

How to become a knight at Whiteknights School



Contents:

- 1. The history around becoming a knight*
- 2. The Chivalry Code*
- 3. Tasks to become a page*
- 4. Tasks to becoming a page explained*
- 5. Tasks to become a squire*
- 6. Tasks to becoming a squire explained*
- 7. Task to become a knight*



Becoming a knight

To become a knight took a process of up to 14 years and two distinct phases.

Phase one - being a page

Pages were between 7 and 14 years old. They worked in the castle carrying out jobs (serving) but also learning skills (training and learning):

- Learnt skills around fighting - archery, horse-manship and sword fighting
- Served meals
- Cleaned knight's clothes
- Carried messages
- Took part in academic studies including dance, music and writing
- Learnt good manners

Phase two - being a squire

This phase usually lasted between 5 and 7 years. Squires were required to fight alongside the knights. They were required to be physically strong, use their brains and know how to fight:

- Clean stables, polish armour, keep weapons ready
- Learn codes of knightly conduct (code of chivalry - see below) and stories about famous knights
- Needed to be physically fit
- Fought alongside knights in battle
- Attended tournaments
- Be able to sing, play an instrument and dance

Final phase - becoming a knight

The night before the squire was dubbed a knight he would have a ceremonial bath and spend the night in a prayer vigil. The next morning, he would kneel and be dubbed on each shoulder with a sword. He would be presented with a sword of his own and riding spurs.

Chivalry code of conduct

- *Fair play* - avoid cheating; don't attack from "behind"
- *Nobility* - self-discipline; respect to authority; obey the law
- *Valour* - exhibit courage in word and deed; never abandon a friend or a just cause
- *Courtesy* - good manners - be polite; respect all authority
- *Honour* - keep your word; maintain your principles; respect life
- *Loyalty* - to God, to the sovereign and to country

How to become a page

Objective: To train in the skills of serving and celebrating others; personal organisation; perseverance and keeping safe.

Checklist of what to do:

- ✓ Assemble all you need for school.....
- ✓ Spend one week serving the school.....
- ✓ Complete a first aid course.....
- ✓ Complete an e-safety course.....
- ✓ Cook and serve a meal at home.....
- ✓ Keep a fitness journal.....
- ✓ Learn the Chivalry Code.....

Well done you have completed your tasks
and are now a page:

.....



You are now ready to complete the tasks to become a
squire!

Tasks to becoming a page explained

Assemble all you need for school:

Make sure you always have your pencil case with what you need for each lesson; your complete PE kit ready; your school bag with reading book and any homework, which is handed in on time.

Spend one week serving the school:

This could be in a variety of ways - tidying the classroom; helping out at lunchtime; picking up litter; helping in the office. Check your chosen activity first with your teacher.

Complete a first aid course

This course will be provided for you to complete in school

Complete an e-safety course

This course will be provided for you to complete in school

Cook and serve a meal at home

Write out your menu and, if you can, take some photos of your meal. Your parents or guardians will have to sign to say you have completed this task.

Keep a fitness journal

Decide what you are going to do and stick to it for half a term. It could be one activity or a variety but it must be three times a week at least. Activities could include scootering or walking to school, playing football, swimming lessons, dance or gymnastics.

Learn the Chivalry Code

Check this out at the start of this booklet.

How to become a squire

Objective: To apply the skills learnt when becoming a page through leadership and being a role-model.

Checklist of what to do:

- ✓ Organise a charity or sports event.....
- ✓ Run a club at lunch-time.....
- ✓ Learn a new creative skill.....
- ✓ Design your own shield for when you become a knight.....
- ✓ Always be ready.....
- ✓ Find out about someone who inspires you.....
- ✓ Help out at a public event at school.....

Well done you have completed your tasks and are now a squire:

.....



You are now ready to complete the final task to become a knight at Whiteknights School!

Tasks to becoming a squire explained

Organise a charity or sports event

This is best done as a group of you together. Any event will need to be checked with your teacher first. As a group you will need to organise the equipment you will need, how it will run, who it will be for, when it will happen and how you will advertise it.

Run a club at lunch time

This needs to run for half a term and needs to benefit the younger children in the school. Again this will work best if a few of you run the club together. Suggestions for the club could be something, sporty, skills based, creative, quiet activities etc. Again check with your teacher first.

Learn a new creative skill

This was something all good squires would do. You could learn to play a tune on the recorder or another instrument; learn how to paint or do pottery; learn a new song or a dance or even learn some juggling skills.

Design your own shield.

Knights shields always said a lot about them as a person. It described their family, where they came from, their skills, their interests etc. So think about who you are and design your shield to reflect you.

Always be ready

As a page you were expected to have everything sorted that you needed for school - this needs to continue to become a squire!

Find out about someone who inspires you

Who inspires you? Is it a sports personality or someone in the public eye? Is it someone who has overcome difficulties in order to succeed? Is it someone you know personally? Whoever it is, present your reasons as to who they are, what they have done, why they inspire you and what a difference they make to your life. You could present this as a poster, a speech, a power-point or however you choose.

Help out at a public event at school

This will work well as a group of you. Choose the event - it could be something like the school fete, sports day or a school disco - and then check with your teacher. Decide how you can help - could it be taking tickets or serving drinks at the disco; could it be setting up sports day or maybe running a stall at the summer fete?



How to become a knight

You are now ready to become a knight! In medieval times a knight in waiting would spend an evening in vigil. This is a time of reflection. We would like you to reflect on your year working to become a knight and write a letter to Mr. Walker to say what you have learnt about yourself and what new skills you have learnt. Say also, what you are looking forward to using as you move forward as a knight into secondary school.

Thank you for your letter - you have successfully completed your final task and are now a knight of Whiteknights School!

.....

