

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
AND THE APPENDANT ORDERS OF
MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND**

Sir Knight James Ian Ogilvie
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Sir Knight Donald S. Stevens
Eminent Grand Recorder

October 28th 2023

*To all constituent Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of, and holding allegiance to, the Grand
Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:*

GENERAL ORDER, NO. 1

Greetings Sir Knights,

Together with the Inspector instructor and the Grand Commandery line officers, we are pleased to formally announce the inspection guidelines for the 2023-2024 Templar year.

Please see below the Inspection format for this year. You will see there have been some changes to the inspection requirements, but the Inspection format is staying the same as last year. The receiving of the Inspecting Officer will again be a separate event and is not part of the Orders.

Your Grand Commandery Officers hope that this format will continue to highlight the continued efforts put forth by each commandery in our grand jurisdiction and continue to sharpen the work.

One change to this year's format, to encourage diversity of work, is if you perform a different order this year than you did last year, you will receive 20 bonus points.

Attachment A - Inspection Information and Additional Information

Attachment B - Guidelines for Reception

Attachment C - Exemplifications

General Order No. 1 – Attachment A

INSPECTION INFORMATION

- ❖ Inspections will be performed between November 1st 2023 to April 30th 2024.
- ❖ Inspection and dress rehearsal dates must be submitted and approved by November 30th 2023. If they are not provided, the Inspector Instructor together with the Division Commander will set the date.
 - Dress rehearsal: Should be scheduled at least one week in advance of the Inspection.
- ❖ Inspections on a Saturday may not begin prior to 1:00PM without dispensation.
- ❖ No Inspection work on Sundays.
- ❖ Inspections on a weeknight must begin at 6:00PM.
- ❖ There must be a meal and Head Tables will be required. The Eminent Commander should collaborate with the Deputy Grand Warder to assure the head table is arranged properly.

MARKING INFORMATION

For the Templar year 2023 – 2024, each Commandery will perform and be marked on the following work:

- ❖ Short Form Opening
- ❖ Each Commandery may choose to perform any one of the three orders of Templary for marking with the following requirements:
 - Order of Red Cross - must be full form and with appropriate costuming. May be performed with or without live candidates.
 - Order of Malta - must be full form and with appropriate costuming. May be performed with or without live candidates.
 - Order of the Temple - must be performed in appropriate and approved Templar Uniforms and Prelates Costume and additional costuming as needed. The work to be done is as follows:
 - With No Candidates:
 - Omit Chamber of Reflection
 - Omit Years of Pilgrimage
 - Omit Years of Warfare
 - Omit Sepulcher Scene

- With Candidates:
 - Full Order of the Temple will be performed.
 - More than 3 Sir Knights receiving the order will require dispensation and this may be required to be an afternoon inspection.
 - The following portions will not be marked: Chamber of Reflection, Hermit Pilgrimage, Years of Warfare, and Sepulcher Scene.
- Reception of Inspecting Officer on a separate night. If two commanderies performed their order together for inspection, they will do this together as well. Under extreme circumstances the Grand Commander may issue a dispensation to make it a Divisional Reception of Inspecting officer with good cause given. Dispensation can be granted to do Reception the same day as inspection, when requested and with good cause.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ❖ Each Commandery may perform the inspection alone or with another commandery. No more than 2 commanderies may receive credit for an inspection, regardless of number participating. Sir Knights from other commanderies may help, but their commandery will not receive credit.
- ❖ The top 5 elected officers of each credited commandery participating in the inspection must do an acceptable amount for their respective office. The Division Commander will determine the acceptable level, after consulting with officers participating.
- ❖ Dispensation requests must be submitted as soon as possible if doing a joint inspection stating which commanderies will be doing the work together. These are the 2 that will get credit for that inspection.

It is our hope that you will treat your inspections as opportunities to work candidates and strengthen your commandery. As stated in this document, the marked work is being done separately from the Reception of the Division Commander and Inspecting of the Troops. That information is below in this document.

We hope that the work that so many put in to do well in the inspection will be utilized to its full extent by also working candidates. Last year many candidates went through the orders while being inspected and the work was extremely impressive to those new Sir Knights. Please contact the Grand Commander or your Division Commander with any questions.

General Order No. 1 – Attachment B

Guidelines for the Semi-Public Reception of the Division Commander

- ❖ Reception of the Division Commander **will be marked**.
- ❖ Invitations to our Ladies, Blue Lodge Brethren, Royal Arch and Council Companions and the public are suggested and encouraged.
 - We highly encourage every division to invite all whom might be interested. This can serve as an awareness and recruitment event as well as enhancing fellowship and social time with our Sir Knights and ladies.
 - The Public Reception of the Division Commander must take place after November 1st 2023 and before May 15th 2024.
 - All Commanderies must submit dates for the Reception of the Division Commander to the Division Commander before November 30, 2023
 - Dress rehearsal should be scheduled at least one week prior to the event.
- ❖ Work to be done for the Public Reception of the Division Commander
 - Count
 - Form Commandery lines
 - Sword Manual
 - Inspection
 - Omit: Pass and Review
 - Dismiss Divisions
 - Flags & Banners
 - Division Commander remarks
 - Generalissimo speaks on the charities
 - Division Commander remarks
 - Grand Commanders Comments if present
 - Short form closing by Division Commander
 - Social Period and/or Dinner

Dinner: Head tables will be required. The Eminent Commander should collaborate with the Deputy Grand Warder to assure the head table is arranged properly.

General Order No. 1 – Attachment C

EXEMPLIFICATION INFORMATION

Exemplification on the Order of the Temple and Reception of the Division Commander:

Sat. November 25th at 9:00 a.m. in Milford

Sat. January 13th at 9:00 a.m. at Calvary, East Prov.

Sat. February 3rd at 9:00 a.m. in Haverhill

Exemplification on the Order of Red Cross:

To Be Determined

Exemplification on the Order of Malta:

To Be Determined

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, at Boston, Massachusetts, on this, the 28th day of October, 2023, A.O. 905.

James Ian Ogilvie



GRAND COMMANDER

ATTEST:



Donald S. Stevens
GRAND RECORDER

