

Program Information



Order of the Squires of the Round Table

Oregon DeMolay

Purpose

The Order of the Squires of the Round Table is a program for boys ages 10 through 12 and their parents to participate together in fun and worthwhile activities in association with the Order of DeMolay.

Philosophy

Members of the Squires and their parents will develop a sense of belonging and involvement with other Squires, other parents and DeMolay. Squires and their parents will become familiar with Squires and DeMolay activities and ceremonies and with the events and activities of the Masonic Family in the sponsoring Chapter's meeting place. To participate in Squire activities, the Squire should be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all events and activities. At the age of 12 Squires are welcome to continue their involvement with DeMolay and petition for membership into their sponsoring DeMolay Chapter. Most important, Squires must be fun!

Manor Sponsorship and Getting Started

The basic operating unit for the Squires program is the "Manor," which is equivalent to a DeMolay Chapter. All DeMolay organizations and activities including Squires' organizations and activities are subject to the authority of DeMolay International and the jurisdictional Executive Officer. A DeMolay Chapter may, with concurrence of its Advisory Council and its sponsoring body, submit a letter to the Executive Officer requesting to sponsor a Manor of the Squires of the Round Table. All Manors must be sponsored by and associated with a DeMolay Chapter in good standing to provide a base of activities, supervision and leadership from an active DeMolay named as the Sir Knight. On receipt of written approval from the Executive Officer, the Manor may proceed with organization.

Establishing a Manor requires a Manor Advisor qualified as described below under "Manor Advisors" and at least two other adult workers who may be parents of boys intending to join the Manor. They constitute the Manor Council. A Manor may operate with an initial membership of five Squires. After organization, the Manor Council should submit a letter to the Executive Officer naming the Manor Council and proposed members with the endorsement of the Sponsoring Chapter, its Advisory Council and sponsoring body requesting authority to operate. On receipt of written approval from the Executive Officer, the Manor may proceed with operation.

Manor Advisors

The Manor operates under the jurisdiction of the sponsoring Chapter's Advisory Council. All manor advisors must be members of the Chapter Advisory Council meeting DeMolay requirements for training, fees and documentation including a full background check. All adults participating in Manor activities must complete an adult worker profile as a volunteer adult worker including participating parents of Squires. At this time, volunteer adult workers who are not registered members of a Chapter Advisory Council are not required to complete DAD Training, nor complete background checks however all adults regularly participating in Manor activities are encouraged to complete DAD Training.

The Manor Council operates much like a Chapter Advisory Council. The Manor Council should meet at a time separate from the Manor Meetings, at least monthly, keeping a written record of discussions and decisions. The Sir Knight should be invited to Manor Council meetings along with a representative of the sponsoring Chapter's advisory council. Proposed activities should be reviewed in advance with the Manor Council and endorsed.

In the absence of the Manor Advisor, a registered member of the sponsoring Chapter's advisory council must be present at any meeting of the Manor with at least one other adult 21 or over.

All Squire activities must be conducted in accordance with DeMolay Youth Protection and Risk Management guidelines. This means that there must be at least two adults supervising any activity or event. With the parental involvement philosophy of the Squires program there should always be sufficient supervision.

Manor Member Recruitment

In considering new members for a Manor, Manor Advisors should visit the home of prospective members and explain the program to the prospective member and his family. If a home visit isn't possible, a phone discussion and later face to face discussion with a parent at an early activity may substitute. It must be emphasized that Squires is for families, and particularly at that age, Squire participation should always involve a parent or guardian.

Manor Operation

Generally, meetings of the Squires Manor will precede or run concurrently with the sponsoring DeMolay Chapter.

At the conclusion of a brief meeting, every Manor meeting should involve entertainment, refreshments or a fun activity. Manor meetings must always remain brief, seldom lasting over 30 to 45 minutes.

On concluding the Manor meeting, if a Chapter meeting is running concurrently, the Sir Knight may enter the Chapter room using the proper procedures and ask the Master Councilor for permission to present the Manor members. With permission of the Master Councilor, the Sir Knight may then escort the Manor members and their parents for presentation and introduction. The Master Squire may be called upon for a brief report of Manor activities after which the Manor members and their parents may be excused.

Squires will generally participate as appropriate in many of the activities of the Chapter. Attendance at fun events is particularly encouraged. Manor activities must never interfere with normal evening schedules appropriate for the Squires age group and should not extend past 8:00 on weeknights. Late night weekend activities such as late dances and overnight activities are generally not appropriate or may involve Manor members for only part of the event or activity. Manor Advisors are expected to exercise judgment and involve Squire parents in planning Squire activities.

The Manor Advisor is responsible to ensure coordination on calendaring between the Manor and the Chapter and with maintaining excellent communications with the Chapter and Advisory Councilor.

Manor Officers

All Manor offices are appointed. Seven are described in the Ritual – Master Squire, Senior Squire, Junior Squire, Squire Chaplain, Squire Marshal, Squire Recorder, and Squire Treasurer, but only the first five are required to open and close. The presiding Manor officer is the Master Squire. At the Squires' age, the Master Squire will require some assistance with meeting planning and conducting a business meeting. This assistance should be in the form of guidance and positive encouragement. There is no formal progression or "line" in the offices. Terms and appointments should parallel the sponsoring DeMolay Chapter. If a boy turns twelve and joins a DeMolay Chapter, he should be allowed to continue serving in his Manor office until the end of the term.

Most Manors incorporate their Installation into the sponsoring DeMolay Chapter installation although this is not required and must be coordinated with the incoming Master Councilor and with his consent.

Role of the Sir Knight

The Chapter Dad Advisor and the Manor Advisor will appoint a responsible member of the Chapter to serve the Manor as Sir Knight. While the Sir Knight is not an advisor, this is a role model position and a significant responsibility. The DeMolay selected as Sir Knight should attend all Manor activities in addition to his participation with Chapter activities and events. He is expected to work with the Manor leaders to assist with some meeting planning, help with ritual parts, and generally encourage the Squires. He must avoid doing all the organizational work. He is the liaison between the Manor and the Chapter.

Program suggestions

The best activity ideas will come from the Squires themselves. Just ask what they want to do!

- ⌚ Membership parties such as pizza nights, bowling, video games, video and popcorn nights.
- ⌚ Outings to parks or entertainment venues such as Museums or the Zoo.
- ⌚ Service projects such as visitations to the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, simple clean up events, litter patrols around City Parks.
- ⌚ Meeting activities such as “Make your own Coat of Arms” projects, age appropriate speakers about the action parts of the Age of Chivalry, if equipment is available, pool or ping-pong, “Know your Masonic Hall” scavenger hunts to locate features of the building and its symbols, craft projects.
- ⌚ Ceremonial activities can include development of an Escort Team or a Drill Team. Several Manors have distinguished themselves with Cross of Steel presentations at installations.

Manor Attire

Most Squires follow the dress code of their sponsoring Chapter, however, many Squires do not have dress shirts, ties and jackets (or grow out of them too quickly!). For more formal events, collared shirts and best effort pants and shoes should be appropriate. Some Manors develop simple, easy to make short capes for their members to wear at ceremonial events so they can all look dressed up for the occasion.

Activity Limitations

Some Squires will want to tag along and do everything the DeMolay Chapter does. Generally, however, overnight activities are hard to manage unless parents are accompanying and the Squire is participating as a family member with older DeMolay siblings in a DeMolay event. There will not be much to hold a Squire’s interest at the Annual DeMolay Convention, for example. Summer activities, some of which involve an overnight campout, may be appropriate with sufficient supervision, Squire parental involvement and concurrence of the Chapter Advisory Council. A key consideration is whether the event will hold the interest and attention of a Squire.