

Becoming a Knight

A young boy from a noble family must earn the title of "knight". He must pass through three stages.

In the first stage, the young boy leaves his parents when he is 7 years old to become a page. He goes to live in a castle with another family and has many jobs there. He serves the lord and lady their meals and runs errands. He studies some reading, writing and mathematics. He also learns archery and to hunt. The young page fights against other young boys with wooden swords.



Once the young page turns 14, he begins training as a squire. In this stage he is assigned to a knight. He looks after his knight's armor, weapons and horse. He assists the knight when preparing for tournaments and is sometimes allowed to participate in them as well. The young squire would also complete endurance tests such as going several days without eating. Many young squires were often sent to battle before they had finished their training and sadly, many died.

The final stage is that of the knight. At the age of 21, the young man is ready to be dubbed a knight. Before the dubbing ceremony he is washed, shaved and prays in the chapel for guidance and strength. The ceremony would take place in the great hall. The lord would take the knight's sword and tap him on the shoulder 3 times saying "In the name of God, I dub thee knight." A great celebration would follow.

The boy has grown to become a knight and is now ready to defend his King's land!

