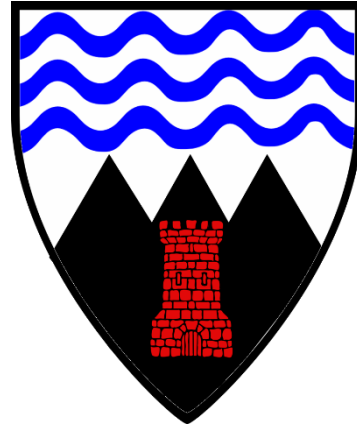


The



Duchy of the  
Misty Blue  
Mountains



# The Duchy of the Misty Blue Mountains

*A Duchy within the Empire of Medieval Pursuits*

The Duchy of the Misty Blue Mountains, based in Ashland, Kentucky, unites the Eastern Mountain Baronies and Fiefs. Encompassing member fiefs within the Lands of New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, and Indiana.

The purpose of the Duchy of the Misty Blue Mountains is to bring together many great Baronies / Fiefs of the Kingdom, to share knowledge, strength, resources, and camaraderie to enhance the grandeur of each of its constituent parts. We choose to espouse the hallmarks of hospitality and the great virtue of honor in all things.

**Time Period / Place:** The Duchy of the Misty Blue Mountains acknowledges and includes within this charter the time periods of each Fief based upon their specific charter.

**Heraldry:** Argent field, 3 wavy fess Azure above three chevrons sable with center tower gules



## *Article 1: Member States*

All Member Branches of the Duchy of the Misty Blue Mountains are accorded all rights and privileges of their status including Lords of Duchy Branches holding a Seat on the Council of the Mist to work for the betterment of the Duchy.

### *Member States and Membership*

1. All Member Branches must meet the membership requirements under Empire Law.
2. If at any time a Branch falls below required membership:
  - a. The Duke/Duchess and the Council of the Mists will work with the Lord to aid in membership, recruiting, event planning, et.al. to meet requirements.

- b. Lords may continue to sit upon the Council of the Mist and will continue to have a voice in matters of State, but will hold no voting rights, per Empire Law until such time as they meet the requirements of membership.
- c. Upon such time as Branch membership meets the requirements, all rights and privileges will be restored.
- d. If a Branch is dissolved by choice, by Kingdom, or by Empire Law, the citizens of that Branch are welcome to join any Duchy Branch as they may so desire to ensure they are provided representation within the Duchy.
- e. Branches receiving members from dissolved Branches must happily release members if the original Branch is afterward restored and the member desires to return.
- f. If a receiving Branch's membership now elevates them to a higher level, they may not be immediately approved for such elevation until the former Branch's dissolution is final.

#### 1. Member Charters

- a. While Charters are the purview of the Crown, Prior to submitting Charters to the Kingdom Steward and Their Royal Majesties, Charters must be submitted to the Duke/Duchess for their review and assistance.
- b. The Duke/Duchess will assist and not seek to make material changes to the Charter of any Branch but will review for adherence to Empire, Kingdom, and Duchy Law.
  - i. Current Lords must submit any Charter revisions.
  - ii. Newly formed branches must submit their establishing Charter.
  - iii. Approved New Member States must deliver their most current Charter.

#### 2. Petitions to join the Duchy of the Misty Blue Mountains.

- a. Any non-member branch may petition the Duke/Duchess of the Misty Blue Mountains to become a member of the Duchy.
- b. The Duke/Duchess will apprise the Council of the Mist before making a formal determination of acceptance or rejection of said petition.
- c. The Council may freely discuss the inclusion of new member branches as proposed.
- d. All final decisions are at the will and pleasure of the Duke/Duchess.

#### 3. Petition to leave the Duchy and Domesday.

- a. Any Branch requesting to leave the Duchy must petition the Duke/Duchess for formal release.

6. It is required that any branch that is considering a petition of withdrawal from the Duchy to hold Assize with the Duke/Duchess or to address the matter before the Council.
  - i. It is expected that the Lord of the Branch work with the Duke/Duchess and state any grievances.
  - ii. The Duke/Duchess will in return work with the Lord to address said grievances giving remedy, if possible.
  - iii. Empire Law membership requirements for a duchy will be taken into consideration in determining if a release will be granted.
  - iv. All final decisions are at the will and pleasure of the Duke/Duchess.
  - v. Domesday: Lords must inform the Duke/Duchess of changes, including withdraw of Duchy membership, effective on Domesday.

### Article 2: Council of the Mist

1. The Lord of each Branch within the Duchy will be a member of the Council of the Mist. They, along with the Duke/Duchess, will convene to discuss and decide upon current affairs affecting the Duchy.
2. The Duke/Duchess may call a meeting of the Council of the Mist as they desire.
3. Matters will be posted on the message board for all Lords' review and comment.
4. Lords may attend formal meetings electronically.
5. Any Lord who must be absent from a Council of the Mist meeting may give their proxy to any other sitting Lord in attendance. This Proxy must be in writing.
6. The Duke/Duchess may not require any Lord to vote for or against any Kingdom matter within the House of Lords.
1. Qualifications for Lordship within the Duchy
  - a. All Council of the Mist Lords must be members of the Duchy of the Misty Blue Mountains and be in good standing in the Empire.
  - b. In order to understand the Laws and the culture of the Duchy, We would desire that a new Lord be a member of the Duchy for not less than one year. Exceptions are:
    - i. Newly formed groups: The Duke/Duchess will work closely with the new Lord or appoint a senior Lord of their choosing to assist.
    - ii. Established Branches new to the Duchy but have been members within the Empire for not less than one year will receive assistance as needed.

iii. Member Duchy Branches.

1. It may occur that a citizen wins the Lordship by right of arms but does not have one year of membership within the Duchy.
  2. The former Lord shall make themselves available to assist the new Lord as needed.
2. Responsibilities of the Lords to the Duchy.
- a. That their votes be the voice of the people on Matters of State.
  - b. Be active within their Branch.
  - c. Be active on the Lords' message board to stay connected to each other and the Duke/Duchess.
  - d. Attend events of their companion Branches as they are able.
  - e. To be a resource for each other and provide assistance to new Lords.
  - f. Always remember they are servants of the Duchy and of the people of their Branch.
  - g. Bring concerns and issues to the attention of the Duke/Duchess for assistance as needed.
  - h. Keep the Duke/Duchess abreast of activities, awards, events, and other glorious deeds.
  - i. Assist with recruiting for the growth of the Duchy and the Glory of the Kingdom.
  - j. Defend the Duchy from all threats.
  - k. Respond with troops when called upon by your Duke/Duchess.

**Article 3: Duke & Duchess**

1. The Duchy will be served by a Duke and Duchess gained by right of arms (BR).
  - a. A seated Duke / Duchess will remain Baron / Baroness of his/her respective Barony OR may assign the title of Baronial Chancellor to oversee the Baronial administrative operations.
  - b. The Duke and Duchess hold the number of votes by law from their originating Branch along with their privilege of one (1) extra vote for the Ducal seat within the Council of the Mists.

Responsibilities of the Duke / Duchess:

1. Harmonize the of Member Branches of the Duchy to create unity among the lands and citizens. Chair of the Council of the Mist.
2. Hold quarterly and ad hoc meetings with the Council of the Mist and call for formal votes on Matters of State.
3. Maintain good communication and work with the Lords to determine the correct course for the Duchy.
4. Review, assist with, and approve Branch Charters.

5. The Duke/Duchess will assist with helping the Lords prepare new Charters and revised Charters prior to submission to the Crown and the Steward.
6. The Duke/Duchess do not seek to materially change any Branch Charter except where it is determined there is a conflict with Duchy, Kingdom, or Empire Law. Enact such Duchy laws that increase the functionality and prosperity of the Duchy and the enjoyment of the people.
7. The Duchy stands to defend our Member States from all threats and may call upon all Lords to come to the aid of any threatened land or Member Branch.
8. Strive to grow the realms of the Duchy.
9. Act as an appellate body for any Duchy citizens.
10. Oversee the Tournament of the Mist each year and other Duchy events for the pleasure of the people.

### Selecting the Duke / Duchess

1. The term of the Duke / Duchess is a minimum period of one (1) year with no limits.
2. The Duke / Duchess must defend their seat through combat which will be held every year during the annual Tournament of the Mist.
  - a. The Tournament of the Mist will be held each year on or nearest to the Summer Solstice in June.
3. Eligibility to content for the Duke/Duchess (by-right or arms - BR)
  - a. All contenders must be citizens of the Duchy in good standing.
  - b. Contenders
    - i. Duke/Duchess including former Duke/Duchess.
    - ii. Baron/Baroness or Baronial Chancellors including formers.
    - iii. Lords of the Mist or former Lords may petition the Duke/Duchess for the right to contend.
      - a) Lord contenders must have been a Lord of their Branch for not less than one year and the Branch size must be ten members or more showing the Lord has experience managing a larger populace.
    - iv. Current Knights of the Mist.
    - v. For tournament combat, any contender may call upon a Champion to fight in their stead.
      - a) The same Champion may only be called upon every two years.

#### 4. The Tournament of the Mist

- a. For war/melee competition, the Duke/Duchess must announce the decision no later than Yule (sixmonths) prior to the Tournament of the Mist and declare it publicly in order for contenders to raise their armies.
- b. If there are more than two contenders, a tournament will be held by no later than March 15 to determine the final two contenders.
- c. Champions may be utilized following the aforementioned Law.
- d. The seated Duke/Duchess who are defending their seat may call upon any and all citizens, including citizens of the Challenging branch to fight in their defense.
- e. All MCBM Duchy citizens have the right to:
  - i. Choose for whom they will fight / support.
  - ii. Choose to refrain from fighting.
  - iii. No one may be compelled to fight for either combatant.
- f. Melee competitions may also include War Points for Arts and Service.
  - i. If War Points will be accorded, rules of the points to be awarded will be posted to the citizens no later than three months prior to the Tournament of the Mists.
- g. The winner of the Tournament of the Mist will immediately be the new Duke / Duchess.

#### 5. Branches may put in a bid to host the Tournament of the Mist.

- a. Preference will be given to the most centralized locations.
- b. The Duke/Duchess and Council of the Mist will consider all bids and make a determination.

#### 6. Rules of the Tournament of the Mist will be posted and disseminated to the Citizens regarding Martial competition, Arts & Sciences, Feasts, Games, and War Points no later than three months prior to the event.

#### 7. Ducal Co-Lord / Consort

- a. The Duke / Duchess (BR) may choose to take unto themselves either a co-Lord or a Consort.
- b. A Co-Lord has all the rights, privileges, authority, and responsibility of the Duke / Duchess (BR) except they do not gain any additional voting privileges.

## 8. Consort

- a. A Consort is ennobled with the honorary title of Duke/Duchess respectively but has no voting rights or authority of the Duke/Duchess.
  - b. It is expected, however, that the Duke / Duchess Consort be treated with the respect due their position.
  - c. The Consort may continue to serve as an officer within the Duchy as needed.
  - d. The Consort may be given temporary authority to speak on behalf of the Duke/Duchess (BR) on Matters of State as their proxy representative. They may:
    - i. Sign and present awards and accolades.
    - ii. Work with Kingdom/Empire officials and other Lords as needed.
    - iii. Vote the proxy vote in the Council of the Mist (all proxy votes must be in writing).
    - iii. Judge Arts & Sciences competitions
    - iv. Act in an advisory capacity on matters of the arts and sciences, awards, and other matters affecting the citizens of the Duchy.
9. The Duke/Duchess may appoint a Nobel Retinue to assist at events. They may choose a retinue who travels with them or choose to award the honor to the hosting Branch's citizens.

### Abdication - Resigning Duke/Duchess - Interim Duke / Duchess

1. In the event that the Duke/Duchess is unable to fulfill their tenure in their position (personal issues, health, et.al.), the Council of the Mist will be called to address the vacant seat.
2. The Abdicating Duke/Duchess must give notice.
  - a. A formal announcement will be delivered to the populace only stating the Duke/Duchess is stepping down.
  - b. If there is a Co-Duke/Duchess, they will take over all responsibilities.
  - c. Otherwise, the Council of the Mist will meet to determine how the matter will be resolved.
    - i. The Abdicating Duke/Duchess may suggest a worthy successor to fill the Interim position but does not retain the right to enact that as Law.
    - ii. The Order of Precedence will be followed:
      1. Co-Duke/Duchess
      2. Baron/Baroness
      3. Baronial Chancellor.
      4. Lords of Branches with ten or more members or Ducal Consort.



5. However, the Council of the Mist may choose to act as Regent for the interim period until the following Tournament of the Mist. Pilgrimage
3. There are times in a Duke/Duchess' life when they must concern themselves with their personal homestead and/or spiritual matters.
  - a. During this time, a Duke/Duchess may step away from their duties for a period not to exceed four (4) months.
4. The aforementioned Order of Precedence will be utilized by the Council of the Mist at their discretion.
  - a. However, this would be a Title Held in Trust as a Regent and not a de facto ruler.
5. If the Duke/Duchess returns within or at four (4) months, they will resume their position.
6. If the Duke/Duchess cannot return in this time period, the Council of Mists will meet to determine the best course of action based on the Laws under Resignation/Abdication.

#### Article 4: Offices of the Duchy

1. All officers are appointed by the Duke/Duchess.
2. The Officers of the Duchy may be from any Member Barony or Fief within the Duchy.
3. All Duchy officers may retain their local Baronial / Fief positions.
4. Officers' duties are administrative, and they do not sit on the Council of the Mist except in the event they are the current Count/Countess, Baron / Baroness, or Lord of their Fief, or as requested by the Duke / Duchess.
5. Officers advise the Duke / Duchess and assist local Baronies / Fiefs as requested.
  - a. War Commander
    - i. The Duke / Duchess may choose the Commander or hold a Tournament awarding the winner the position at their discretion.
    - ii. Acts as the military head of the Duchy and may command on the field in place of the Duke / Duchess when appropriate,
    - iii. The War Commander has the authority to oversee safety and armor standards and remove any combatant for any violation of such.
    - iv. Works with, advises, and coordinates with the War Chiefs, Captains, and Generals. The Duchy War Commander has oversight of but does not supersede the will of the Branch War Chiefs.

- b. *Baronial Chancellors / Lawspeaker*
  - i. They may appoint a Chancellor to handle administrative duties within the local Barony/County so their energies may be focused on the Duchy as a whole.
  - ii. Acts as the right hand of the Duke/Duchess in matters of administrative organization.
  - iii. Chancellors may attend the Council of the Mists in an advisory capacity only. They have no voting privileges.
  - iv. Chancellors may appoint local positions to deserving individuals for matters such as running an event, coordinating the arts, or assisting with Matters of State upon the approval of the Duke/Duchess.
  - v. Maintains the history of the Duchy and assists with tracking membership, treaties, and awards.
- c. *High Maester/Maistress*
  - i. Assists and coordinates arts and science and service activities as needed within the Duchy during the annual Tournament and upon request from the Baronies / Fiefs.
  - ii. Shall coordinate friendly Duchy-wide competitions, exhibitions, and showcases the works of all artisans of the Duchy.
- d. *Ambassador*
  - i. One Lord may be chosen from among the Lords to act as the Ambassador.
  - ii. The Ambassador will be responsible for carrying the proxy votes of Lords unable to attend the General Meeting in the western lands.
  - iii. The Ambassador is a Dignitary of State and should be treated with all respect and privileges thereunto.

#### *Article 5: Titles of Respect - Orders of Trusted Companions of the Mist*

1. A Trusted Companion is a member of the highest Order of the Duchy (Knights, Maesters, and Cornerstones).
2. The Duke/Duchess may confer the following titles after consultation with the Mountain Lords, and Trusted Companions.
3. A Duke/Duchess may make any citizen a member of the Order of the Trusted Companions at any time.
  - a. The Council of the Mist or any of the Order of Trusted Companions may bring a petition to the
  - b. Duke/Duchess to induct a new member into an Order at any time. (A "member" is a member of the
  - c. Member Branches within the Duchy.)

4. Order of the Knights of the Mist (High Companion at Arms)
  - a. A knight is awarded by the Duke/Duchess to those who consistently show worthiness of such title and have proven themselves in battle and has the ability to recruit and train new fighters.
  - b. Members of the Order of the Knights of the Mist are known by Sir or Dame.
    - i. Members are allowed to utilize the names which identifies with their Fief's Charter (i.e., a Pirate Fief may utilize Captain or Commander)
  - c. Knights alone may style their students Squires (I<sub>2</sub>), men at arms and shield maidens (I<sub>1</sub>).
    - i. Squires, men at arms, and shield maidens are not members of the Order of the Knight of the Mist.
  - d. It is expected that Knights will promote fighters they deem worthy of the promotion to knighthood to the Duke/Duchess, or in consultation with, to the Crown.
5. Order of Mastery of the Mist (High Companion of the Arts)
  - a. A Maester/Maistress is awarded to those who have demonstrated their skills and mastery of their arts/science and has the ability to train new artisans or assist them with finding a good mentor.
  - b. Members of the Order of the Mastery of the Mist are known by Maester/Maistress.
  - c. A Maester/Maistress may take unto themselves students to teach who will be known as Apprentices.
6. Order of the Cornerstone (High Companion of Service)
  - a. A Cornerstone is awarded to those who have consistently demonstrated and given their service to their local fief or the Duchy at large.
  - b. Members of the Order of the Cornerstone are known as Adjutants.
  - c. An Adjutant may take unto themselves students to teach who will be known as Adjuncts.
7. Order of the Tor
  - i. Members of the Order of the Tor are inducted by discretion of the Duke/Duchess upon their achievement of the three (3) High Companion awards.
8. A Duke/Duchess also reserves the right to remove a title for acts such as treason or offenses that would deem the individual unfit to be a Companion of the Duchy after a vote of the Lords.

## Article 6: Duchy Awards

1. To recognize progress, learning, and mastership of whatever area in which a member in good standing endeavors within the Duchy of the Misty Blue Mountains, the Duke / Duchess enjoys rewarding the populace.
2. Martial Awards
  - a. Level 1 - The Bronze Sword
    - i. May be awarded to those who have demonstrated their determination and growth in any martial activity.
  - b. Level 2 - The Silver Lance
    - i. May be awarded to those who have consistency demonstrated their willingness to take the field of battle and/or have shown an outstanding achievement in battle or other martial activity.
3. Other Awards
  - a. Sergeant of the Field may be awarded to those who shows leadership on the field of battle in melee. The Duke / Duchess may appoint a Sergeant of the Field for Fiefs of fighters. This is a great honor to be chosen.
  - b. Duke / Duchess' Champion - The Duke / Duchess' Champion is selected by the Duke / Duchess as their personal champion and can be called upon in a challenge for the right to be Duke / Duchess if they so choose. Special Champion's Battle Tournaments may be held against the Champions of the others Fief for bragging rights.
  - c. Consort's Champion
    - i. The Consort may call for a champion who will fight for them in contest or for their honor.
  - d. Duchy Archery Champion is awarded to the individual who wins the annual archery tournament.
  - e. Duchy Thrown Weapons Champion is awarded to the individual who wins the annual thrown weapons tournament.
4. Arts & Sciences Awards
  - a. The awards in this category include all forms of arts and sciences, including the study thereof. The awards are based on both knowledge and talent, both being equally weighted.
    - i. Arts includes costuming, painting, calligraphy work, jewelry making, weaving, brewing / cooking, and any artistic skill of that ilk.
      1. Arts Level 1 - The Amber Diamond may be awarded to individuals who have demonstrated their desire to learn and hone their skills. They show great promise in their art in both artisanship and period detail.
      2. Arts Level 2 - The Silver Quill may be awarded to individuals who have demonstrated their mastery in a particular artisan area.

- ii. Sciences include woodworking, forge work, knife / blade making, weapon and armoring and any artistic skill of that ilk.
  - 1. Sciences Level 1 - The Bronze Hammer may be awarded to individuals who have demonstrated their desire to learn and hone their skills. They show great promise in their art in both artisanship and period detail.
  - 2. Sciences Level 2 - The Silver Hammer may be awarded to individuals who have demonstrated their mastery in a particular artisan area.
- b. Service Awards
  - i. Service is one of the greatest ways you can support the Duchy. For we all are important, and we can all contribute.
    - 1. Service Level 1 - The Bronze Heart
      - a. May be awarded to individuals who have shown willingness to aid the Duchy at events and volunteer to assist others within the Duchy as they can.
    - 2. Service Level 2 - The Silver Heart
      - a. May be awarded to individuals who consistently and happily provide service to the Duchy, through assisting with events, welcoming and aiding newcomers, and any other service the Duke / Duchess deems worthy of such praise.
- c. Children's Awards
  - i. To encourage our children to participate, learn, and grow.
    - 1. White Star - May be awarded to children who are learning any of the martial skills and demonstrate basic understanding and ability. ii. White Quill - May be awarded to children who are learning any arts and sciences and demonstrate basic understanding and ability.
    - 2. White Heart - May be awarded to children who regularly demonstrate service to the village.

## Article 7: Other Rules

1. Membership rules are based on the rules of the Empire of Medieval Pursuits.
2. Branches must report to the Duchy if their membership goes below the required number for their Level.
3. We request Branches report new members so that the Duke / Duchess may welcome them to the Duchy.
4. Banishment
  - a. Challenge Rules may also be employed when there is a need for a banishment.
  - b. All banishments must be immediately reported to the Duke /Duchess.
    - i. While the Duke/Duchess will not overrule a Branch's determination to banish an individual, we will work toward a solution that will be successful for all parties. c. Level 1 Banishment
    - ii. Branches retain the right to declare a Level 1 Banishment of any individual (member) based on the rules of Branch charter. This includes any events of that Branch.
      1. A Level 1 Banishment does not preclude that individual from attending events in other Branches or the Duchy.
        - 1) The Duke/Duchess and consultation with the Council of the Mist may find a solution in relocating the individual to another Branch. Both Lords must be in agreement.
      2. A Level 1 Banishment may be honored by multiple Branches simultaneously. d. Level 2 Banishment
    - iii. Banishment from attending any event at which the Duke/Duchess is in attendance.
    - iv. This does not preclude the individual from attending events/gatherings at which the Duke/Duchess are not in attendance.
  - c. Level 3 Banishment
    - i. Banishment from the Duchy including all events and gatherings.
    - ii. Lords are expected to respect the determination of the Duke/Duchess. iii. A Level 3 Banishment will be reported to Kingdom which may result in the individual being transferred to another Branch outside the Duchy.
  - d. Kingdom Banishment
    - i. A Lord/Branch hosting an event may be informed of individuals who have been banished by the Kingdom. They Lords must abide by this banishment.

### Changes to the Charter:

1. Any changes to the Charter will be democratically voted upon during meetings of the Council of the Mist. Ratification is a simple majority.
2. All changes to the Charter will be submitted to the Crown for final approval.
3. Any Lord or citizen who has suggestions of changes to be made or can imagine new things we should incorporate within the Duchy should share this in written format with their Lord who will add it to the agenda of the next Council meeting.
4. Official meetings will be held quarterly.
5. All other items not mentioned herein, default to the rules of the Empire of Medieval Pursuits. Any rule contained herein that conflicts with EMP rules, EMP rules will prevail, and the Charter will be amended upon learning of such conflict.
6. Any inter-Duchy disputes will default to EMP rules of challenged combat. Be excellent to each other.
7. All news, updates, and events, will be posted on Facebook: Duchy of the Misty Blue Mountains Note to the Populace:
8. While our Duchy has very few rules, we do ask that everyone to work and play well together for the greater good of our Duchy. Discrimination, harassment, and/or bullying will not be tolerated.