


6 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SILENT HERALDRY PRIOR TO YOUR FIRST COURT

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ongratulations to Your Highnesses! Soon You will be holding Your first Court, and as You may know, the Herald is Your Voice. But there are those in Calontir who cannot hear Your Voice, and need another to speak for You in a language they can understand, that being sign language, or as it is called in the SCA, Silent Heraldry. Unlike Your Court Herald, the Silent Herald may change from event to event, as not every event requires a Silent Herald to attend You in Your Court (it is dependent on the needs of Your populace) or a Silent Herald may not be available at that event.

Items of note:

- 1- A Silent Herald is useful to all members of the Populace, not only those who are Deaf. Sign language can be “read” by anyone who can see the Silent Herald, including those who are hard of hearing, or those who have a difficult time hearing what is going on in Court (as we all know can happen).
- 2- The Silent Herald needs to be visible to the entire Populace. The best location for the Silent Herald is close to Your Presence, so that the Populace may see both Yourselves and the Silent Herald at the same time (for example, next to Your Champion). If that is not possible, any highly visible location at the front of the room will suffice.
- 3- Please give Your Silent Herald adequate time for Court Prep. As You would not expect Your Vocal Herald to run a court on the fly, please do not expect that of Your Silent Herald. While some Silent Heralds are professional sign interpreters in the modern world; others are volunteers with non-fluent knowledge of sign. A Silent Herald needs the time to see which awards will be given, and how to spell the names of those who are receiving them.
- 4- If You are planning on calling Your Silent Herald into Your Presence (to receive an award, etc), please arrange a “stand-in” Silent Herald to cover that portion of Court just as You would do for Your Vocal Herald.
- 5- Expect the same level of confidentiality from Your Silent Herald as Your Vocal Herald. Their job is to be Your Voice, not to share news before it has been announced.
- 6- If You have any questions on Silent Heraldry in Calontir, please contact the “Goodhand Herald” who is the Kingdom Deputy for Silent Heraldry. The Kingdom Principal Herald, Gold Falcon, can give You that information.

Standard procedure is for the Silent Herald to approach Your Chamberlain as soon as it is known that Silent Heraldry is required at an event. Unfortunately, this may not be until the day of the event, as people’s schedules may be altered. A Silent Herald will answer to You as best they can, but ultimately their goal as Your Voice is to serve the members of the populace who require their service.