if assisting in the Mass**. Otherwise, Deacons follow the same ceremonial dress as their lay rank in the Order and process and sit with the other members. Deacons do not process or sit together.



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Formal Dress

At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, a formal gala dinner is held. Dress for this dinner is “White Tie” attire. Basic dress is white tie with tailcoat for the Knights and a formal floor length gown for the Dames.



White Tie Attire

***Photo courtesy of the Southwestern
Lieutenancy USA***

The following pages illustrate the proper formal dress for Knights and Dames of various ranks. The pictures are provided by the Southwestern Lieutenancy USA (with a special thank you to Sir Michael E. Lodes, KC*HS and Dame Regina Lodes, DC*HS who modeled the attire).



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Formal Dress for a Knight (KHS)



A Knight wears the smaller Jerusalem Cross insignia on a black ribbon around his neck with the crest directly below his tie. Alternatively, a Knight may wear the small insignia on his left lapel, but this must be worn without the neck insignia. Wearing the neck insignia is the preferred dress for Knights in the Northern Lieutenancy.

A Knight who has received the Pilgrim's Shell may wear the Shell on the left side of his jacket. Alternatively, the miniature Pilgrim's Shell insignia may be worn.



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Formal Dress for a Dame (DHS)



A Dame wears her Jerusalem Cross insignia on a long black ribbon around her neck. A Dame may also substitute her small insignia, worn on the left side of her dress, but this must be worn without her neck insignia. Wearing the neck insignia is also the preferred dress for Dames in the Northern Lieutenancy.

A Dame who has received the Pilgrim's Shell may wear the Shell on the left side of her dress. Alternatively, the miniature Pilgrim's Shell insignia may be worn.



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Formal Dress for a Knight Commander (KCHS)



A Knight Commander wears the larger Jerusalem Cross insignia on a black ribbon around his neck with the crest directly below his tie. This neck insignia is larger than the comparable Knight's cross. Alternatively, a Knight Commander may wear the small insignia on his left lapel, but this must be worn without the neck insignia. Wearing the neck insignia is the preferred dress for Knight Commanders in the Northern Lieutenancy.

A Knight Commander who has received the Pilgrim's Shell may wear the Shell on the left side of his jacket. Alternatively, the miniature Pilgrim's Shell insignia may be worn.



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Formal Dress for a Dame Commander (DCHS)



A Dame Commander wears her Jerusalem Cross insignia on a long black ribbon around her neck. A Dame Commander may also substitute her small insignia, worn on the left side of her dress, but this must be worn without her neck insignia. Wearing the neck insignia is the preferred dress for Dames in the Northern Lieutenancy.

A Dame Commander who has received the Pilgrim's Shell may wear the Shell on the left side of her dress. Alternatively, the miniature Pilgrim's Shell insignia may be worn.



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Formal Dress for a Knight Commander with Star (KC*HS)



A Knight Commander with Star wears the larger Jerusalem Cross insignia on a black ribbon around his neck with the crest directly below his tie. This is the same neck insignia received upon his promotion to Knight Commander. In addition, he wears his rayed silver star pinned to the lower portion of the left side of his coat. Alternatively, a Knight Commander with Star may wear the small insignia on his left lapel, but this must be worn without the neck insignia and star. Wearing the neck insignia and star is the preferred dress in the Northern Lieutenancy.

A Knight Commander with Star who has received the Pilgrim's Shell may wear the Shell on the left side of his jacket above his star. Alternatively, the miniature Pilgrim's Shell insignia may be worn.



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Formal Dress for a Dame Commander with Star (DC*HS)



A Dame Commander with Star wears her Jerusalem Cross insignia on a long black ribbon around her neck. This is the same neck insignia received upon her promotion to Dame Commander. She also wears her rayed silver star pinned to the left side of her gown. Alternatively, she may wear her star on a black ribbon around her neck (shown above), in which case the Jerusalem Cross insignia is not worn. Dame Regina, pictured above, has also chosen to wear a small Jerusalem Cross necklace, which is also permitted. A Dame Commander with Star may also substitute her small insignia, worn on the left side of her dress, but this must be worn without her neck or star insignia. Dame Regina's choice is by far the most common in the Northern Lieutenancy.

A Dame Commander with Star who has received the Pilgrim's Shell may wear the Shell on the left side of her dress. Alternatively, the miniature Pilgrim's Shell insignia may be worn.



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Formal Dress for a Knight Grand Cross (KGCHS)



A Knight Grand Cross wears a large Jerusalem cross and military trophy suspended from a wide black sash with white tie attire only. The sash is worn diagonally over the right shoulder with the Jerusalem Cross on the left hip. The sash is worn under the waistcoat (vest) except in the presence of a head of state or the Cardinal Grand Master; in which case, the sash is worn over the vest. The dinner invitation will specify if the sash is to be worn over the vest. A Knight Grand Cross also wears his rayed star pinned to the lower portion of the left side of his coat. Alternatively, the Jerusalem Cross neck insignia (the same neck insignia received upon promotion to Knight Commander) and the Star can be worn with White Tie if the sash is not worn. The sash and the neck insignia are never worn together. The use of the neck insignia and star of rank is the only proper decorations to be worn with a Black Tie tuxedo.

A Knight Grand Cross who has received the Pilgrim's Shell may wear the Shell on the left side of his jacket above his star. Alternatively, the miniature Pilgrim's Shell insignia may be worn on his left lapel.



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Formal Dress for a Dame Grand Cross (DGCHS)



A Dame Grand Cross wears a large Jerusalem cross suspended from a wide black sash diagonally over the right shoulder with the Jerusalem cross on the left hip. A large eight-pointed rayed star is pinned on the left side of her gown. It is also appropriate to wear it suspended from a black ribbon with formal attire as shown above. This is the most common choice in the Northern Lieutenancy due to the large size and weight of the Star. A Dame Grand Cross may prefer to wear the miniature decoration instead of the Star in which case the sash is not worn.

A Dame Grand Cross who has received the Pilgrim's Shell may wear the Shell on the left side of her dress. Alternatively, the miniature Pilgrim's Shell insignia may be worn.



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Special Dress Considerations for the Jerusalem Palm

The Jerusalem Palms are awards for extraordinary service to the Order and support of the Order's mission and works.

The Jerusalem Palms

Photos courtesy of Schomali Inc. 2015



The Bronze Palm



The Silver Palm



The Gold Palm

A Knight or Dame who has received the Jerusalem Palm award wears the Palm on the left side of their coat or gown positioned between the Pilgrim's Shell and the Star of rank. The Palm is never worn on the cape.



Knight Grand Cross with Pilgrim Shell



Knight Grand Cross with Jerusalem Palm



Uniform and Dress Guide



United States Northern Lieutenancy

Decorations from Other Groups

Knights and Dames who have been awarded other decorations for military or governmental service or who have received other Papal honors or belong to other Catholic orders (for example, the Order of Malta) may wear these decorations at the same time as those of the Equestrian Order. Generally, decorations of other orders should be worn in miniature on the left side, arranged from right to left in decreasing order of rank or with the most recent decoration awarded to the left. Only one neck cross may be worn.

Clerical Formal Dress

When attending receptions or formal dinners:

Cardinals, Bishops, Monsignors: cassock with fascia and insignia

Priests: black cassock with black fascia and insignia

Religious Orders: dress code for the institution to which they belong

Deacons: same dress code as for Knights of their same rank.

Use of the clergyman's suit is acceptable with the rosette worn in the lapel and the miniature insignia suspended from the small ribbon on the left side of the coat. The neck decorations may not be worn when wearing clericals.

