

Discover the herald in you!



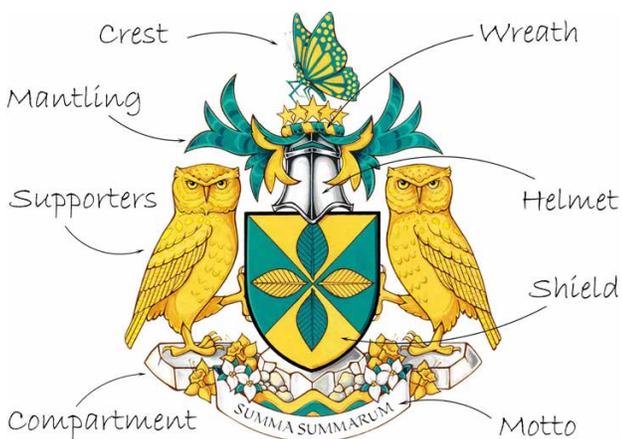
What is heraldry?

Heraldry is a way for people, groups and organizations to tell their stories in a visual way. It deals with emblems such as coats of arms, flags and badges. This system, which originated in tournaments and on the battlefields of the Middle Ages, remains relevant today and continues to inspire wonder.

Heraldry in Canada

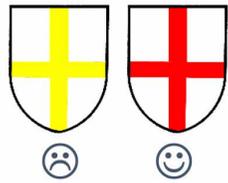
Did you know that Canada has its own system of heraldry? Every year, new coats of arms are created by experts known as heralds, who work at the Canadian Heraldic Authority, a part of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General. An official coat of arms is created by the issuing of a beautifully illustrated document.

The parts of a coat of arms



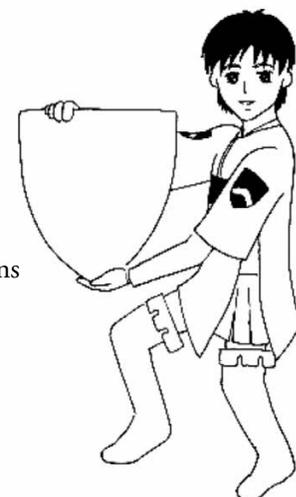
Coat of Arms of Elmwood School, Ottawa
Public Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada, Vol. VI, p. 492.

Three simple rules

1. Each coat of arms must be unique.
2. To help make the design stand out, use a limited number of bright colours (red, blue, green, black and purple) and light colours (white and yellow), and place them in opposition. 
3. To create a design that is original, meaningful and attractive, choose a few strong symbols or simple shapes.

Try it yourself!

Choose a friend, a parent, your school or even yourself, and identify what makes that person or institution special and what is important to them. Think of a few symbols to represent these ideas, such as shapes, colours, animals, plants, objects or imaginary creatures. Draw a coat of arms using the blank shield on the next page, and don't forget to add a crest above the helmet and a motto underneath. You can add supporters if you are creating a coat of arms for an institution. Get inspired by other examples of coats of arms, which can be found on the Governor General's website at <http://reg.gg.ca>.



THE CANADIAN
HERALDIC AUTHORITY
SINCE 1988

To learn more about heraldry or to apply for a grant of arms, contact the Canadian Heraldic Authority.

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