



# **GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF INDIANA**

**General Order No. 1 Sparks**

**April 27, 2025**

## **Annual Inspections and Receptions of Constituent Commandery(s)**

Sir Knights of Indiana:

In pursuant to the provisions of Section 851 and 852 of the Laws of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana, it is hereby ordered that the Constituent Commanderies of the Jurisdiction be inspected.

All Commanderies will be Inspected on the Short Form Opening with Rehearsal of Duties. The Inspection on an Order will be held on the Stated Conclave of the Commandery, unless prior permission has been given by the Grand Commander or the Grand Inspector General to hold the Inspection or Opening on a separate date.

If a cancelation or date modification happens for any reason, a written request to the Grand Commander and the Grand Inspector General must be received at least two weeks prior to the Original Inspection Date. This written request must be received with a reason from the Eminent Commander of the Host Commandery and must include a new date with a two-to-three-week advanced notice that will require approval of the Grand Commander and the Grand Inspector General before it is rescheduled. (We all have schedules to work with, please plan for the date you set.) In case of an Emergency, we will follow the Next Sir Knight Up Philosophy, so you should think of re-casting prior to the Cancellation or Change of Date of the Inspection or Order

1. The Battalion Commander shall inspect each Commandery within his Battalion with the following exceptions:
  - The Grand Inspector General or a Deputy Grand Inspector General will be required to inspect the designated primary Commandery of each elected Grand Commandery Officer, excluding the Commandery of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder unless an additional Grand Officer(s) are members of that Commandery.
  - A fellow Grand Line Officer/Battalion Commander will inspect the designated primary Commandery of each appointed Grand Officer if it is within the Battalion of the latter. Only the Grand Commander may authorize other exceptions or substitutions.
  - Deputy Battalion Commander(s) are suggested to assist in the grading of the Inspections and the Inspection of the Books and Records.
2. Each Inspecting Officer will send a "Notice of Inspection" courtesy letter (email or mailed) to the Eminent Commander and Recorder at least 30 days prior to the Inspection if the letter is mailed, then

an email copy is also to be sent to the Eminent Commander and Recorder and Cc'd to the Grand Inspector General and the Deputy Grand Commander. This letter is found on the Grand Commandery Website and will confirm the date, time, and location of the Inspection with the Inspecting Officer's time of arrival and will also include a copy of the blank reports to be filled out by the Recorder prior to the inspection. The requested completed reports will be provided to the Inspecting Officer upon his arrival (Activities Sheet, Recorder's Questionnaire, cast list for the Order, Cast list for the Opening)

3. The records Inspected will be detailed on the Recorder's Questionnaire will include but not limited to:
  - A report on the membership efforts.
  - Examination of the Recorder's and Treasurer's books, records, and accounts.
  - Examination of the paraphernalia and property of the Commandery.
  - Activity sheet.
  - Current 990-N Filed Tax Form.
  - Current copy of the By-laws dated by the Grand Commandery.
4. No Inspection will be deemed complete until the Inspecting Officer has reviewed all books and financial records of both the Recorder and Treasurer. If they are not presented at the Inspection, it shall be the duty of the responsible Officer (Treasurer or Recorder) to deliver the needed items to be inspected to the Inspecting Officer by or at the next stated Conclave of that Commandery or upon an agreeable date prior to the end of the Inspection Year. If further time is needed it may be granted but only with approval of the Grand Commander. Failure to comply may cause the Commandery to be placed on probation until the obligation has been fulfilled.

**\* The Battalion Commander will leave the Inspection or Reception with ALL paperwork pertaining to the Inspection or Reception.**

5. Each Inspection will start promptly on the date(s) and time(s) mutually agreed upon with the respective Inspecting Officer.
6. The Inspection will be on the conferral of the Illustrious Order of Red Cross, Order of Malta, or the Order of the Temple in Full Form. All Inspections must be completed by December 6, 2025.

**\* All Commanderies should do their best to have a candidate for the Inspection if possible. If there is not going to be a candidate, the Battalion Commander should advise the Inspecting Officer and the Grand Commander in advance of the Inspection.**

7. It is preferred that the regularly elected and appointed officers of the Commandery fill their respective stations during the Opening for the Rehearsal of Duties, Reception and Order conferral. If necessary, officers and members may assume other stations, particularly during the Order. Commanderies are encouraged to collaborate with each other to provide any needed assistance. If an actual candidate is present, the quality of the work is of prime importance.
8. Inspections may consist of up to two (2) Commanderies participating together for an Official Inspection with a minimum of 6 Members of Each Commandery present. If less than 6 members are present from a Commandery a percentage of the points may be awarded (subject to review by the



Battalion Commander and the Grand Commander). Failure of any Commandery to participate in an inspection may result in Suspension.

9. The Inspection will consist of the following: Inspection of Order and Opening can be done separately.
  - Short Form Opening with Rehearsal of Duties
  - One of the Following Order's, Illustrious Order of Red Cross, Order of Malta, or Order of the Temple in Full Form
  - Flag Presentation
  - Closing
10. The Battalion Commander shall complete and forward his inspection report (Tally Sheet Landscape) of each Commandery to the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Inspector General, the Deputy Grand Commander, as well as the Eminent Commander and the Recorder of the inspected Commandery within fourteen (14) days following the completion of the inspection. All other required paperwork will be kept by the Battalion Commander and made immediately available upon request. A full report of the Inspections may be discussed at the winter meeting and appropriate recognition will be made at the Annual Conclave.
11. The Battalion Guidon will be awarded to the Commandery in each Battalion who has the highest ritualistic score. The ritualistic score shall be the combined score of the Short Form Opening with Rehearsal of Duties, one of the following Order's (Illustrious Order of Red Cross, the Order of Malta, or the Order of the Temple), Flag Presentation and Closing. All Commanderies will be graded according to the forms and procedures adopted for that purpose.
12. The Commandery with the highest Activity Score in each Battalion will receive a blue ribbon and the second place highest Activity score in each Battalion will receive a red ribbon, presented at the Grand Commandery Session. The Commandery with the highest activity score in the state will receive the Grand Commandery Guidon for the coming year.
13. A Commandery(s) using an exemplar in place of an actual candidate will confer the Order as if they had an actual candidate and scored as such by the Inspecting Officer. (Hermits and Guards may be limited to one of each)

### **Instructional**

An Instructional may be held in lieu of an Inspection on the Order of the Temple when the Inspecting Officer, with the concurrence of the Grand Inspector General and approval of the Grand Commander deems that change to be in the best interests of the Commandery(s).

- The Commandery(s) that is conducting an Instructional, will be given a ZERO score on the Inspection Tally Worksheet.

### **Inspection Scoring**

- If a Sir Knight is participating in his first Order or Opening and he has been Knighted within 1 year of said Opening or Order and is using a Ritual, he will not be penalized on the Inspection Sheet.
- Scores will be equally given to the Commandery(s) participating in the Order based on the number of members participating in the Order (If less than 6 members are present from a Commandery a percentage of the points may be awarded). The inspection of the Order may occur any time after June 1, 2025, and prior December 6, 2025.
- Inspection scores will be separated by officer ranking only. All members or officers of the participating Inspected Commandery(s) will receive an officer score of 1-20.

### **Reception of the Eminent Commander**

Each Battalion will hold a Public Opening for the Reception of the Eminent Commanders. Commanderies will use either the Ten Man or Twelve Man Open Reception in accordance with the most recent official interpretation of the Ritual and official Indiana Asylum Tactics (Revised 4/29/2022) as posted on the Grand Commandery website. The reception should include the Presentation of the United States Flag. (If less than 6 members are present from a Commandery at a Battalion reception a percentage of the points may be awarded. Any Commandery may choose to hold their own Reception. Points for the reception will be awarded on the Activity Sheet.

A Uniform Inspection of each Sir Knight will take place during the Inspection of the Lines portion of the reception. One point for each deficiency will be deducted and added to the Activity Worksheet. (If a Sir Knight belongs to two or more Commandery(s) being Inspected, points will be dispersed to only one Commandery at the Sir Knights request).

### **Instructions following the Inspection of the Order or Reception, prior to Closing**

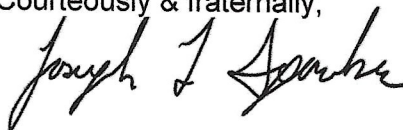
Upon completion of each Inspection and prior to Closing, the Eminent Commander shall give his remarks first, followed by the Inspecting Officer. The Grand Commander, if present, will follow with his remarks. Whenever he is not present, the Inspecting Officer, acting as the Grand Commander's Official Representative, shall be accorded all the honors and courtesies due him as such. If the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Indiana is present, he will speak after the Grand Commander; otherwise, the Grand Commander is the final speaker.

Thank You all the Sir Knights of Indiana for your dedication to Templary!

This Order shall be read in all Constituent Commanderies at their first Stated Conclave after its receipt and be made a part of the minutes.

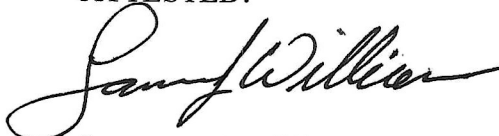
Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of April, A.D. 2025 A.O. 907.

Courteously & fraternally,



Joseph L. Sparks  
Right Eminent Grand Commander

ATTESTED:



Lawrence J. Williams, KCT, PGC  
Grand Recorder

