

STARFLEET - Orders of Merit Guide

1. Understanding Order Classes

Most Orders have three classes. The exceptions are Babel, Gaea, Herodotus, Prentares, Roddenberry, and Surak; these are single-level Orders and should not be described as First, Second, or Third Class.

Class	What it recognizes	Final Approval
Third Class	Significant achievement at the chapter level.	Awards Director
Second Class	will recognize significant achievement at the regional level. An Order of Merit, Second Class, must have a Letter of Recommendation (LoR) from a Regional Coordinator (RC).	Awards Director
First Class	will recognize the highest level of achievement to STARFLEET. An Order of Merit, First Class, must have a LoR from a RC and may only be awarded by majority vote of the STARFLEET Executive Committee (EC).	Majority vote of the Executive Committee; requires endorsement from any sitting Regional Coordinator.

2. Orders of Merit at a Glance

Order	Area	Has Classes?	Available Level(s)
Axanar	Mediation and conflict Resolution	Yes	1st / 2nd / 3rd
Babel	Recruiting	No	Single-level
Cochrane	Technology	Yes	1st / 2nd / 3rd
Darmok and Jalad	Outreach	Yes	1st / 2nd / 3rd
Dionysus	Recreational Event Planning	Yes	1st / 2nd / 3rd
Gaea	Ecology and/or preservation	No	Single-level
Grankite Order of Tactics	Event Planning	Yes	1st / 2nd / 3rd
Hawking	Accessibility	Yes	1st / 2nd / 3rd
Herodotus	History and/or Record Keeping	No	Single-level
Prentares	Space research and/or exploration	No	Single-level
Rand	Administrative Service	Yes	1st / 2nd / 3rd
Roddenberry	Star Trek	No	Single-level
Samaritan	Volunteerism	Yes	1st / 2nd / 3rd
S'harien	Inventiveness and/or craftsmanship	Yes	1st / 2nd / 3rd
Surak	Scholarship	No	Single-level
Tarbolde of Canopus	Writing	Yes	1st / 2nd / 3rd



3. Award Definitions

Use this section to determine which Order best matches the member's contribution. Where the source document provides a full definition, it is reproduced here. Prentares and Roddenberry appear in the source's at-a-glance table but do not have expanded definitions in the supplied document; their listed recognition areas are therefore shown without adding criteria not present in the source.

Order of Axanar

Area	Mediation and Conflict Resolution
Class levels	First / Second / Third Class

Definition: Awarded to a member who has played a key role in problem resolution or mediation between STARFLEET members, chapters or regions.

Order of Babel

Area	Recruiting
Class levels	None — single-level Order

Definition: Awarded to a member for activities in the area of chapter or STARFLEET recruitment.

Order of Cochrane

Area	Technology
Class levels	First / Second / Third Class

Definition: Awarded to a member for activities in the area of technology support (such as web page creation and maintenance, mailing list moderation, etc.) on behalf of their chapter, region, or STARFLEET..

Order of Darmok and Jalad

Area	Outreach
Class levels	First / Second / Third Class

Definition: Awarded to a member for a significant act of friendship or outreach shown to a fellow STARFLEET member, or for outreach to their community on behalf of their chapter, region, or STARFLEET.

Order of Dionysus

Area	Recreational Event Planning
Class levels	First / Second / Third Class

Definition: Awarded for excellence in planning, coordinating and executing a chapter, region or STARFLEET-related recreational event.

Order of Gaea

Area	Ecology and/or Preservation
Class levels	None — single-level Order

Definition: Awarded to a member for significant activities in the area of ecology or preservation. Activities need not be STARFLEET-related.



Grankite Order of Tactics

Area	Event Planning
Class levels	First / Second / Third Class

Definition: Awarded to a member for planning, coordinating and executing a chapter, region or STARFLEET-related business event (such as a Regional Conference or International Conference).

Order of Hawking

Area	Accessibility
Class levels	First / Second / Third Class

Definition: Awarded to a member for significant activities in making chapter, region or STARFLEET events or resources accessible to disabled members.

Order of Herodotus

Area	History and/or Recordkeeping
Class levels	None — single-level Order

Definition: Awarded to a member for significant activities in preserving a chapter's, regions, or STARFLEET's history.

Order of Prentares

Area	Space Research and/or Exploration
Class levels	None — single-level Order

Definition: Awarded to a member for significant activity in promoting the cause of space research or exploration. Activities need not be STARFLEET-related.

Order of Rand

Area	Administrative Service
Class levels	First / Second / Third Class

Definition: Awarded to a member for contributing to the creation, as well as the translation, of STARFLEET materials such as manuals, handbooks, etc. on behalf of their chapter, region, or STARFLEET.

Order of Roddenberry

Area	Star Trek
Class levels	None — single-level Order

Definition: Awarded to a member for significant activity in promoting Star Trek, development and implementation of fun, Star Trek-themed ideas, and Star Trek fandom as a whole.

Order of Samaritan

Area	Volunteerism
Class levels	First / Second / Third Class

Definition: Awarded to a member for significant activities in the area of charity work or volunteerism. Activities need not be STARFLEET-related.



Order of S'harien

Area	Inventiveness and/or Craftsmanship
Class levels	First / Second / Third Class

Definition: Awarded to a member for excellence in inventiveness or craftsmanship in an aspect related to their chapter, region or STARFLEET.

Order of Surak

Area	Scholarship
Class levels	None — single-level Order

Definition: Awarded to a member for scholastic achievement, such as making the Dean's List, President's List, Honor Society, etc., outside of STARFLEET. Can be traditional schooling, vocational schooling, continuing education, etc.

Order of Tarbolde of Canopus

Area	Writing
Class levels	First / Second / Third Class

Definition: Awarded to a member for activities in the area of chapter fiction, or writing for chapter, region, or STARFLEET publications.

4. Choosing the Right Class

For Orders that have classes, the source defines the classes by the scope of the achievement. A practical way to apply that distinction is to ask who meaningfully benefited from the contribution:

- Chapter impact → Third Class.
- Regional impact → Second Class.
- STARFLEET-wide impact → First Class.

The member's rank or title does not determine the class. The class should reflect the scope of the achievement described in the nomination.



5. Nomination Procedures and Requirements

- Nominations are accepted on a rolling basis, with award winners announced quarterly in the *Communiqué (CQ)* and on social media. Social media announcements will be made following publication of the CQ.
- Nominations may be submitted for activities that occurred within the past six (6) months. If a series of activities forms the basis of the nomination, the most recent activity must have occurred within that six-month period.
- Any STARFLEET member in good standing may nominate another STARFLEET member in good standing. Members may not nominate themselves.
- Nominations for Orders of Merit, First and Second Class, require a Letter of Recommendation (LoR) from a Regional Coordinator (RC). The only exception is when the nominee's own RC is submitting the nomination. The RC for the region in which the nominee is based will always be asked for a LoR; however, any RC may provide the required LoR.
- When an LoR is required, it must be submitted with the nomination form. Nominations requiring an LoR that are submitted without one will be denied.
- A STARFLEET member may receive the same Order of Merit only once per calendar year.
- Second and Third Class nominations are reviewed by the Awards Director. Nominations that are incomplete, improperly completed, or missing a required LoR will be rejected. Properly completed nominations that meet the applicable requirements will be approved.
- First Class nominations are reviewed and approved or rejected by a majority vote of the STARFLEET Executive Committee (EC).
- The "Basis for Recommendation" must describe how the nominee has gone above and beyond the call of duty in providing service to their chapter, region, or STARFLEET. It should not simply list activities or events; it should clearly explain why the member deserves the award. This requirement applies to all three classes of Orders of Merit.
- For nominations intended to be announced at a special event such as IC or Summit, submit the nomination at least four (4) weeks in advance and identify the request in the "Special Requests" section of the nomination.
- VIC/IC Exception: First Class nominations for the Grankite Order of Tactics and Order of Samaritan submitted by the VIC/IC Chair will be automatically awarded without requiring an EC vote.



6. Quick Decision Path

- 1. Identify the achievement.** What did the member actually do, and which Order's definition most closely matches it?
- 2. Check whether that Order has classes.** If it is Babel, Gaea, Herodotus, Prentares, Roddenberry, or Surak, stop here: nominate for the Order itself with no class.
- 3. If classes apply, determine the scope.** Chapter = Third Class; Region = Second Class; STARFLEET as a whole = First Class.
- 4. Check the timing and eligibility.** Confirm the activity falls within the nomination window and that the nominee is eligible.
- 5. For First or Second Class orders,** a Letter of Recommendation (LoR) from a Regional Coordinator (RC) is required.
- 6. Write for impact.** Explain what the nominee contributed, who benefited, what made the work significant, and why it was above and beyond.

WHEN READY TO SUBMIT YOUR ORDER OR MERIT NOMINATION FORM...

PLEASE SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM TO THE **DIRECTOR OF ORDER OF MERITS** AT:

merit@sfi.org

