

# COMPANY OF THE BLACK ROSE



**Symbol:** A stylized black rose with thorns.

**Background and Goals:** Founded by long-time comrades in arms, the Black Rose Adventuring Company is dedicated to the eradication or capture of magic employing creatures who threaten the safety of Verbobonc. His Lordship Viscount Langard officially recognized the Black Rose as a worthy remedy in combating evil and granted them the use of a building in the heart of the city, dubbed Black Rose manor. The headquarters contains specialized facilities for the study and combat of creatures capable of harnessing magic.

With recent events shattering long-held assumptions about the Viscounty, Verbobonc seems to have started down the road to dissolution. The absence of the Viscount, the slow wasting-away of the comatose Bishop Hauften, the death of Magister Obble Har at the hands of a dark foe, the disbanding of the Mounted Borderers, and the assassination of many nobles in their very homes have all conspired to throw Verbobonc into chaos. You have witnessed these evils for far too long. When the organization you swore to follow crumbled around you, your will to fight the enemies of the Viscounty did not waver. Instead, you found a group of like-minded warriors, armed drifters with little to bind them other than a desire to see the common man uplifted and some kind of order restored to the Viscounty of Verbobonc.

**Members:** The Company of the Black Rose invites all comers, but those with experience in an organization that has been disbanded are welcomed at a higher rank. Those with a long history of wandering the Viscounty and performing heroic deeds are also made welcome. Although warriors tend to gravitate to the Company of the Black Rose more often than priests or mages, the number of masterless heroes in Verbobonc ensure that all types are found within their ranks.

Only those characters that possess the Leadership feat are permitted to rise to **Black Rose Commander** in the Company of the Black Rose.

**Type:** Fighting company

**Scale:** 10 (regional)

**Affiliation Score Criteria:** A loose paramilitary organization, the Company of the Black Rose is dedicated to defending the common folk of Verbobonc and fighting evil—particularly evil spellcasters—wherever they are found. Any character with Verbobonc as a home region may join.

| Criterion                                                                                                                                                | Modifier               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Character level                                                                                                                                          | +½ level               |
| Levels in marshal, holy liberator, vigilante, or occult slayer                                                                                           | +2                     |
| Possesses affiliation points or promotion points in a Verbobonc regional metaorganization that was dissolved as a result of VER18-01: <i>Investiture</i> | Special <sup>(1)</sup> |
| Possesses the Leadership feat                                                                                                                            | +3                     |
| Member of the Wanderers of Coldeven                                                                                                                      | Special <sup>(2)</sup> |
| Member of the Church of Trithereon                                                                                                                       | +3                     |
| Member of the Gentlemen of the Watch                                                                                                                     | -2                     |
| Member of a noble metaorganization belonging to a Verbobonc noble house                                                                                  | -5                     |
| Openly displays membership in the Company of the Black Rose <sup>(3)</sup>                                                                               | -2/-5                  |

## Notes:

- If you were a member of multiple Verbobonc regional metaorganizations that used Affiliation points, use the metaorganization that has the highest Affiliation point score for purposes of determining how many Affiliation points you receive.
- If you joined the Wanderers of Coldeven at Winter War 35, you receive 2 Affiliation Points. If you joined the Wanderers of Coldeven prior to Winter War 35, you receive 5 Affiliation points. If you joined the Wanderers of Coldeven after Winter War 35, you receive 0 Affiliation points.
- Openly displaying membership to a figure in legal authority incurs a -5 Affiliation point penalty.

**Titles, Benefits and Duties:** The Company of the Black Rose is dedicated to defending the common folk of Verbobonc and they serve as a rallying point for those affected by the changes in the land. As you rise in rank within the Company of the Black Rose, you gain access to abilities that help you defend the residents of the Viscounty and embolden them to resist the evil running rampant in Verbobonc.

**Score** **Title: Benefits and Duties** (*benefits and duties are cumulative*)

**3 or lower** No affiliation

**4-14** **Armed Drifter.** Your quest to do good in the Viscounty under the orders of your superiors in the Company of the Black Rose requires a keen awareness. You are also much beloved by the common people of Verbobonc, who already look to you as a leader.

☞ **Associated Skills:** The following skills are considered Associated skills for members of the Company of the Black Rose: Gather Information, Intimidate, Knowledge [Local—VTF], Listen, and Spot. You receive a +2 circumstance your associated skills. Additionally, you receive a the same bonus to your Leadership score if you possess the Leadership feat.

☞ **Lifestyle:** You receive free Adventure Lifestyle [Standard] during any Verbobonc regional adventure.

☞ **Service:** Members of the Company of the Black Rose are expected to donate time and resources to the protection of the Viscounty. To maintain the benefits of this rank, you must donate 50 gp per character level in each Verbobonc regional adventure (to feed and arm the populace), and an additional 2 TUs per Verbobonc regional adventure.

**15-30** **Black Rose Officer:** You are already known for taking the fight to the enemy and being a leader of the common people. In addition to the benefits above, you are also highly regarded by other heroes, who show you some of their tricks.

☞ **Alternate Class Features:** You gain access to the following alternate class features: ☐adrenaline boost<sup>PH2</sup>, ☐bardic knack<sup>PH2</sup>, ☐berserker strength<sup>PH2</sup>, ☐charging smite<sup>PH2</sup>, ☐counterattack<sup>PH2</sup>, ☐dark companion<sup>PH2</sup>, ☐decisive strike<sup>PH2</sup>, ☐disruptive attack<sup>PH2</sup>, ☐distracting attack<sup>PH2</sup>, ☐eclectic learning<sup>PH2</sup>, ☐elusive attack<sup>PH2</sup>, ☐metamagic specialist<sup>PH2</sup>, ☐overpowering attack<sup>PH2</sup>, or ☐shield of blades<sup>PH2</sup>. You may use this benefit a maximum of three (3) times, each time paying 2 Affiliation points.

☞ **Service:** The cost for you to maintain this tier increases to 100 gp per character level and 4 TUs per Verbobonc regional adventure.

**31+** **Black Rose Commander:** You have learned the true secret of the formation of the Company of the Black Rose: to establish a military force strong enough to take control of the Viscounty should the new Viscount falter or fail. You draw strength not only from other heroes, but from others within the Company of the Black Rose that you know you can trust.

☞ **Lifestyle:** You gain access to the secret meeting lodge of the Company of the Black Rose—known as Black Rose Manor—in Verbobonc City. This grants you free Adventure Lifestyle [High] during any Verbobonc regional adventure.

☞ **Service:** You must have the Leadership feat in order to attain this tier. The cost for you to maintain this tier increases to 200 gp per character level and 6 TUs per Verbobonc regional adventure.

☞ **Voice of Resistance:** Your rallying cries fill you and your comrades with hope and courage. During any Verbobonc regional adventure, you gain a +X morale bonus on all attack rolls, ability checks and skill checks, where X is the number of members of the Company of the Black Rose at the table other than you.



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This certificate certifies that

A character played by

Signature of Player

RPGA Number

Date

AR

Has fulfilled the requirements for membership in this special Verbobonc regional metaorganization. Membership must be renewed annually at the beginning of each calendar year. Keep all previous certificates of membership along with this one so an accurate account of your membership can be verified.

Name of DM

Signature of DM

RPGA Number

Date

