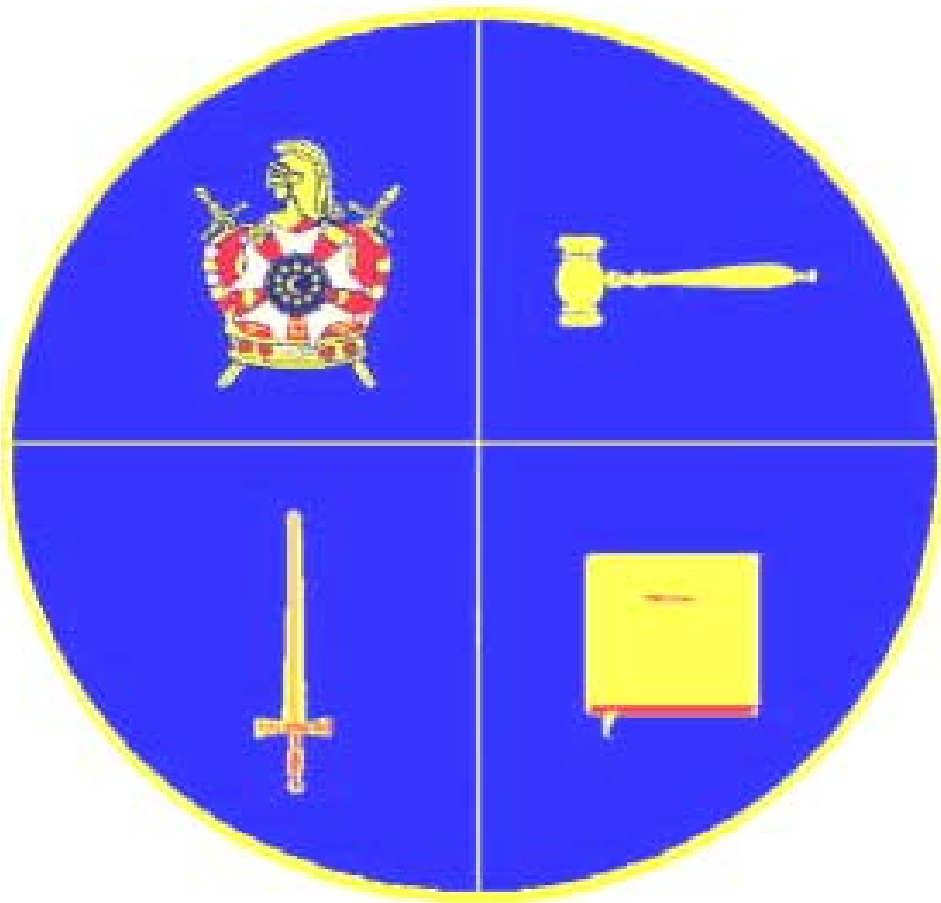


Ritual of the Order of
Squires
of the Round Table



A Fraternal Order for Young Men 10 -- 12 Years Old

Introduction

The Order of the Squires of the Round Table is an organization for young men that is an appendage body of the International Order of DeMolay. The goal of the Squires is to allow boys from 10 through 12 years of age an opportunity to participate in some of the fun activities of DeMolay, but not be overwhelmed with the large age differences and ritual work that is part of DeMolay. The basic organization is called a “Manor” (e.g., The Vancouver Manor of the Order of the Squires of the Round Table). Each Manor is sponsored by a DeMolay Chapter.

The Squires have their own ritual work, which is designed to be easy to learn, and to teach moral lessons they can understand. They meet in a Masonic Lodge room, or in a room set up as though it was a Masonic Lodge room. They have seven officers:

Elected

Master Squire	-- in the East
Senior Squire	-- in the West
Junior Squire	-- in the South

Appointed

Squire Treasurer	-- At Secretary’s desk in the South East
Squire Recorder	-- Next to Treasurer at desk in the South East
Squire Chaplain	-- in the South East
Squire Marshal	-- Next to Chaplain in the South East

A Dad Advisor, who is a member of the Advisory Council is present at all Squire meetings and functions, and has overall responsibility for the Manor. The Dad Advisor sits in the East, on the left of the Master Squire.

In addition, a DeMolay, whose title is Sir Knight, serves as an assistant advisor. He is appointed by the Master Councilor of the Sponsoring DeMolay Chapter and approved by the Chapter Advisory Council. The Sir Knight sits in the East, on the right of the Master Squire.

The term of office can be from four to six months. It is hoped that each Squire will progress through the various elected offices, beginning as Junior Squire and ending as Master Squire, but it is not required. The Sir Knight’s term is six months, and can be extended for an additional six months at the discretion of the Dad Advisor and the Master Councilor. During each term, the Master Squire should plan at least one “Fun Activity.” This can be anything that the Master Squire wants, but must be approved by the Sir Knight and the Dad Advisor.

When meeting, the Squires should follow Robert’s Rules of Order, as they apply in Masonic functions. Use of the gavel is the same as in other Masonic functions. Also, no one is allowed to speak until recognized by the Master Squire, and they always stand while speaking. This also applies to the Sir Knight and the Dad Advisor.

The meetings should last no longer than an hour. It is recommended that the meetings be scheduled on the same nights that the sponsoring DeMolay chapter meets. The Squires should be invited into the DeMolay meeting along with the Royalty/Sorority, Parents Club, and other guests, and should be recognized by the Master Councilor.

The emblem of the Squires is a circle, representing the top of a round table. It is Royal Blue, with a Gold border. It has one vertical Gold line and one horizontal Gold line, dividing the circle into four equal quadrants. In the upper left quadrant is the DeMolay emblem. In the upper right quadrant is a gavel, laid horizontally. In the lower right quadrant is a book with the word "Wisdom" on its cover. In the lower left quadrant is a sword, pointing upward.

When meeting, the Altar is covered with a round table top, decorated as described above, but without the gavel, book, or sword. A bible is placed in the center of the Round Table, where the horizontal and vertical lines meet. At the Master Squire's station are two gavels (one ceremonial, and one to use). At the Senior Squire's station is a sword, and at the Junior Squire's station is a book with the word "Wisdom" on its cover.

*Opening
and
Closing*

Opening Ritual

Before opening their Round Table, the officers line up at the entry to lodge room (preferably in the lodge Preparation Room, if available). Other Squires are seated in the room. The Dad Advisor and Sir Knight are in the East.

Dad Advisor gives one rap of the gavel () to alert members and guests that the meeting is about to begin. He nods to the officers to begin their entrance.*

Sir Knight and Dad Advisor sit, with Dad Advisor on the left of the Master Squire's chair and Sir Knight on the right. (see below-both paragraphs have direction for Marshal, you only need one))

Squire Officers enter the room in the following order:

*Master Squire
Senior Squire
Junior Squire
Squire Chaplain
Squire Treasurer
Squire Recorder*

They proceed to the Round Table. The Marshal goes to the East of the Round Table. The other officers line up West of the Round Table, with the Master Squire on the South end of the line, and the other officers, in order, at his left.

Upon a signal from the Marshal (a nod), the other officers kneel on their left knee with bowed heads (for about three seconds). Upon a second signal from the Marshal they rise. Upon a third signal from the Marshal they move to their respective stations.

Master Squire: *(Gavel: 1 rap) **

“Brother Senior Squire, who are the officers of the Round Table?”

Senior Squire:

“The Master Squire, Senior Squire, Junior Squire, Squire Chaplain, Squire Marshal, Squire Treasurer, and Squire Recorder.”

Master Squire:

“Brother Senior Squire, who is the chief officer of the Round Table and what emblem does he keep?”

Senior Squire:

“The Master Squire is the chief officer, and he keeps the Gavel of Justice.”

Master Squire moves directly to the Round Table, carrying the Gavel.

Master Squire:

“What does his badge represent?”

Senior Squire:

“It is a symbol of Justice and Leadership”

Master Squire places the Gavel in the upper right quadrant of the Round Table, as it is in the Squire Emblem.

Master Squire:

“Brother Senior Squire, what emblem do you keep?”

Senior Squire:

“I keep the Sword of Truth.”

Senior Squire moves directly to the Round Table, placing the Sword in the lower left quadrant, as it is in the Squire Emblem.

Master Squire:

“Brother Junior Squire, what symbol do you keep?”

Junior Squire:

“I keep the Books of Wisdom.”

Junior Squire moves directly to the Round Table and places the book in the lower right quadrant, as it is in the Squire Emblem.

Master Squire:

“Brother Junior Squire, what do our emblems mean?”

Junior Squire:

“That true leadership depends on Wisdom, Truth, and Justice.”

Master Squire nods. The three officers all do an about-face, and move directly back to their stations.

Master Squire:

“Squire Marshal, you will present the flag of our country and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. (or any other tribute that is customary in the nation of the manor) (3 raps) ***

Squire Marshal proceeds to the flag, removes it from the stand, and remaining in place, turns and faces the Round Table.

Squire Marshal:

“Brethren, you will pledge your allegiance to the flag of our Country.”

ALL: (U.S.)

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Squire Marshal replaces the flag in the stand and returns to his station.

Master Squire:

“Squire Chaplain, you will open the Bible, and lead us in our opening prayer. Brothers, you will stand with bowed heads.”

Squire Chaplain proceeds to the West of the Round Table, kneels, and opens the Bible to Proverbs, chapter 23.

Squire Chaplain:

“Our Heavenly Father, we ask Thy blessing on our meeting. Help us to grow in wisdom, know what is true, and be just and kind to one another. Amen.”

ALL:

“God bless Mother, God bless Father, God bless the purpose of the Squires.”

Squire Chaplain rises and returns to his station.

Master Squire:

“Brethren, what did you promise as a Squire?”

ALL:

“I promised to be a better son,
and to love and serve God.

I promised to learn,
and to serve my fellowman.

I promised to seek the truth.

I promised to be just and kind to my brothers.

To all these things and more did I promise.”

Master Squire:

“I now declare the Round Table open for Business.” (*1 rap*) *

Order of Business:

- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Committee Reports
- Old Business
- New Business

Closing Ritual

Master Squire:

“Brother Squires, is there anything further to come before this Round Table?”

(Waits for response)

“None appearing, we shall proceed to close.” *(1 rap) **

Master Squire moves directly to the Round Table.

“Brother Senior Squire, what have you learned?”

Senior Squire:

“My brothers, I have learned that Truth is Eternal.”

Senior Squire moves directly to the Round Table.

Master Squire:

“Brother Junior Squire, have you learned?”

Junior Squire:

“My brothers, I have learned that Wisdom is Power.”

Junior Squire moves directly to the Round Table.

Master Squire:

“And I, my brothers, have learned that Wisdom, Truth, and Justice are the jewels of Leadership.”

Master Squire nods, and all three officers retrieve the emblems of their office.

Master Squire nods again. All three officers all do an about-face, and move directly back to their stations taking the emblems with them.

Master Squire:

“Squire Chaplain, you will close the Bible, and lead us in our closing prayer.”

*(3 raps) ****

Squire Chaplain proceeds to the West of the Round Table, kneels, and prays.

Squire Chaplain:

“Our Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunity to be together. Help us to grow in Wisdom, to know that which is True, and to be Just in our decisions. Help us to serve with lives that honor Thee, and to be faithful to our brothers. Amen.”

ALL: “God bless Mother, God bless Father, God bless the purpose of the Squires.”

Squire Chaplain rises and remains at the Round Table.

Master Squire:

“This Round Table is closed.” *(1 rap)* *

Squire
Induction
Ceremony

Squire Induction Ceremony

(Prior to the Induction Ceremony, the Master Squire, Senior Squire, and Junior Squire retrieve their emblems from the Round Table and return to their stations.)

Master Squire:

“Squire Marshal, (Squire Marshal stands) there are friends without who wish to join us in the work of this Order. You will retire and escort them into our Manor.”

Squire Marshal retires and, after lining up the friends in single file, escorts them to the West of the Round Table.

Squire Marshal:

“Master Squire, I present those who are friends who wish to become Squires and brothers.”

Master Squire moves to the East of the Round Table.

Master Squire:

“My friends, I welcome you to this Manor of the Squires of the Round Table. We understand that you have come to join us in our work of being better sons, dedicated to Truth, Wisdom, Justice. We would ask that you now kneel at our Round Table. You will kneel on both knees, say ‘I’ and speak your name, and repeat after me.”

*Senior Squire gives 3 raps *** (all stand) and moves East of the Round Table).*

Master Squire may give the obligation from memory or he may read it.

I, _____, in the presence of God and these witnesses,
do promise that,
from this time forward,
I will strive to do that which is right,
that I will be a better son,
and that I will always honor my father and mother.

I promise that I will seek Wisdom.
That I will cherish an education,
and learn to improve myself.

I promise to tell the Truth,

and to be true to myself, my family, my friends
and my brother Squires.

I promise to be just and fair,
to obey the laws of my country,
and to strive to respect the rights of others.

I promise that I will be kind

for through kindness, I will know the light
of Wisdom, Truth, and Justice.

So help me God.

“You will arise.”

Master Squire moves to the West of the Round Table

“I now extend to you the right hand of a Squire, which is a token of my friendship and fidelity as a brother.”

Master Squire shakes hands with each new Squire.

Master Squire is escorted to his station by the Squire Marshal.

Squire Marshal then returns to his own station.

Master Squire:

“I now place you in the protection of the Sir Knight. He will conduct you on a Quest for the Lessons of Life. Listen well to your lessons, for they will be valuable in your life.

*Master Squire gives 1 rap to seat everyone except the new Squires and Sir Knight. **

Sir Knight conducts the new Squires to the Junior Squire in the South.

Sir Knight:

“Brother Junior Squire, I present these new Squires who would seek to know the lesson of the Books of Wisdom.”

Junior Squire:

“My Brothers, I welcome you to this station of life, and will explain the Books of Wisdom. In your Quest for the Lessons of Life you will find them to be of great value. In your home, in your school, in your community, and in your daily life, you will discover lessons that will help you grow in mind and spirit. Learn them well, for a man without an education is a man without Truth, and a man without Truth is a man without Hope

“Seek now the lesson of Truth from the Senior Squire.”

Sir Knight escorts the new Squires to the Senior Squire in the West.

Sir Knight:

“Brother Senior Squire, I present these new Squires who are on a Quest for the Lessons of Life.”

Senior Squire:

“My brothers, I welcome you to this station in your Journey of Life, and will explain the Sword of Truth. Your parents have led you in paths of Truth throughout your life, so you should be well aware of the power this sword commands. The Bible tells us that Truth shall make you free, and advises that to thine own self, be true. Through Truth you will gain Courage. Through Truth you will show Wisdom. Truth and honesty will give you Strength. May the Sword of Truth become you greatest Shield.”

“Continue now in your Quest through the Lesson of Justice.”

Sir Knight escorts the new Squires to the Master Squire in the East.

Sir Knight:

“Master Squire, I present these brothers who have been taught the lessons of the Books of Wisdom and the Sword of Truth. They now seek the Lesson of Justice.”

Master Squire:

“My Brothers, I welcome you to this station in your Journey of Life, and will explain the Gavel of Justice. As the leader of this Round Table, I was given the Gavel as an emblem of authority. I was told to use it with Wisdom, to use it for Truth, and to use it to be Just, Honest, and Fair. You have been taught that Wisdom comes from knowledge, and Truth is the great protector. Leadership is the result of combining these great powers with the Honesty of Justice.

Sir Knight escorts the new Squires back to West of the Round Table. Pointing to each of the three emblems of the Squires, he gives the Charge.

Sir Knight:

“My Brothers, your journey is over, but your Quest is not completed. You have found Wisdom, Truth, and Justice. Wisdom is gained, Justice is served, but Truth is Eternal -- it never changes. Seek, then, to know that which is True, for only then will you find the meaning of the Lessons of Life.”

“My Brothers, you will kneel on both knees.”

As the new Squires kneel, Sir Knight picks up the Sword of Truth from the Round Table, and carefully touches each new Squire on both shoulders with it.

“With the power of the Books of Wisdom and the authority of Justice, and with this Sword of Truth, I now proclaim you to be members of the Order of the Squires of the Round Table, of the International Order of DeMolay. Arise, young Squires!”

Sir Knight replaces the Sword on the Round Table. Master Squire may place the Manor at ease to congratulate the new members.

*Installation
Of
Officers*

Installation of Officers

PREPARATION

- Squire Round Table with Emblems in place.
- Seven chairs West of the Altar in a line from North to South.
- National Flag is posted in the East

ENTRANCE OF INSTALLING OFFICERS

Installing officers enter the room in the following order:

Sir Knight
Installing Officer
Installing Chaplain
Installing Marshal

INSTALLING CEREMONY RITUAL

SK:

“Parents and friends, DeMolays and Squires, an installation ceremony of the Order of the Squires of the Round Table is now convened, dedicated in the name of God to the principles of Wisdom, Truth, and Justice. Of this you will take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.”

IO:

“We welcome you most cordially to this Installation of Officers of the _____ Manor of the Squires of the Round Table. In a few moments these young leaders will assume their respective duties, and each will reach a milestone in their Quest for the lessons of life.”

“This organization is for young men between the ages of 10 and 12 years old, who have dedicated themselves to seek Wisdom, Truth, and Justice. They are assisted in their journey by the Sir Knight of the Manor.”

“Brother Installing Marshal, you will present the officers for Installation.”

Installing Marshal retires, and re-enters the Manor, followed in order by the:

*Master Squire-Elect
Senior Squire-Elect
Junior Squire-Elect
Squire Chaplain Squire Marshal
Squire Treasurer
Squire Recorder*

They proceed to the Round Table. The Installing Marshal goes to the East of the Round Table. The other officers to be installed line up West of the Round Table. The Master Squire-elect is on the South end of the line, with the other officers, in order, at his left.

Upon a signal from the Installing Marshal (a nod), the officers to be installed kneel on their left knee with bowed heads (for about three seconds). Upon a second signal from the Installing Marshal they rise. The Installing Marshal returns to his station.

IO:

“By Brothers, I congratulate you on your selection to be the officers of this Manor. To be selected by your brothers to lead them in the work of the Manor is an honor unsurpassed, and a responsibility that must not be taken lightly.”

“Listen carefully as I charge you with that responsibility. You will place your right hand over your heart.” *(done)*

“Do you promise that you will work together with the other officers and members of the Manor and with the Sir Knight who guides you?” *(response, “I Do”)*

“Do you promise that you will try to lead your brothers in the highest degree of service, and help them in their Quest for Wisdom, Truth, and Justice?” *(response, “I Do”)*

“On behalf of your brothers, I accept your pledges of cooperation and service.”

“Brother Installing Marshal, present the flag of our country.”

Installing Squire Marshal proceeds to the flag, removes it from the stand, and remaining in place, turns and faces the Round Table.

IO: *(3 raps) ****

“Friends, you will stand at attention as a tribute to the freedoms and liberties we enjoy as citizens of this great country, let us salute and pledge our allegiance to the flag.” *(done)*
*(1 rap) **

Installing Marshal returns to his station.

IO:

“Brother Installing Chaplain, you will read the verses of Proverbs 23, which direct us in our Quest.”

Installing Chaplain reads from the Podium:

IC:

“Proverbs 23:

‘My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

Yea, my reins shall rejoice when thy lips speak right things.
Hear, thou my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.
Buy the truth and sell it not; also, wisdom and instruction and understanding.
Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.
My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.”

Installing Chaplain returns to his station.

IO:

“Sir Knight, present the Master Squire-elect for installation.”

The Master Squire-elect stands as the Sir Knight approaches the officers to be installed. Sir Knight escorts the Master Squire-elect to the East.

SK:

“Brother Installing Officer, I have the pleasure to present Brother _____, who has been elected Master Squire of the Round table of this Manor.”

IO:

“Brother _____, you have been elected to the honorable office of Master Squire of the Round Table by your brothers. You are the presiding leader of this Manor. It is you who will wield the gavel at your meetings.”

“I now present you with the Gavel of Justice, which represents your authority to preside over this Manor. I enjoin upon you the duty of using it with Wisdom and Truth, and thus, you will always use it to be Just.” (3 raps) ***

“You will now take your place in the East, armed with the Jewels of Leadership.”
(applause) (1 rap) *

IO:

“Sir Knight, you will present the Senior and Junior Squires for installation.”

(done as before)

SK:

“Installing Officer, I have the pleasure to present Brother _____ and Brother _____, who have been elected Senior and Junior Squires.”

IO:

“My Brothers, you are the keepers of the Books of Wisdom and the Sword of Truth. It is a responsibility of the greatest importance, for the lessons taught through these symbols is the very basis of the Squires of the Round Table. Guard these symbols well, for as we learn in our opening and closing ceremonies, only when the Books of Wisdom are united with the Sword of Truth and the Gavel of Justice, can we proceed as brothers in our Quest for the Lessons of Life.”

“You will now be conducted to your stations in the West and South.” *(applause -- done)*

IO:

“Sir Knight, you will present the Squire Chaplain and Squire Marshal for installation.”

(done as before)

SK:

“Brother Installing Officer, I now present for installation Brother _____ and Brother _____, who have been appointed Squire Chaplain and Squire Marshal.”

IO:

“My Brothers, you have been chosen to lead our processions and lead us in our prayers. To perform these duties efficiently is part of your training as Squires to become leaders. Dignity is essential in the performance of your duties. To you has been entrusted the sacred and patriotic ceremonial portions of our work. As you lead us in our prayers or present our flag, you become a most important part of our Quest for the Lessons of Life.”

“You will now be conducted to your stations.”

(applause -- done)

IO:

“Sir Knight, you will present the Squire Treasurer and Squire Recorder for installation.”

SK:

“Brother Installing Officer, I now present for installation Brother _____ and Brother _____, who have been appointed Squire Treasurer and Squire Recorder.”

IO:

“My Brothers, you are the recorders of our records--our link to the very history of our Manor and our Order. It is a responsibility that cannot be over-emphasized. In our Quest for the Lessons of Life, you are charged with keeping the accounting of our acts and efforts. You have been elected by your brothers because they believe you have the special talents required to do these very demanding tasks.”

“You will now be conducted to your stations.”

(applause -- done)

IO:

“Who has been selected as Sir Knight of this Manor? Present yourself.”

SK moves to a place between the Round Table and the East.

SK:

“Installing Officer, I _____, a member of the _____ Chapter, Order of DeMolay, have been chosen Sir Knight of the Manor of the Squires of the Round Table.”

IO:

“My Brother, the Order of DeMolay has placed upon your shoulders a most honorable and responsible challenge. You have been selected by your peers and your advisors to represent all that is the very best about being a member of the Order of DeMolay. You are the one who will conduct our young Squires in the Quest for the Lessons of Life. As their conductor, you will be their initial guide in the Ceremony of Induction. At their meetings and activities, you will be their advisor, their counselor, their mentor, and their big brother.”

“The Crown of Youth you wear as a DeMolay will be your inspiration, your code of conduct, your shield and protector.”

“Your reward will be satisfaction. Your reward will be our gratitude. Your reward will be in knowing you are providing a future to our beloved Order of DeMolay.”

IO moves to stand before SK.

“I know place upon your shoulders this Mantle of Responsibility. You will kneel on both knees.” *Places Jewel around SK’s neck.*

“God be with you and direct your feet, your mind, and your heart. Arise, Sir Knight.”

“You will now return to your station next to the Master Squire in the East.”

(applause -- done)

IO:

“Squires and guests, this concludes our Installation of Officers.” *(1 rap) **