THE HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM
KNIGHTS HOSPITALLER

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER
ORIENTATION

THE GRAND PRIORY OF THE KNIGHTS
HOSPITALLER
IN CANADA
What is the Hospitaller Order of St 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 St. John of Jerusalem requires all members to be active 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 the 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 (all members of the Order). It defines procedures on 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.

The Grand Priory is the largest geographical unit within the Order. It may embrace several countries, a single country; or a portion of a country. Its boundaries are approved by the Sovereign Council of the Order. At the present time there are three functioning Grand Priories within the Order: the Grand Priory of Canada, the Grand Priory of the United States, and the Grand Priory of the Baltic. Each Grand Priory is led by a Grand Prior and governed by a 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 of Canada Council consists of: the Grand Prior, Lt Grand Prior, Grand Treasurer, Grand Chancellor (Secretary of the Council), Grand Bailiff (Honours and Awards), Grand Registrar (membership rolls), Grand Marshall (ceremonies and regalia), two Sovereign Counselors, Grand Prelate, Grand Hospitaller, Attorney General and Director of Insignia.
What are the objects of the Order?

The purposes and objects 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 St 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; and

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 objects 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;

I. To establish a Library and Museum, and to collect 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 spring and Christmas dinner, a summer outing and an Annual General Meeting. An Investiture is held every two years, rotating among Commanderies and consists of a Friday meet and greet, a ceremony on Saturday afternoon, followed by an Investiture 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 will be made a Companion at the first Investiture you attend and may become a Knight/Dame after two years. If you choose to head up a Commandery – you will become a Knight or Dame Commander. You can also become a Knight or Dame Commander by serving on the Priory Council.

If you become a general officer of Sovereign Council you are promoted Bailiff, 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. These Oblations are $125 per year for Knights/Dames – less for Companions and Jurats. The Oblations are pooled in the Knight Hospitaller Foundation and are donated to local charities of the Commanderies choosing. Recipients of these donations are discussed and chosen at the Commandery AGM.

There is a passage fee for promotion to Knight/Dame and each member is responsible for purchasing their own regalia.

The admission fee is $245.00 but includes that years Oblations. Oblations are tax-deductible.

The Order has no paid employees. All money collected is donated to charity or used for 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 are demitted from the Order you are no longer entitled to the wearing of any medals or insignia of the Order.

How are members of the Order identified?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Medal</th>
<th>Neckpiece</th>
<th>Star</th>
<th>Post-Nominal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
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<td>Jurat</td>
<td>Jurats pin</td>
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<td>JH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Companion</td>
<td>Medal</td>
<td>Neck decoration</td>
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<td>Knight/Dame</td>
<td>Medal with Knights Trophy</td>
<td>Neck decoration with Knights Trophy</td>
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<td>KH or DH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knight Commander</td>
<td>Medal with Knights Trophy</td>
<td>Neck decoration with Knights Trophy</td>
<td>Knight Commanders Star</td>
<td>KH or DH</td>
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The Order also has a Blazer crest and an Order 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. Outings and the AGM are usually business casual.

**Does the Order have a website?**

Yes. [www.hospitaller.ca](http://www.hospitaller.ca)

**How many members does the Order have in Canada?**

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

**Is the Order open to both men and women?**

Absolutely! The last Grand Master was Sandra Brown of Toronto.

**What is the procedure for joining the Order?**

The Order Curriculum Vitae is to be completed by the postulant - giving all of the information required on page 3 of the CV. Also 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 $245.00 (Application $150, Oblation – Member $70. And Commandery fees $25) NOTE: we do not collect Oblations and dues after Nov 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 St John?**

Yes there are many Orders of St John in existence. All are descended from the Ancient Knights of St John. In Canada, the Order was first introduced to Canada 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 formed 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 middle bottom 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, Pro Utilitate Hominum (For Faith, For Service to Humanity).

What recognition is given for special merits 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 must first be nominated by a member of the Order and the citation is submitted to the Honours and Awards Committee for approval. There are various awards available to recognize someone for his/her 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 is the meaning of the PILGRIM SHELL?

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, each one relating to a site visited by the member. To warrant a Bronze Shell the applicant must have visited one of the Pilgrimage Sites as 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 a 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 may be worn by the recipient and only on formal attire.

Is the Order a registered charity?

Yes, the Knights Hospitaller Foundation is a registered Canadian charity in accordance with the Canadian Revenue Agency.

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

grandprior@hospitaller.ca