



October 23, 2018

To: Grand Knights, District Deputies, Team Staff Coordinators and Conferring Officers

Subject: Ceremonial Baldrics for Admission, Formation and Knighthood Degrees

Worthy Sirs,

After January 1, 2019, the official dress for Admission, Formation and Knighthood Degrees will be:

- The yellow and white K of C Ceremonial Baldric worn over a coat and tie for all ceremonial degree officers and aides.
- Cross bearer will also wear a baldric (no robe).
- Jewels of office for all ceremonial degree officers in the Admission and Formation degrees. For the Knighthood Degree, only the State Deputy will wear a jewel.

Exceptions are:

- Door Guards and music men are strongly encouraged to wear a coat and tie with baldric, but the minimum standard will be long trousers, collared shirt, street shoes (i.e., not sandals or “flip-flops”) and sash.

Baldrics can be purchased from the English Company and are available in three sizes (Approx. \$29.00 ea.).

(online: <https://www.kofcsupplies.com/Category/councilceremonialequipment>)

For Admission Degrees, Councils are responsible for purchasing the baldrics for their teams. For Formation and Knighthood Degrees, the State Deputy has a set of ceremonial baldrics that may be borrowed by Degree Teams through the State Warden.

Baldrics should be in each Team inventory as is all current paraphernalia. All Degree Team kits should include baldrics for Warden’s Aides, Banner Bearer and Guards of Honor (each CO should have them for all in the team as well). The Staff Coordinator in the Formation Degree and the CO in Knighthood Degrees are responsible for keeping baldrics in good clean condition and tracking them.

When planning a Degree, the Degree Team Staff Coordinator that is assigned to the degree is to contact GK, FS or someone from the host council in advance. He should make sure they are aware that they need to provide several assisting personnel, and that they need to be dressed appropriately for a Degree.

Through the remainder of 2018, use of robes is still legal, but is discouraged.

If the Second and Third Degrees are held on the same day in conjunction with each other, baldrics or robes will be used uniformly for both degrees with the baldrics being the norm. After January 1, 2019 robes will no longer be used in the Arizona Jurisdiction except by special waiver from the State Deputy.

Ceremonial Staff Coordinators (C.O.s for the Knighthood Degree) should arrange for their teams to start using the baldrics immediately, but no later than January 1, 2019.

This change affects only the use of ceremonial baldrics in place of robes. No other changes to Degree procedures or paraphernalia are affected.

Vivat Jesus!

Fraternally,

Tom Kalisz
State Deputy
Knights of Columbus Arizona State Council