PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE

Travelling Sceptre – Rules 2026

The principal idea is to encourage visiting and as such it is important to keep the sceptre moving. Therefore, with some Chapter's meeting less frequently than others there must be a time limit for a Chapter to hold the Travelling Sceptre. If it is not claimed or is not possible to be claimed, then it will be the responsibility of the Chapter that 'holds' it to take to and present it to another Chapter to keep it moving. This adds increased opportunity for visiting Lodges.

The Travelling Sceptre competition is open to all Gloucestershire & Herefordshire Royal Arch Companions meeting in G & H Royal Arch Chapters. The Travelling Sceptre is not permitted to leave the Province of Gloucestershire & Herefordshire.

1. To claim the Sceptre a minimum of **4 (four)** visitors representing one other Chapter must visit the Chapter in possession of the Travelling Sceptre. All challenges to be made by the visitors present at the festive board. The visitors will be weighted using the following points basis to encourage Chapters to help newer members to get out visiting:

Companion (white ribbon)	= 3 points
E Companion (red ribbon)	= 2 points
E Companion (tri-coloured ribbon)	= 1 point

Example:
4x white ribbon = 12 pts
4x red ribbon = 8 pts
4x tri-coloured ribbon = 4 pts

2. The Chapter receiving the Travelling Sceptre must not be from the same Masonic Centre in order to keep the Sceptre moving.

3. The visiting Chapter with the requisite number of Companions multiplied by the appropriate points will be entitled to claim the Sceptre. In the unlikely event of a ''tie'' on number of man/points calculated - the Chapter which has travelled the **greatest distance** will prevail i.e. distance from the visitors' Masonic Centre to the host Chapter Centre using the table of mileages set out below.

4. The "Holding" Chapter has the responsibility of finding a successor and contacting them so that suitable arrangements for a visit can be made. Holders are not permitted to hold the Sceptre for **more than 3 months, (excluding the Summer Break)** and must therefore arrange either to visit or receive a visit from another Chapter within that timeframe.

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5. The Scribe of the Chapter giving up the Sceptre should inform the Provincial Scribe of where it is now residing and ensure the black mileage Log enclosed is completed before passing it over to the new incumbent. The Scribe of the Chapter taking charge of the Sceptre should inform the Provincial Scribe that they have it in their safe-keeping and when the Chapter next meets to enable it to be claimed.

6. **Every effort will be made to publicise the next meeting by the Travelling Sceptre Co-ordinator to encourage as many visitors as possible.**

7. At each Annual Provincial Grand Chapter meeting the Travelling Sceptre should be presented to the Grand Superintendent for the duration of the Meeting by the MEZ of the Chapter or one of his Principals or a senior Past Z even if it has been claimed by the Province at their previous meeting.

8. The Chapter with the most attendees at the annual Provincial Grand Chapter meeting (no points for this meeting) will be presented with the Travelling Sceptre by the Grand Superintendent.

9. The Travelling Sceptre remains the property of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire and may be recalled by the Province at any time.

10. The Chapter that has secured the Travelling Sceptre should be given time to publicise its new location to allow for other to form a 'raiding party' and for there to be time to book in for the Festive board. Therefore a minimum holding period of seven days from claiming the Travelling Sceptre will apply.

11. If a member of the visiting Chapter is also a member of the Holding Chapter, he can not be counted as representing the visiting Chapter for the purpose of claiming the Travelling Sceptre.

12. The Previous Holding Chapter cannot immediately make a claim for the Travelling Sceptre. The Travelling Sceptre must have passed to a third Chapter before they can make a challenge.