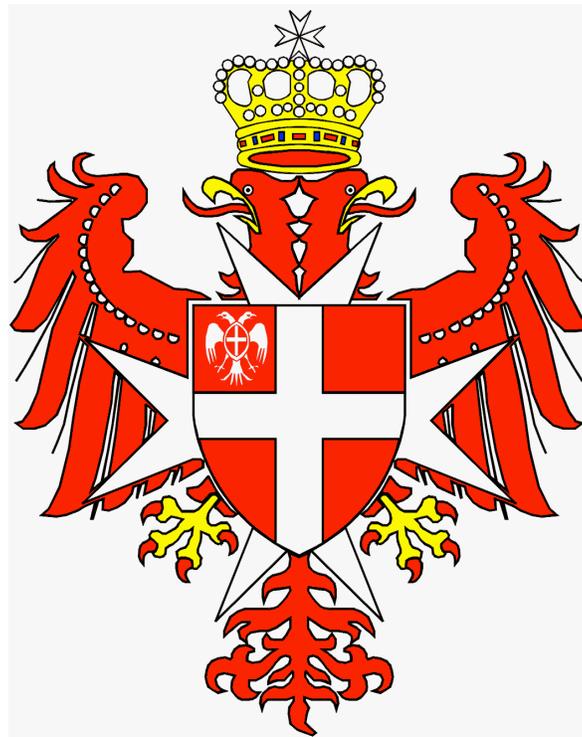


Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem
Knights Hospitaller

Grand Priory of the Knights Hospitaller in Canada



PROSPECTIVE MEMBER INFORMATION GUIDE

What is the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller?

The Knights Hospitaller, also known as Hospitallers, Order of Hospitallers, Knights of Saint John, and Order of Saint John, were among the most famous of the western Christian military orders during the Middle Ages. The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem requires all members to be practicing Christians. Members are also considered due to their charitable work in the community. The Order is a Christian ecumenical and non-denominational organization. The Order will accept non-Christians who do good work as members of Merit. Potential members must be of outstanding moral character and possess a good status and position in the community. Admission into the Order is by invitation only and requires sponsorship from a member. Membership is offered in recognition to those Christian men and women who have shown a regular lifestyle of helping those in need. Advancement in the Order is on merit alone and offered to those members who have demonstrated ongoing service and have excelled in charitable work.

What is the structure of the Order?

The Sovereign Council is the Central Administration of the Order. The geographical jurisdiction of the Central Administration is wherever in the world the Order exercises a presence. It serves as an umbrella for all the subordinate jurisdictional units of the Order and for all members of the Order belonging to them. The officers of the Central Administration are chosen from the worldwide membership of the Order. It is their duty to adopt and implement policies and programs for the Order in conformity with the Constitution of the Order and the will of the Chapter General (Knights and Dames of the Order). It defines procedures regarding membership, promotions, oblations, and all other matters affecting the operation of the Order. It administers the Order's property and it is the nucleus through which the Order's *fons honorum* is exercised.

A Grand Priory is the largest geographical unit within the Order. It may embrace several countries, a single country, or a portion of a country. Grand Priory boundaries are approved by the Sovereign Council of the Order. At the present time, there are three functioning Grand Priorities within the Order: the Grand Priory of the Baltic Sea, the Grand Priory of Canada, and the Grand Priory of the United States. Each Grand Priory is led by a Grand Prior and governed by a Grand Priory Council.

Each Grand Priory consists of Commanderies. In Canada, there are four Commanderies, each headed by a Knight Commander. These Commanderies are located in London, Montreal, Toronto, and Hamilton. The four Commanderies constitute the Grand Priory of Canada, which is led by the Grand Prior of Canada and the Grand Priory Council.

The Grand Priory Council consists of the Grand Prior, Lieutenant Grand Prior (Deputy), Grand Bailiff (Honours and Awards), Grand Chancellor (Secretary of the Council), Grand Marshal (Ceremonies), Grand Hospitaller (Charities), Grand Treasurer, Grand Registrar (Membership), Grand Prelate (Chaplain), and two Grand Counsellors (Liaisons to Sovereign Council).

What are the objectives of the Order?

The purposes and objectives of the Order are:

- A. To encourage and promote the highest ideals of Christian chivalry;
- B. To encourage and promote all works of humanity and charity for the relief of persons in sickness, distress, suffering and danger, without distinction as to race, colour, creed or national origin;
- C. To render aid to the sick and injured and to promote such organizations as may be available in times of emergency or strife;
- D. To award medals, badges or certificates of honour and merit for special acts or services in the cause of humanity, especially for protecting or saving life or property at imminent personal risk;
- E. To maintain the Mission of Saint John;
- F. To develop and maintain educational institutions, the purposes of which are:
 - i. the instruction of persons in the Christian ethic, in the study of man and generally in those things for the rescue and relief of the suffering and injured throughout the world, irrespective of race, class or creed;
 - ii. the instruction of persons for the purpose of effectively combining and utilizing individual efforts in the service of mankind;
- G. To form associations or organizations in furtherance of the general objectives and purposes of the Order;
- H. To receive and accept donations, endowments, gifts and bequests of money, lands, hereditaments, stocks, funds, shares, securities, and other assets whatsoever; and
- I. To establish Archives to collect print volumes, works of art, and objects of historical interest relating to the Order.

What type of person is the Order looking for?

The Order is looking to recognize professing Christians who do good work in their community. Joining the Order is a way of demonstrating your commitment to helping others less fortunate.

What is my time commitment as a member of the Order?

Each Commandery usually holds four events per year: a Church service, a Christmas event, a summer outing, and an Annual General Meeting. An Investiture is held every two years, rotating among the Commanderies and consists of a Friday evening meet-and-greet, an Investiture ceremony on Saturday afternoon, followed by a gala dinner.

How do I progress through the ranks of the Order?

Once you are accepted into the Order, you become **Member**. You will receive a letter of welcome from the Grand Chancellor of the Priory as well as your Commander. You will be received, at one of your Commandery dinners, as a **Jurat**. You may be made a **Companion** at the first Investiture you attend and may become a **Knight/Dame** after a further two years. If you choose to head a Commandery, you will be promoted to **Knight or Dame Commander**. You can also become a **Knight or Dame Commander** by serving on the Grand Priory Council or by being appointed a General Officer of Sovereign Council. The High Officers of the Sovereign Council are **Bailiffs Grand Cross**.

What is my financial commitment as a member of the Order?

All members of the Order pay annual Oblations. Oblations range from \$70. to \$125., depending on one's rank. The Oblations are pooled in the Knights Hospitaller Foundation and donated to local charities of the Commanderies' choosing. Recipients of these donations are discussed and chosen at the Commandery Annual General Meeting.

Commandery dues (\$25.) are levied annually.

There is a passage fee, currently \$150., for promotion to Knight/Dame, plus the cost of an Order mantle (cape) of approximately \$265.

The admission fee is \$245.00, which includes that year's oblations. Oblations are tax-deductible.

The Order has no paid employees. All money collected is donated to charity or used for minimal administrative expenses of the Order (mailings, etc).

What happens if I fail to pay my Oblations?

If you fail to pay your Oblations, you are demitted from the Order. If you have difficulty paying your Oblations, please speak with your Commander. Once you have been demitted, you are no longer entitled to wear any insignia of the Order.

How are members of the Order identified?

Rank	Medal	Neck Decoration	Star	Post-Nominals
Member				MH
Jurat	Lapel pin			JH
Companion	Medal	Neck decoration		CH
Knight/Dame	Medal with Knight's Trophy	Neck decoration with Knights Trophy		KH or DH
Knight Commander	Medal with Knight's Trophy	Neck decoration with Knights Trophy	Knight Commander's Star	KH or DH
Bailiff Grand Cross	Medal with Knight's Trophy	Neck decoration with Bailiff's Trophy	Bailiff's Star	KH or DH

The Order also has a blazer crest and tie.

What do I wear at dinners and Investitures?

Normally, Order members wear evening dress (black tie or military mess dress) at all Order formal functions. Social events may be business dress or business casual.

Does the Order have a website?

Yes. www.hospitaller.ca

How many members does the Order have in Canada?

The Grand Priory in Canada has approximately 170 members and is growing.

Is the Order open to both men and women?

Absolutely! In fact, the last Grand Master was Bailiff Sandra Brown of Toronto.

What is the procedure for joining the Order?

The Order Curriculum Vitae (CV) is to be completed by the postulant, giving all the information required on page 3 of the CV. Also to be included are:

- A recent formal passport size photograph
- A copy of the applicant's Birth Certificate or a copy of the relevant material from the applicant's passport
- A cheque payable to HOSJ for \$245. (application \$150., oblations \$70., and

- Commandery fees \$25.) Note: we do not collect oblations and dues after November 1
- If armigerous, an illustration of the Arms and details of the granting and confirming authority
 - If noble, the granting and confirming authority plus documentary proof of legitimate descent from the grantee of such nobility.

Are there other Orders of Saint John?

Yes, there are many Orders of Saint John in existence. All are descended from the ancient Knights of Saint John. In Canada, the Order was first introduced in 1829 when a regimental lodge attached to troops stationed at London, Canada West (afterwards Ontario) was instituted. The Order recognizes that there are other Hospitaller Orders and Orders of Saint John. It respects any legitimate claims by other Orders to the historical and spiritual links of the original Knights Hospitallers granted Letters Patent in Jerusalem in 1113 A.D. It encourages good Christian work and welcomes all those who seek to bring relief to the needy.

See the attached chart for the Concordat Orders (Our Order is the bottom centre box).

How long does it take to become a member?

The length of time it takes to become a member varies but new applicants are normally processed within 4-8 weeks.

Does the Order have a motto?

Yes. *Pro Fide et Pro Utilitate Hominum* (For Faith and For Service to Humanity).

What recognition is given for special merit of a member?

A member may be recommended for an honour or an award for his/her service within the Order or for meritorious service within the community. The recipient is nominated by a member of the Order. The citation is submitted to the Grand Bailiff who heads the Honours and Awards Committee for approval. There are various awards available to recognize members for their outstanding work within the Order. There are also awards to non-members who are outstanding citizens within the community and who have shown worthwhile accomplishments and contributions in keeping with the principles of the Order.

What are Pilgrim Shells?

The Pilgrim Shell is an award that the Order has adopted as a symbol that the member has made a pilgrimage to a Christian site that is recognized as being meaningful to the Order. There are three types of shells: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. To warrant a Bronze shell the applicant must have visited **one** of the Pilgrimage Sites specified in the *Guidelines for the Pilgrim Brochure*. Two sites visited results in being qualified to wear the Silver shell and a visit to three of the sites warrants the Gold shell. A pilgrimage to sites in Israel automatically qualifies for the Gold shell.

The Pilgrimmaster General of the Order is the officer to whom an application for the shell is to be submitted along with documentation of the pilgrimage (i.e. pictures taken at the site, etc.) Only one shell (the most senior) is worn by the recipient and only on formal attire.

Is the Order a registered charity?

Yes, our charitable arm is the Knights Hospitaller Foundation—a Canadian charity registered with the Canada Revenue Agency. We are a Public Foundation and our charitable registration number is 118984509RR0001.

Whom do I contact if I require more information or want to be considered for admission?

grandprior@hospitaller.ca