

Outside Text: Becoming a Knight

Becoming a Knight

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To become a knight, a boy had to go through the steps to knighthood. First, the boy was typically born into a noble or wealthy family, which would have the ability to provide the expensive equipment and weaponry needed to become a knight. From an early age, the boy was taught good manners, and told stories of brave knights. The boy would be encouraged to play with toys such as wooden swords and shields in order to mimic the role of a knight.

Page

Eventually, the boy would become a page on his seventh birthday. As a page, the young boy focused on receiving an education. He was taught religion, riding, swordsmanship, and chess. A nobleman's wife taught the page manners.

Squire

At age fourteen, the page entered the castle and was assigned to a knight. The squire assisted the knight, tending the knight's horse and dressing the knight for battle. The squire continued to ride and learn swordsmanship. The most important duty of the squire was to learn the Code of Chivalry, rules a knight must follow. The Code of Chivalry taught bravery, honesty, and loyalty. As a squire became more skilled, he accompanied the knight into battle. A squire was deemed a knight after proving his honesty, loyalty and bravery. Squires typically became knights around the age of twenty.

Knight

A knighthood ceremony conducted by a knight, noble, or king marked the final symbolic step to becoming a knight.

References:

Knights, squires and pages. Message posted to <http://medievaleurope.mrdonn.org>

Steps to knighthood. Message posted to <http://www.middle-ages.org.uk>