

Color Corps Drill Manual

General Information



PURPOSE OF THE COLOR CORPS OF THE FOURTH DEGREE

When knighthood was in flower, knights carried the sword to defend their God, their Church, their country and their fellow man according to the code of chivalry. Today, Sir Knights wear regalia and carry the sword to honor Christ and His apostles, especially on religious and civic occasions specified in this manual. Hence, the primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to encourage active Catholic citizenship and foster the spirit of patriotism in members and the community at large.

The Color Corps members exemplify all the principles of our Order:

- **Charity** - by the gift of their time and energies necessary to practice, perfect and perform the ceremonials and sword drill;
- **Unity** – by the united efforts of Sir Knights to practice and perfect a coordinated drill for the good of the Church and the Order;
- **Fraternity** – by expressing an “Esprit de Corps,” sharing a common desire for drill excellence and camaraderie; and
- **Patriotism** – by performing precision drill as a salute to God and to country and visually exhibiting a love for both.

The public appearance of Fourth Degree Knights as a Color Corps at religious and civic functions is an important activity of each assembly. Their colorful capes and chapeaux add dignity and the pride of Church and country to any event. By these public demonstrations their loyalties bring credit to themselves and to the Knights of Columbus.

ABBREVIATION GUIDE OF THE FOURTH DEGREE

Supreme Master -	S.M.
Vice Supreme Master -	V.S.M.
Master of the District -	M.F.D.
Marshal -	M.
Faithful Navigator -	F.N.
Color Corps Commander -	C.C.C.
Color Corps -	C.C.
Color Guard -	C.G.
Honor Guard -	H.G.

COLOR CORPS DESCRIPTION

The **Color Corps (C.C.)** has two sub-groups, the **Color Guard (C.G.)** and the **Honor Guard (H.G.)**. The Color Guard consists of the flag bearers and at least two members of the Honor Guard who escort the colors. The Honor Guard consists of members of the Color Corps who have mastered the Manual of the Sword.

In many assemblies, all members of the Color Corps belong to the Honor Guard. This should be kept in mind when following the procedures in this manual.

COLOR CORPS REGULATIONS

Every assembly should organize and maintain a Fourth Degree Color Corps under the supervision and direction of the Master of the District. Such bodies may participate in Installation of Officers, Fourth Degree Exemplifications, religious and public functions and parades and other functions, with consent of the Master of the District.

The training and activities of an assembly's Color Corps should be coordinated and directed by a Color Corps Commander (C.C.C.) to be appointed by the Faithful Navigator.

It is important to remember that when individual members of the Color Corps appear at public functions they are not only representing themselves, but also their assembly and the entire Order of the Knights of Columbus. Their conduct and appearance should reflect this at all times. The regulations for the Color Corps (C.C.) apply to the following:

1. Color Corps (C.C.): A Fourth Degree Knight, who has been trained and possesses the official regalia, in good repair, is eligible to participate in C.C. functions.
2. The assembly will have a Color Corps Commander (C.C.C.) appointed by the Faithful Navigator (F.N.) for a term not to exceed that of the F.N. The assembly shall own and furnish the C.C.C. with a purple cape and chapeau (that matches the color as set forth in the Laws of the Fourth Degree), which shall be returned to the Assembly at the end of the F.N.'s term of office, or sooner if requested by the F.N. The C.C.C. is responsible for securing his own sword, service baldric and gloves.
3. Expenses incurred by the C.C. are the responsibility of the assembly and are not chargeable to the fund of the District Master (M.F.D.).

4. The M.F.D. must contact the Ordinary of the Diocese as to his wishes pertaining to the C.C. in liturgical events. The pastor of a church must also be consulted, and his approval obtained, before any function can take place in his parish. **Please note: the policies as approved by the Ordinary for the C.C. will ALWAYS take precedence.**
5. The Marshal (M.) is the Commander in charge at any district or provincial event where he is acting on behalf of the M.F.D.
6. The Color Corps may not cross district lines except with the approval of the M.F.D.s involved and have received approval of the Vice Supreme Master (V.S.M.). For a multi-assembly function, when all C.C. members are invited to participate, the M.F.D., through his M., will be in charge.
7. For Supreme Council functions, where C.C. members come from Order-wide jurisdictions, the C.C. will be under the direction of the host V.S.M with support from the hosting M.F.D. and his M.
8. The assembly C.C. may perform at any internal or external function in its designated service area and shall be under the direction of the assembly's F.N. through the C.C.C.

OFFICIAL REGALIA OF THE FOURTH DEGREE

OFFICIAL REGALIA DRESS – MEMBERS

The Fourth Degree member official regalia dress is as follows:

- Black Tuxedo
- Plain White Tuxedo Shirt -
pleated and with collar
(No wing tip collars)
- Black Bow Tie
- Tuxedo Studs and Cuff Links
- Black Cummerbund
(No Vests)
- Black Footwear



- Social Baldric (Worn under the coat, from right shoulder to left hip)
- Lapel Pin (The only pin worn on the lapel is the official pin of the Fourth Degree, which is available from the Knights of Columbus supreme Supply Department – item PG-113)
- Name Badge.

In warm climates and during warm months, a white dinner jacket may be worn, if done as a unit but only with the approval of the V.S.M. or M.F.D.

A member serving in the armed forces, a full-time police officer or firefighter is in proper attire when wearing the Class A dress uniform. He does not wear a baldric.



When a Fourth Degree member attends an official function of the Order where Fourth Degree dress is required (whether member regalia or Color Corps regalia), he may wear the jewel of his office around his neck, be it Third Degree or Fourth Degree, together with his baldric. This applies **ONLY** if he is currently serving in that office.

A Former Supreme Director, Past State Deputy, Former Vice Supreme Master, Former District Master, Former District Deputy, Past Grand Knight or Past Faithful Navigator may wear the miniature jewel of those offices in accordance with the guidelines detailed in this manual and in the Protocol Handbook.

**OFFICIAL REGALIA DRESS – MEMBERS
PICTORIAL VIEW**



Black Tuxedo



White Pleated Tuxedo
Shirt with a Straight
Collar With Studs and
Cuff Links



Cummerbund

Social Baldric



4th Degree
Lapel Pin

OFFICIAL REGALIA DRESS – COLOR CORPS

The Knights of Columbus Color Corps official regalia dress is the same as the official regalia dress of a member, with the following additions and as set forth in the Laws of the Fourth Degree (Article XI, “Official Dress and Regalia,” Sections 38 and 40):

- Black Chapeau with a plume of the color of the office as stated in this manual together with a Fourth Degree emblem on the right side
- Black Cape with a lining of the color of the office as stated in this manual together with a Fourth Degree emblem patch on the left shoulder. The Fourth Degree emblem is the ONLY adornment on the cape
- White gloves
- Service Baldric, together with a sword, worn over the tuxedo jacket front from the right shoulder to the left hip. When a sword is not permitted for any reason the Service Baldric shall be worn nevertheless. The Social Baldric is not worn when the Service Baldric is worn
- Color bearers wear a color-bearer harness and the Service Baldric with no sword
- The same rules apply with reference to wearing of jewels of office by incumbents only and the Past and Former Miniature Jewels of office as described in the Protocol Handbook
- A pocket name badge shall not be worn when dressed in Color Corps regalia.



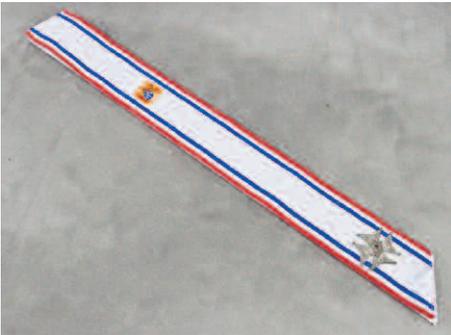
**OFFICIAL REGALIA DRESS – COLOR CORPS
PICTORIAL VIEW**



Cape



Black Handled Sword with Scabbard



Baldric



Chapeau



Flag Holder



White Gloves

OFFICIAL COLORS OF THE FOURTH DEGREE

The cape and chapeau colors for the Fourth Degree Color Corps are set forth in the Laws of the Fourth Degree, Article XI, and shall be as follows:

Supreme Master & Former Supreme Master

Dark Blue Cape and Chapeau/Dark Blue Plume Pantone # 19-4035 TC

Vice Supreme Master & Former Vice Supreme Master

Light Blue Cape and Chapeau/Light Blue Plume Pantone # 14-4313 TC

District Master & Former District Master

Gold Cape and Chapeau/Gold Plume Pantone # 13-0941 TC

Marshal

Green Cape and Chapeau/Green Plume Pantone # 18-5315 TC

Faithful Navigator & Past Faithful Navigator

White Cape and Chapeau/White Plume Pantone # 11-0601 TC

Assembly Commander

Purple Cape and Chapeau/Purple Plume Pantone # 19-3542 TC

Color Corps

Red Cape and Chapeau/White Plume Pantone # 19-1663 TC

OFFICIAL BALDRIC COLORS BY COUNTRY

The Supreme Council Board of Directors recommended that the colors of the Fourth Degree baldrics (SERVICE AND SOCIAL) used in different countries by assembly officers be as follows:

- United States & Territories Red, White and Blue
- Canada Red and White
- Mexico Red, White and Green
- Philippines Red, White and Blue
- Cuba, Dominican Republic, Panama Red, White and Blue
- Guatemala Blue and White
- Poland White and Red

PAST AND FORMER MINIATURE JEWELS

AUTHORIZED DISPLAY OF MINIATURE JEWELS ON REGALIA:

1. Miniature past and former jewels in the order of precedence is detailed below. They are worn upon the formal tuxedo jacket, centered on the left front panel between the lapel and the left armhole seam with the bottom edge of the jewel(s) $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the top of the pocket.
2. A maximum of four medals may be worn on a single row with the left edge of the holding bar aligned with the left edge of the pocket.
3. If a second (or multiple) row(s) of medals is worn, the bottom edge of the ribbons on the top row of medals will extend down to the top edge of the MEDALS on the bottom row. When the upper row contains 4 medals the left edge of the holding bar will be aligned with the left edge of the pocket. When the upper row contains less than 4 medals it will be centered above the lower row (see pictured diagrams).
4. No medals of any other group or organization are allowed to be worn in regalia, whether social or color corps.

PRECEDENCE OF MINIATURE JEWELS

The order of precedence for the wearing of Papal Orders and Knights of Columbus miniature medals is as follows:

- Papal Orders (Knight of St. Gregory, Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, Knight of Malta, etc.)
- Former Supreme Director
- Past State Deputy
- Former Vice Supreme Master
- Former District Master
- Former District Deputy
- Past Grand Knight
- Past Faithful Navigator



PICTORIAL VIEW OF PRECEDENCE OF MINIATURE JEWELS

[**Note:** The jewels pictured in Diagrams #1–#7 show the order of precedence, with the highest office attained always nearer to the lapel. Papal Order medals that have been awarded are always given a higher precedence than the Knights of Columbus jewels. The diagrams below show precedence without any Papal Order medals.]



Diagram 1
Past Grand Knight



Diagram 2
Past Grand Knight
Past Faithful Navigator



Diagram 2
Former District Deputy
Past Grand Knight
Past Faithful Navigator



Diagram 4
Former District Master
Former District Deputy
Past Grand Knight
Past Faithful Navigator



Diagram 5
Past State Deputy
Former District Master
Former District Deputy
Past Grand Knight
Past Faithful Navigator



Diagram 6
Past State Deputy
Former Vice Supreme Master
Former District Master
Former District Deputy
Past Grand Knight
Past Faithful Navigator



Diagram 7
Papal Medal
Past State Deputy
Former Vice Supreme Master
Former District Master
Former District Deputy
Past Grand Knight
Past Faithful Navigator