



St John

Guide to wearing St John insignia

(including right breast awards)



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Introduction

This guide provides all members of St John with guidance on the wearing of St John insignia, including those related to membership of the Order of St John and the St John Service Medal and various right breast awards.

St John Ambulance Australia is in a privileged position of having our Order recognised within the Australian Honours System. This extends to the membership of the Order of St John and the Order's service medal. These medals are generally worn on the left breast. All other awards that are not part of the Australian Honours System are worn on the right breast.

St John insignia, except the Order's lapel pin, should only be worn on formal occasions. This will include investitures, church parades, St John dinners and Priory chapter meetings. The organiser of a St John function will normally stipulate if St John insignia may be worn and the level of insignia (full medals, miniatures or ribbons). Recipients of St John honours and awards are encouraged to wear them on all such occasions.

St John insignia are not to be worn on operational duty.

St John insignia may be worn on uniforms (including 'black and whites' and 'greens'), with Lounge Suit/jacket and tie, and on female day/evening wear.

St John insignia are not worn on the St John Mantle. Rather, appropriate insignia is worn on the attire beneath the Mantle.

Australian Honours Awards

Membership of the Order of St John and the St John Service Medal are recognised awards within the Australian Honours System.

Where a member is entitled to wear other honours and awards recognised within the Australian Honours system, the insignia must be worn in accordance with the precedence specified in the Australian Honours System:

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/pmc/Honours/order-of-wearing.pdf>

Note: The St John service medal is considered a long service medal within the order of precedence.

The Membership of the Order of St John insignia and the St John Service Medal may be worn on other recognised uniforms, such as military, police, fire etc. In such circumstances the insignia is worn in keeping with the rules laid down by the respective organizations and should generally conform to the guidance provided herein.

Membership of the Order of St John

The following insignia may be worn by members of the Order of St John, according to their level of membership within the Order, as follows:

GCStj	Star	Neck badge *	Miniature	Ribbon	Lapel Pin
KStj/DStj	Star	Neck badge *	Miniature	Ribbon	Lapel Pin
CStj		Neck badge *	Miniature	Ribbon	Lapel Pin
OSTj		Medal	Miniature	Ribbon	Lapel Pin
MStj		Medal	Miniature	Ribbon	Lapel Pin

* Women may wear the neck badge in similar manner to men around the neck on a ribbon or in the form of a full-size piece of insignia mounted on a bow.

On promotion within the Order, the insignia of the lower grade is removed. The member wears only the insignia of the grade to which they have been promoted.

Order Medal

The medal for members of the Order holding the grade of MStj or OSTj is worn on the left breast. Where there is a left breast pocket (e.g. on shirts and jackets), the medal should be positioned centrally above the pocket.

If the only medal a member has is the Order medal, the medal comes with a brooch type bar.

Where a member is entitled to wear multiple medals, full size medals are to be court mounted as a multiple medal group. Court mounting involves a collection of medals mounted on a stiff board.

If the member also holds a service medal, the insignia of the grade in the Order will be mounted on the court mounting closest to the centre of the chest.

If the member has other approved medals (e.g. Order of Australia), they are placed on the court mounting in accordance with the Order of Precedence with the highest award worn closest to the centre of the chest. Up to five full size medals are to be court mounted side by side with no ribbon overlap. More than five full size medals are to be court mounted with the ribbons overlapped.

When promoted to CStJ or higher, the full-size Order medal is removed from the row of medals.



Example of wearing of the Order medal.

Neck Badge

The Neck Badge is provided to members of the Order at the rank of Commander and above. Only one neck badge should be worn. It is expected that a member of the Order of these grades would wish to demonstrate the value attached to membership of the Order by giving prominence to St John insignia at St John functions. All other awards held by the recipient would be displayed on their bar or miniatures.

Neck badges for male members of the Order are suspended on a black ribbon worn under the collar. Women may wear the neck badge in similar manner to men around the neck on a ribbon or in the form of a full-size piece of insignia mounted on a bow and worn on the left side, below any medal or miniature bar.

Star

Breast Stars for male and female members of the Order, holding the grade of KStJ/DStJ and above, are worn on the left side centrally below the breast pocket (or where a pocket might be). A star is normally worn together with a single neck badge.



Example of wearing of neck badge, star and three medals (Order of Australia Medal, National Emergency Medal and St John long service medal)

Miniature

All grades of the Order are represented by a miniature worn on a 16mm wide ribbon.

Where a member has more than one award, miniature medals can be mounted on a miniature bar. Therefore, members are able to display the full range of their awards. They are placed on the miniature bar in accordance with the Order of Precedence with the highest award worn closest to the centre of the chest. For example, if a member is both a member of the Order of St John and has a St John long service medal, both miniatures can be worn on a miniature bar with the Order's miniature mounted closest to the centre of the chest. Miniature medal groups are not to extend beyond the inner edge of the left lapel or protrude beyond the outer edge of the garment sleeve.

A miniature or miniature bar is worn on the left breast.

Members of the Order of the grades of Commander and above who have miniature medal bars may wear both the miniature of their grade on the miniature medal bar and the full-size insignia.



Example of wearing a row of miniatures with a neck badge.

Ribbon

All grades of the Order are represented by a black ribbon. A silver St John cross is attached centrally on the medal ribbon of the Order.

Where a member is entitled to wear multiple ribbons (e.g. they are an Order member and have a St John Service Medal), such ribbons can be mounted on ribbon bars. Their order is in accordance with the Order of Precedence with the highest award worn closest to the centre of the chest.

A ribbon or ribbon bar is worn on the left breast.

Order Lapel Pin

An Order lapel pin may be worn on occasions where a full Order medal, miniature or ribbon is not worn. It is designed to be worn on a lapel to indicate a person is a member of the Order of St John.



St John Service medal (and Ultra long service medal)

The St John service medal (and ultra long service medal) is recognised by the Australian Honours System.

Awards are made for the following years of volunteer service:

10 years	Service medal
15 years	1 silver bar or cross
20 years	2 silver bars or crosses
25 years	3 silver bars or crosses
30 years	1 gilt bar or cross (all silver crosses are removed)
35 years	2 gilt bars or crosses
40 years	3 gilt bars or crosses
45 years	4 gilt bars or crosses
50 years	Ultra long service medal
55 years	1 gilt bar or cross
60 years	2 gilt bars or crosses
65 years	3 gilt bars or crosses
70 years	4 gilt bars or crosses



Service medal and ribbon



Ultra long service medal and ribbon



Example of a service medal with one silver bar attached.

Full Size service medal

The St John service medal is worn on the left breast. Where there is a left breast pocket (e.g. on shirts and jackets), the medal should be positioned centrally above the left breast pocket.

If the only medal a member has is the Service medal, the medal comes with a brooch type bar.

If the member is also a member of the Order at grade MStJ or OStJ, the insignia of the grade in the Order will be mounted on the court mounting closest to the centre of the chest with the service medal next to it.

The St John Service Medal may be embellished with silver or gilt bars to indicate the additional periods of service. The St John Long Service Medal may be embellished with gilt bars to indicate the additional periods of service.



Example of wearing Order membership, national emergency medal and St John service medal with one bar.

Miniature

When awarded the service medal (or ultra long service medal), the member will receive a miniature with a black and white (or black and white with gold) ribbon as well.

Where a member has more than one award, miniature medals can be mounted on a miniature bar. Therefore, members are able to display the full range of their awards. They are placed on the miniature bar in accordance with the Order of Precedence with the highest award worn closest to the centre of the chest. For example, if a member is both a member of the Order of St John and has a St John long service medal, both miniatures can be worn on a miniature bar with the Order's miniature mounted closest to the centre of the chest. Miniature medal groups are not to extend beyond the inner edge of the left lapel or protrude beyond the outer edge of the garment sleeve.



Miniature on left and full size medal on right



The miniature may be embellished with silver or gilt miniature bars to indicate the additional periods of service.

A miniature or miniature bar is worn on the left breast.

Miniature with one miniature bar

Ribbon

When awarded the service medal (or ultra long service medal), the member will receive a black and white ribbon (service medal) or black and white with gold ribbon (ultra long service medal) as well. The ribbon may be embellished with silver or gilt crosses to indicate the additional periods of service.

Where a member is entitled to wear multiple ribbons (e.g. they are an Order member and have a St John Service Medal), ribbons can be mounted on ribbon bars. Their order is in accordance with the Order of Precedence with the highest award worn closest to the centre of the chest.

A ribbon or ribbon bar is worn on the left breast.



Ribbon with two crosses.

Right breast awards

Right breast awards are those medals, badges, pins and other awards that do not comprise part of the Australian Honours and Awards System nor are they a recognised foreign award approved for wear by Government House in Canberra.

Right breast awards that can be worn include:

Award	Variants	Comments
St John Awards		
Lifesaving medal of the Order of St John	Bronze, Silver and Gold	
St John Ambulance Australia Commendation	Bronze, Silver and Gold	
Sovereign's Award	Nil	
Cadet/Cadet Leader of the Year Pin	Nil	Must be removed when the recipient reaches the age of 25 years.
St John Service Award	5 years	Must be removed when the Service Medal of the Order is awarded
St John Special Service Shields	100, 200, 500, 800, 1000 and 2000 hours	Only one award is worn reflecting the highest number of hours achieved. Must be removed when the recipient reaches the age of 25 years.
St John COVID-19 Badge	Nil	
External Organisation Awards		
Duke of Edinburgh's Award	Bronze, Silver and Gold	Only the highest level is to be worn.
Royal Humane Society Bravery Medals	Various	
Australian Defence Force Medals	Various	Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG) Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC) United States (US) Presidential Unit Citation (Army) US Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation Emblem. Commendations
Statutory Authority Awards (Police, Fire, Ambulance, SES/TES)	Service Commendations and Long Service Awards	Awards made by the chief officer of a statutory authority will generally be recognised by St John.

Award	Variants	Comments
Other awards including state/territory government	Various	Disaster and Emergency Response Medals, Commendations, Anniversary and special service medals.

Right breast awards are worn on the right breast and should be worn in not more than three rows. Effort should be made to keep ribbon bars in the bottom row in line with any ribbon bars which are worn on the left breast. When there is more than one row of awards, there should be a gap of 5mm between the top of a row of awards and the bottom of the row immediately above. When there is more than one award in a row, they should be spaced evenly. All awards should be appropriately mounted, clean and in good order.



Example of wearing a commendation worn on right breast with Order membership on the left breast.