



Grand Commandery Knights Templar Virginia



The Drill Corps:



Drill Team Activity and Recognition Manual

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Introduction and Purpose

Membership is the most critical issue to all bodies within Masonry, which includes the Knights Templar. Drill Team activities support both membership recruiting and membership retention efforts. As such it is a vital program under the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia. The ability to be in a Christian-based Masonic body is a huge enticement for our membership. Several (but by no means all) Sir Knights are former military. Many of them (as well as others) enjoyed and were originally drawn into membership because of the uniform, sword, and tactics that can be a part of being a Sir Knight. Drill Team activities are an additional part of that draw to membership in the Knights Templar.

Drill Team and drill related activities are not mandatory. Nor should they be. However, when not used for the purpose of polishing tactics and Asylum floor work, drill related activities are an important and additional option that Sir Knights have to come together and perform in either exhibition or competition. Exhibition includes but is not limited to drill routine demonstrations, color guards, flag ceremonies, and parades. Competition includes but is not limited to the Grand Commandery Drill Competition and the Grand Encampment Triennial Drill Competition.

As Drill Team activities support membership and as every Commandery is required to have unit (per Section 62(d) of *The Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms, and Approved Decisions of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America*) for such purposes, participation in drill related activities is highly encouraged and should be rewarded for different levels of activity and commitment. When we are Created as Knights Templar, we receive the Order of the Red Cross and Order of Malta jewels. Not including subjective, individual award recognition that only one or two Sir Knights per year can earn (e.g. KTCH, Meritorious Service Medal, Grice, etc.) and other than proficiency in conferring the Orders, the majority of recognition for the individual Sir Knight comes from philanthropy donations...which are extremely important. Drill bars (explained later in this manual) are meritorious awards that address individual Sir Knight participation in individual Grand Commandery and Grand Encampment drill events. The winning teams also receive some form of recognition.

Drill Corps Membership is the highest form of recognition in drill related activity. Its purpose is to encourage significant and/or long-term participation and specifically reward the *excellence* (one of our core values) that is achieved through the *zeal* and *action* exhibited by individual Sir Knights in conducting drill related activities. This is demonstrated by the level of commitment necessary to practice for, travel to, and compete in the Grand Encampment Drill Competition (past participants are shown in **Attachment 1**) as well as to attend various Grand Commandery drill related activities over a number of years; both of which are highly desired by the Grand Commandery and, thus, the achieving of either of these commitments must be recognized.

The purpose of this manual is to provide information about Drill Team activities and provide details on the methods of recognition in order to encourage as much participation as possible; in particular, **Drill Corps Membership**.

Drill...Long Established History

History of Drill in General:

To provide a little high-level history, the steady, regular marching step was a marked feature of Roman Legions. They recognized the importance of constant practice of marching quick and together. Military marching of foot formations into a battle was a common practice in most European countries for centuries, and this practice was carried over into the new world during the Revolutionary War. Since that time, it has been phased out by advances in military equipment and tactics; however, foot drill remains an important part of military education, training, and discipline.

As stated previously, many drill procedures used by the modern military were developed during the Revolutionary War. The purpose of the drill then was to instill discipline in American soldiers. As these soldiers mastered the art of the drill, they began to work as a team and to develop a sense of pride in themselves and in their unit. Today, the same objectives—teamwork, confidence, pride, alertness, attention to detail, esprit de corps, and discipline—are all accomplished by drill. Various groups today display their strength with synchronized parades. New research shows that when groups march in unison, it not only intimidates enemies (if that is the desire), but also gives the marching group a confidence boost.

History of Drill in Virginia Knight Templary:

Competitive drill has continued to grow in Virginia since its resurgence in 1996 through efforts lead by our Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, Sir Knight Paul L. Purdy. A team from Virginia has participated in drill competition at every Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America since 1997 (**team photo below**). Those trailblazing Sir Knights demonstrated the enthusiasm and commitment necessary to practice for, travel to, and participate in competitive drill at the 60th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America in St. Louis, MO.



Benefits of Drill

Drill activities directly support membership enhancement and ritualistic improvement; two of our “Swords of Progress” found in *The Long Range Plan*. Drill Team activities improve and build individual confidence in tactics and sword work demonstrated in all of our ritual and work. These are taught, rehearsed, and improved upon when conducting drill activities.

Anytime we perform these drill skills in public we are also, in fact, actively recruiting for our membership. Competitive drill also builds cohesiveness. A team comes together, practices, and then performs as a unit. There are opportunities to meet other Fraters who are doing the same. This is one of the best benefits, drill activities build camaraderie and *esprit de corps* within the fraternity, thus encouraging membership retention.



(Photos covering years of camaraderie and fun at Grand Commandery Drill Competitions)

Drill Team Activities

Grand Commandery Drill Corps School and Competition:

Currently, at least once per year, the Grand Commandery holds a Drill School immediately followed by a Virginia Class ‘E’ Drill Team competition. The Drill School goes over the sword manual and every sequence of commands in the Drill Routine prior to the competition. All of these can be found in the “*DRILL REGULATIONS of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.*” (I recommend every Commandery have one.)



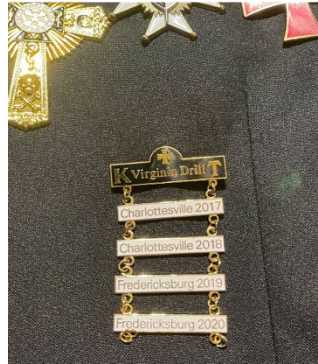
(Attendees of the first Drill School)

The Class ‘E’ Drill Team consists of five Sir Knights: one Captain, four Marchers, and one optional “Supernumerary Knight” or extra Sir Knight. All team members must have membership in a Virginia Commandery, but for the purposes of the Drill School and Competition, they do not have to belong to the same Commandery. Every Sir Knight who attends will have the opportunity to compete. As Drill Teams are formed from among the Sir Knights who attend, to ensure that everyone can compete, some Sir Knights may be on multiple teams. The winner of the competition is the recipient of the Fitz Allen Brown Memorial Drill Trophy for the year.



(2020 Drill Competition Champions and Trophy)

All marching Sir Knights who stand for Personal Inspection and compete as well as all Supernumerary Knights who stand for Personal Inspection will receive a Grand Commandery Drill Bar that displays the location and year of the event. For those who compete for the first time, they will also receive “Knight Templar Virginia Drill” header on which the Drill Bar is suspended. It authorized to be worn on the Knight Templar Dress Uniform and is centered below your Order of Malta jewel. See picture below.



Grand Commandery Drill Exhibition:

On occasion one or more Drill Teams may be honored and provided an opportunity to put on a Drill Exhibition for the Grand Commandery. This is a public display or demonstration of a Drill Team’s skill and precision. It is an honor for the Drill Team as well as an unexpected pleasure for any spectators.



New River Valley Commandery #32 is pictured on the left and is the first Drill Team to be offered the honor of performing a Grand Commandery Drill Exhibition.

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Triennial Drill Competition:

Every three years, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA (GEKT) convenes a Triennial Conclave. Generally, on the first Saturday of the Triennial Conclave they hold a Drill Competition. They split the competition into Drill Team classes, based upon the size of the competing Drill Teams. As an example, if you have a team consisting of 31 marching Sir Knights you would be in a Class ‘A’ Drill Team. Our Grand Commandery typically fields a Class ‘D’ Drill Team which has 7 marching Sir Knights. GEKT Drill Team competition information can be found here: <https://www.knightstemplar.org/drillteam.html>.



(Virginia Team that competed at the 2018 GEKT Triennial)

Regardless of the size of the Drill Team, the competition allows for 2 “Supernumerary Knights.” These are extra members of the Drill Team that can take the place of a marching Sir Knight in the event that they are not able to march, for whatever reason. The Supernumerary Knights are required to stand for Personal Inspection, but not to march unless called upon to do so and, they are not included in the Drill Team score, unless they march.

All marching Sir Knights who stand for Personal Inspection and compete as well as all Supernumerary Knights who stand for Personal Inspection will receive a Grand Encampment Drill Bar. For those who compete for the first time, they will also receive Grand Encampment header on which the Drill Bar is suspended. It authorized to be worn on the Knight Templar Dress Uniform and, like the Virginia Drill Bar is located below your Order of Malta jewel. If you also have Grand Commandery Drill Bars, they are centered below your Order of Malta jewel with the Grand Encampment Drill Bar on the left. See picture below.



Asylum Drill Competition:

Some of our Commanderies struggle to get the necessary number of Sir Knights to open and conduct business at their Stated Conclaves. The Asylum Drill Committee is a Class 'E' Drill Routine designed to be performed in the Commandery Asylum. Though this program was intended to help the struggling Commanderies, it is open to all Commanderies. A Class 'E' Drill Team is composed of 5 Sir Knights (1 captain and 4 members). A Commandery can challenge another Commandery to attend their Stated Conclave for friendly competition which can be their program for the evening, if desired. If the challenging Commandery has their team of 5 Sir Knights (who are members of their Commandery) and the challenged Commandery brings their team of 5 Sir Knights, there will be enough Sir Knights to open and conduct business.

Other Drill Related Activities:

There are other drill related activities that have many of the same benefits as competitive drill and, as such, are also highly encouraged. These typically fall within the 'exhibition' category, meaning they are a non-competitive display of Knights Templary that may or may not include precision tactics. Though not an all-inclusive list, some examples of this are marching as a unit in parades, performing flag ceremonies, and presenting the colors at public or private events.



(Sir Knights participating in the presentation of colors)

Drill Corps Membership Recognition

Drill Corps Membership Levels:

Drill Corps Membership recognizes two distinct forms of commitment and participation. As such Drill Corps Membership has two levels: Permanent and Temporary.

Permanent Drill Corps Membership is based upon commitment to practice for, travel to, and participate in the Triennial Grand Encampment Drill Competition. Requirements for Permanent Drill Corps Membership were established by the award proposition and are as follows:

Any Sir Knight who, as a member of a Drill Team beholden to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia, participates in a Triennial Grand Encampment Drill Competition as a marching member, Commander, or supernumerary and earned a Grand Encampment Drill Competition Bar will be inducted into the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia Drill Corps as a permanent member. As a Permanent Drill Corps Member, a Sir Knight is awarded the Drill Corps Badge that may be worn permanently.

Temporary Drill Corps Membership is based upon active, continuous long-term participation in Grand Commandery drill related activities. Requirements for Temporary Drill Corps Membership are established by the Chairman of the Drill Team Committee and **are subject to change and interpretation**. Once the criteria is met, an application for membership can be submitted to the Drill Team Committee (see **Attachment 2**). The general requirements for Temporary Drill Corps Membership are as follows:

*Any Sir Knight who is a member of a Commandery beholden to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia who actively participates in **approved** drill related activities shall be awarded the Drill Corps Badge as a Temporary Drill Corps Member. Once awarded, should active participation in drill related activities discontinue, so does the authorization to wear the Drill Corps Badge. Active participation is defined as participation in at least one drill related activity each Chivalric Year.*

Any Sir Knight who is a Temporary Drill Corps Member, will become a Permanent Drill Corps Member upon participation in a Triennial Grand Encampment Drill Competition. All Drill Corps Members (Permanent and Temporary) will receive a Certificate of Membership in the Drill Corps.

Drill Corps Badge and Drill Corps Membership Certificate:

The Drill Corps Badge resembles the following and has the associated dimensions:



When authorized for wear, the Drill Corps Badge is to be worn centered on the left sleeve of the Templar Dress Uniform coat between the Virginia shoulder patch and shoulder seam. See picture below.



The Drill Corps Membership Certificate resembles the following:



“I challenge you and hope to see you all on the Drill Field!”



(Attendees of the 2021 Grand Commandery Drill School and Competition.)



- END -

Attachment 1 – Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia Teams that Participated in GEKT Triennial Drill Competitions since 1997



1997 Team: (front row l-r) Michael G. Fulcher, William F. Reinhold, Jay L. Cotner, John M. Chambliss, Jr., Robert M. Ohman, Rodney A. Price, Coy O. Price, **(back row l-r)** Joe G. Broce, Mansell H. Hopkins, Jr., Paul L. Purdy, Richard B. Baldwin, Robert L. Price, Jr., Cecil Kelly, Stephen G. McMurray, Baldwin G. Locher, Jr., Merle L. McVey, Roy L. Hampton



2000 Team: (front row l-r) Roy L. Hampton, John M. Chambliss, Jr., Jay L. Cotner, William F. Reinhold, Richard B. Baldwin, **(middle row l-r)** Paul L. Purdy, Billy T. Proffitt, Mansell H. Hopkins, Jr., Coy O. Price, O. Max Leach, Joe G. Broce, **(back row l-r)** Charles G. Steele, III, Robert L. Price, Jr., Charles E. Cave, III, Cecil Kelly, Arthur C. Price, Jr.



2003 Team: (front row l-r) Charles G. Steele, III, E. Stephen Smith, William F. Reinhold, Arthur C. Price, Jr., Joe G. Broce, (back row l-r) John M. Chambliss, Jr., O. Max Leach, Billy T. Proffitt, Coy O. Price



2006 Team: (l-r) Robert L. Price, Jr., Arthur C. Price, Jr., John M. Chambliss, Jr., Frederick S. Koziol, Charles G. Steele, III, E. Stephen Smith, O. Max Leach, William F. Reinhold



2009 Team: (front row l-r) E. Stephen Smith, John M. Chambliss, Jr., William F. Reinhold, Charles G. Steele, III, O. Max Leach, **(back row l-r)** Joe G. Broce, Arthur C. Price, Jr., Robert L. Price, Jr., Frederick S. Koziol, Roger E. Duncan



2012 Team: (front row l-r) Clinton W. Hues, Frank C. Jones, II, William F. Reinhold, O. McNeil Marple, John Carpenter **(back row l-r)** John W. Cochrane, Henry G. Sharber, III, Kenneth M. Smith, H. Richard Neiswander



2015 Team: (l-r) Arthur C. Price, Jr., Roy B. Henderson, Jr., Steven M. Short, John M. Chambliss, Jr., Thomas F. Hayes, Jr., Joe G. Broce, H. Lee Arritt, Jr., Cecil E. Gillespie, William F. Reinhold



2018 Team: (front row l-r) Timothy P. Evans, William F. Reinhold, Jimmy D. Davis **(back row l-r)** C. Andrew Hall, D. Patrick Harmon, Richard J. Fisher, Charles L. Dirienzo, Jr., Jack T. Moorman

Attachment 2 – Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia Application for Temporary Membership in the Drill Corps

I, Sir Knight _____ (name as you want it to appear on your certificate) _____, hereby request TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP into the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia DRILL CORPS having demonstrated *significant participation* in no less than four Grand Commandery Drill Competitions/Exhibitions and four additional approved Drill Related Activities as detailed below:

GRAND COMMANDERY DRILL COMPETITIONS:

Year of 1st Competition: _____ and/or Exhibition: _____
Year of 2nd Competition: _____ and/or Exhibition: _____
Year of 3rd Competition: _____ and/or Exhibition: _____
Year of 4th Competition: _____ and/or Exhibition: _____

APPROVED DRILL RELATED ACTIVITIES (any combination of four):

Additional Grand Commandery Drill Competitions/Exhibitions (year): _____

Asylum Drill Competitions (date and name of competing Commanderies): _____

Grand Commandery Drill Corps School (years attended): _____

Member of a Commandery unit in a local parade (year and name of parade): _____

Flag ceremony or presentation of colors as a Commandery unit at a non-Commandery public or private event (date name of event): _____

On my honor, upon being granted Temporary Membership in the Drill Corps, I will wear the Drill Corps Badge while I actively participate in approved drill related activities. Should my active participation discontinue, I will remove the Drill Corps Badge permanently until I resume active participation.

(Signature / Date)

Commandery Name and No.: _____

Date Received by Drill Team Committee: _____ Date Approved: _____