A FIELD GUIDE TO COMMENCEMENT

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Student Mace
Student marshals—graduating seniors who lead their class in the procession—each carry a ceremonial mace. Off-season, this $850 staff lies in storage.

Faculty Mace
As faculty marshal, Wako Tawa carries this (deceptively heavy) mace in the academic procession. The engraving near the top lists his five predecessors, beginning with William K. Green, who served from 1924 to 1956.

Honorary Marshal’s Mace
The honorary marshal is usually an alum and often the parent of a graduating senior. This mace is engraved with the names of the 69 honorary marshals who served from 1918 to 1986.

Haldor
Even since Zephaniah Swift Moore said, “I am not myself fond of unnecessary ceremonies,” Amherst has accessorized Commencement only modestly. This pole weapon is one of the few ornaments. The county sheriff carries it as he leads the procession.

Ribbon
Staffers in the registrar’s office spend an estimated 25 hours each spring rolling and hand-tying a similar ribbon around each diploma.