

Decorations and Medals – Praise the Glory

Decoration Bureau

- Planning and Selecting Recipients for the Biannual Decoration Ceremonies and Other Honors.
- Conducting Studies and Research on the Honors System.

What is the Honors System in Japan?

- Honors, in the form of decorations and medals of honor, are bestowed upon individuals of merit, in recognition of their national or public services, and in honor of their distinguished accomplishments in various areas of society.
- The honors system in Japan was established in the early Meiji period.
- Awarding of honors is one of the constitutional functions of the Emperor, with the advice and approval of the Cabinet.
- Decorations play an important role in keeping international goodwill; they are exchanged mutually when the state or official guests visit Japan.



Ceremony of Imperial Conferment of Decoration
(Imperial Palace : Matsu-no-ma of the Seiden) <©Imperial Household Agency >

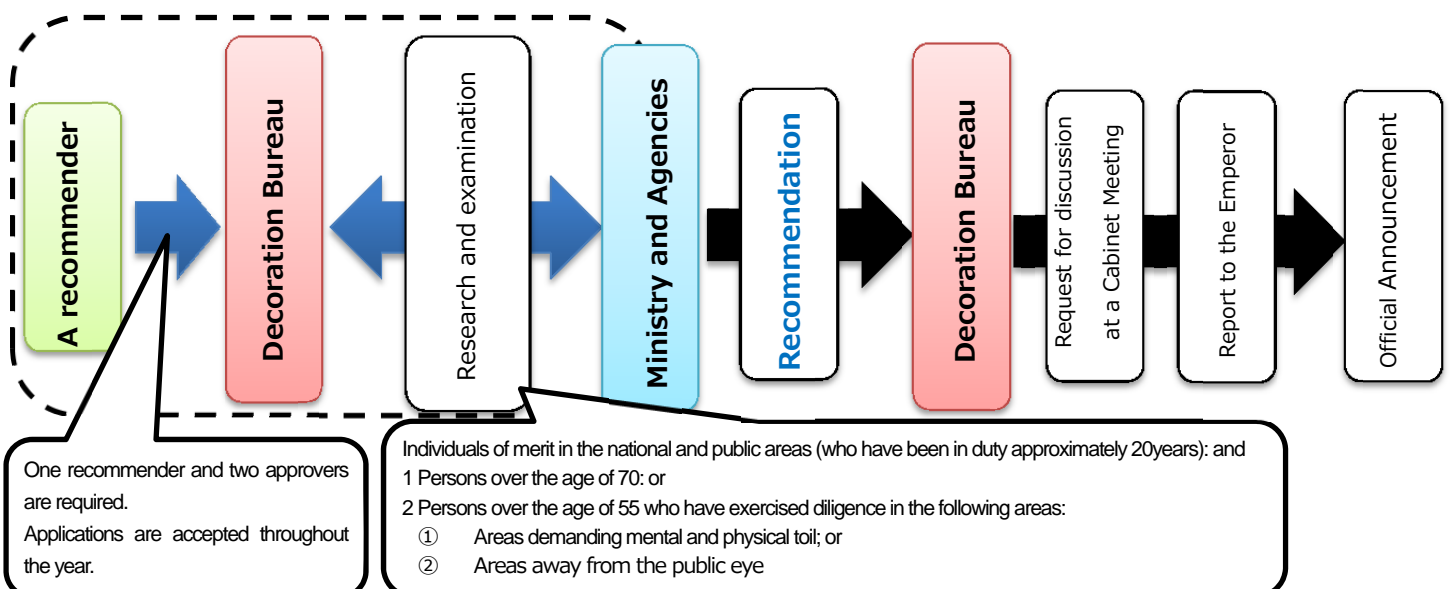


Recipients of Order of Culture

Recommendation of Candidates for the Biannual Conferment

A recommendation system in which the public can recommend worthy candidates for the Biannual Conferment has been in effect since 2003. This system is for individuals who have made genuine achievements in areas away from the public eye or individuals who have achieved accumulated merits in multiple areas.

【Process】



Types of Decorations and Medals and Summary of the Honors System

		Types		Persons Eligible	
Decorations	Collar of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers		Individuals of superior merit whose accomplishment is greater than those of the individuals to be awarded the Grand Cordon Of the Orders of the Rising Sun or of the Sacred Treasure		
	Orders of the Rising Sun	Orders of the Sacred Treasure	Individuals who have made distinguished contributions to the nation or public		
	Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun	Grand Cordon of the Order of the Sacred Treasure	Orders of the Rising Sun	Orders of the Sacred Treasure	
	Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star	Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Star			
	Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon			
	Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette			
	Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays			
	Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays	Order of the Sacred Treasure, Silver Rays			
	Order of Culture	Individuals with highly distinguished achievements in cultural development in Japan			
	Medals of Honor	Medal with Red Ribbon	Individuals who have risked their own lives to save others		
Medal with Green Ribbon		Morally remarkable individuals who have voluntarily participated in saving society			
Medal with Yellow Ribbon		Individuals who, through their diligence and perseverance, became public role models			
Medal with Purple Ribbon		Individuals who have contributed to academic and artistic developments, improvements and accomplishments			
Medal with Blue Ribbon		Individuals who have made prosperous efforts in the areas of public interest and public welfare			
Medal with Dark Blue Ribbon		Individuals who have made exceptionally generous financial contributions for the good of the public			

		Types		Persons Eligible	
Biannual Conferment		April 29 th for the spring and November 3 rd for the autumn (Approximately 4,000 recipients each)		Individuals of merit in the national and public areas; and 1. Persons over the age of 70; or 2. Persons over the age of 55 who have exercised diligence in the following areas: (1) Areas demanding mental and physical toil; or (2) Areas away from the public eye	
Conferment for Persons with Dangerous Occupations		April 29 th for the spring and November 3 rd for the autumn (Approximately 3,600 recipients each)		Individuals over the age of 55 who have exercised diligence in high-risk professions, in recognition of their national and public services	
Conferment for the Elderly		Approved at the end-of-month Cabinet meetings and officially announced on the first day of the next month		Meritorious individuals who have not received honors in the Biannual Conferment are conferred decorations at the age of 88	
Posthumous Conferment		Approved at a Cabinet meeting when the occasion arises (The official announcement is back-dated to the last day of the person's life)		Decorations are conferred posthumously to commendable individuals	
Conferment for Foreigners	Courtesy Conferment	Same day as the Biannual Conferment		State or official guests visiting Japan; or Diplomats from certain countries leaving office	
	Conferment in Recognition of Merits	Upon arrival or departure		Foreigners who have made notable contributions to Japan	
Order of Culture		November 3 rd (Approximately five recipients)		Individuals of particularly distinguished achievement in cultural development	
Biannual Conferment of Medals		April 29 th for the spring and November 3 rd for the autumn (Approximately 800 recipients each)		Individuals or groups of merit in the national and public areas (Medals will be awarded regardless of age)	
Medal with Dark Blue Ribbon		Approved at the end-of-month cabinet meetings and officially announced as of the first day of the next month			



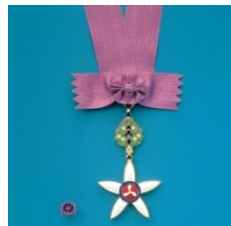
Collar of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum



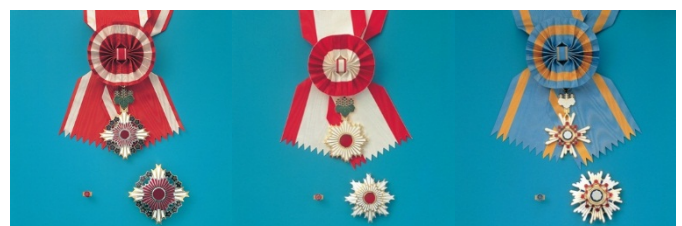
Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum



Medal with Red Ribbon



Order of Culture



Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers

Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun

Grand Cordon of the Order of the Sacred Treasure

(In addition to the above, there is another type of decoration, the Orders of the Precious Crown, which are bestowed only on females, on special occasions such as courtesy conferment on foreigners.)