

Advancement Ceremony Procedures

Members of the Rogue Order advance in rank through mastering sword techniques, living according to a strict code of honor, performing certain acts of community service, dueling with other members, and through completing a number of tasks meant to challenge them physically and mentally. To learn more, please visit: www.roguesaber.com/rogueorder.php



What is an Advancement Ceremony?

An official Rogue Order Advancement Ceremony only takes about three to five minutes, but is a vital step for a member of the order as they consider their progress and look forward to the road ahead. There are five main ranks in the Rogue Order of Knights: Initiate, Novice, Apprentice, Knight, and Master. Once a member of the order has achieved a new rank, they visit the Rogue Saber Academy's (RSA's) online store and order an Official Certificate of Rank:

www.roguesaber.com/store.php#certificate

Soon after, they receive in the mail (or via email) the authentic document addressed to them by name with the signature of the Rogue Order's Grandmaster, as well as the signature of an administrator of the RSA. Each certificate bears a unique record number that can be verified via the orders' archives here:

www.roguesaber.com/rogueorder.php#authenticate

Once their certificate has arrived, they can then organize a special event to celebrate their accomplishments: An Advancement Ceremony! The ceremony is very simple and gives the member and others a chance to reflect on their growth, honor their success and share their pride for all of the good work and community service done. The ceremony is modeled after historic procedures from around the world, of knightly rites and military formalities. It is in this ceremony that a member is officially awarded their certificate, and granted advancement within the order. A member of the Rogue Order may choose to hold either a "Public" or "Personal" ceremony.

What Each Rank Represents:

A **Novice** is symbolically equivalent to a medieval "page." They have earned some respect from the community as they have risen above the majority of the members of the order (the more casual members who still carry the title of "Initiate"). Although they are no longer counted among the newest of recruits, they still have much to learn. Therefore, a Novice is a dedicated student. It is their duty to zealously continue in their mission to learn and progress within the RSA. A true Novice is not a Novice for long.

An **Apprentice** is comparable to the medieval "squire." They are recognized for their discipline, drive, distinction and promise. They are servants of the Rogue Order's Knights and Masters, and much is expected of them. It is their duty to create many events and otherwise meaningfully participate in the community. They are rewarded with the dignity that is owed to one well on their way to knighthood. The eyes of the governing council are on them, as the future of the order rests upon their shoulders.

A **Knight** of the Rogue Order is an emblematic office, comparable to the Western warriors of the same name and the Eastern Samurai. They must be loyal to their code, tireless in their desire to serve everyone around them, and virtuous in their everyday life. Other members of the order look to them for a true challenge in a fight, and for an example of what it means to be a person noble of heart.

Masters are the caretakers of the order. They are the most respected, and most elite warriors in combat. It is their responsibility to pass on what they

have learned, and oversee the growth and maintenance of the Rogue Order as well as the RSA.

Public Ceremony Instructions:

Before the Event

Congratulations on your rise in the ranks of the Rogue Order! As the recipient of this noble award, and according to the traditions of the order, the responsibility is yours to organize your own advancement ceremony. It can take place in a quiet room with two friends, or in a plaza filled with an applauding crowd. The decision is yours!

Schedule this ceremony at least two weeks in advance. It can be located in a room of sufficient size for your guests, or in an outdoor location at around sunset. If Saber-Day, (April 4th) or Star Wars Fan Day, (May 4th) is soon approaching, those would be ideal days for such an important event! In the hours prior to the proceedings, bathe and take time for personal meditation and reflection, alike the knights of old. Be sure to dress in formal clothes and encourage your guests to do the same in honor of the occasion. (You are in charge of the definition of “formal,” but keep in mind that receiving this award while wearing work-out clothing may not properly reflect the hard work you spent to earn it.)

This ceremony must have at least three people in attendance (including you), but having more will certainly add to your experience. You will want to invite any and all nearby fellow students of the Rogue Saber Academy. If you do not happen to know them personally, then you must schedule the event at a public and safe location. (Private messages can be sent to other students via the Duel Credit Store.) You will also want to invite friends and family who share your love of the sport. Most importantly, there must be in attendance two individuals (other than you) to fill these roles:



The Presiding Official: This is someone with whom you have a good relationship who is (at least in your eyes) in some way your superior. They will be in

charge of the ceremony (a simple task). Examples of those who would be good choices for your presiding officials are: A student of higher rank in the Rogue Order, a parent, your teacher or mentor, or your community leader.

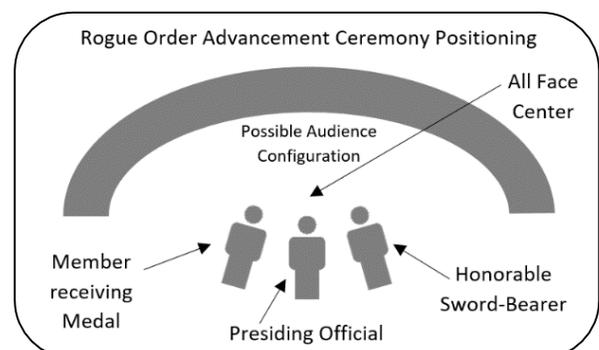


The Honorable Sword-Bearer: This is someone with whom you have a good relationship who you consider your equal in some way before or after the ceremony. Some things you can look for in a sword-bearer could be these things you share in common: Rank in the Rogue Order, academic achievement, life experiences (marriage, military service, humanitarian project participation, etc.), and age.

Prepare for the ceremony by ensuring that the batteries on your saber are well charged. Hand your saber to your honorable sword-bearer. (This is the last time you may touch it until after the “Rite of Accolation.” Hand your certificate to your presiding official and ask him/her to take a moment to read this packet, here, in its entirety. (He/She may refer to it during the ceremony if needed.)

Ceremony Proceedings

The Announcement: As the scheduled starting time of the ceremony approaches, the presiding official announces that the ceremony will now begin, encouraging all participants to find their places. They will stand about three steps back from the center of the room or outdoor space. You will stand at an arm’s distance to their left side at an angle as you both face the center of the room. (See diagram.)



A Single Light: When the moment to begin has arrived, the presiding official will signal (via eye contact) to the honorable sword-bearer to turn off the lights, ignite your lightsaber, and step to mirror your position at the presiding official's right (if you are indoors) or simply ignite your saber, already standing in the correct position (if you are outdoors). This is the signal to all that the ceremony has started. There are to be no other lights apart from the sole saber, (with exceptions for photography) which is to be kept pointing skyward during the proceedings.



School Motto: The presiding official then reads the "Rogue Way" by light of the saber, or recites it from memory:

We are swordsmen of the Rogue Order.
Through Wisdom, we are tested,
Through Power, we are tempered,
And through Strength we are made true.
We seek harmony and growth.
We are guided by the code.
As masters of the saber,
We wander,
We duel,
We improve.
This is the Rogue Way.

The Recipient Kneels: After the "Rogue Way" has been recited, step into the center of the room, turn to face the presiding official and, while maintaining good posture, step your right foot forward and your left foot back. Sink down until your left knee is touching the ground and rest both of your hands on your right knee.

Certificate Declaration: The presiding official then reads aloud the contents of your certificate starting with "The Rogue Order of Knights officially certifies that..." (The presiding official will take mental note of the rank being awarded.)

The Exchange: The presiding official then turns to the sword-bearer and hands off the certificate to the

sword-bearer's left hand. They then receive the saber into their right hand.



The Rite of Accolation: With your ignited saber in their right hand, the presiding official then crosses the tip of the blade over to your right shoulder, briefly hovers it there, and then raises it over your head to just above your left shoulder. The blade is then pointed skyward again, and you rise to your feet and face the sword-bearer.



Insignia Presentation: Your certificate is then handed to you by the Sword-bearer with their right hand. You receive it with your left and then you both shake right hands (a custom with roots in the earliest of sword dueling. It is a sign of friendship and the traditional indication that neither person is reaching for a sword). You then return to your starting position by the presiding official's side, where you began.

Saber Restoration: The presiding official signals the end of the ceremony with a last word to you such as "keep up the good work," or "congratulations." The presiding official then faces you and hands you your saber, keeping the blade pointing up. You reach out for the hilt with your right hand, grasp it, and extend it high up in celebration of you now claiming your weapon for the first time with your new title! (This is a symbolic reference to a warrior's Genpuku ceremony in the age of the Samurai.)

Conclusion: The presiding official, sword-bearer and any others in attendance then show their pride in you with a round of applause. The ceremony is thus concluded, and any audience members with lightsabers may illuminate them. However, more lively festivities tend to follow...

After the Event

Spars and Bouts: Be sure to thank the presiding official, sword-bearer and any other guests for their support. It is tradition, that after a ceremony, you are challenged to at least one duel by either the sword-bearer or another guest in attendance. This is a fun tradition to demonstrate your improvement in the art and also give your guests an enjoyable show of skill! A tournament, brawl, or casual spar with friends are all appropriate activities after an advancement ceremony.

Claim Your Token: Soon after the event, log onto your account with the Rogue Saber Academy. Visit the "Advancement Ceremonies" section of the Rogue Order's page:

www.roguesaber.com/rogueorder.php#ceremonies



There you will find a holographic token. Click on it to fully claim your new rank and officially be recognized by the entire membership of the Rogue Order!



Personal Ceremony Instructions:

Well done on your new rank! Although every member of the Rogue Order is strongly encouraged to share the moment in celebration of their achievements with others, you may elect to observe the following procedures in order to hold a Personal Ceremony:

Preparations: Select a location for the ceremony where you can be alone. If indoors, see to it that your surroundings are clean and organized. Schedule a stretch of time in which you can expect no interruption, and in which you can leave your personal

devices behind. Ensure that all timely responsibilities are met. Bathe and dress in formal clothing.

Stow Your Lightsaber: Rather than hand your saber off to an honorable sword-bearer, you will select a hiding place for your weapon. Choose a place in which it will not be seen by you or disrupted by others. Once it is placed there, you may not retrieve it until the conclusion of the ceremony.

Moments of Reflection: Hold your certificate and read it to yourself. Close your eyes and contemplate its meaning, using it as your object of focus. Think deeply on your progress, your growth, and your potential. Follow the prompts from your preferred method of meditation from among the techniques taught by the RSA:

www.roguesaber.com/meditations.php

Internalization: When you feel you fully understand your new rank, along with the privileges and responsibilities it represents, display your certificate in a place of honor. This can be on a wall, in an office space, in a frame, or in a collection of awards.

Saber Restoration: Uncover your saber from where it had been hidden. Reclaim it and activate it, now as its rightful wielder, but of a higher rank. If you are able to engage in practice drills, spar with others or participate in a duel, you are encouraged to do so. These are all appropriate activities following a personal ceremony.

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