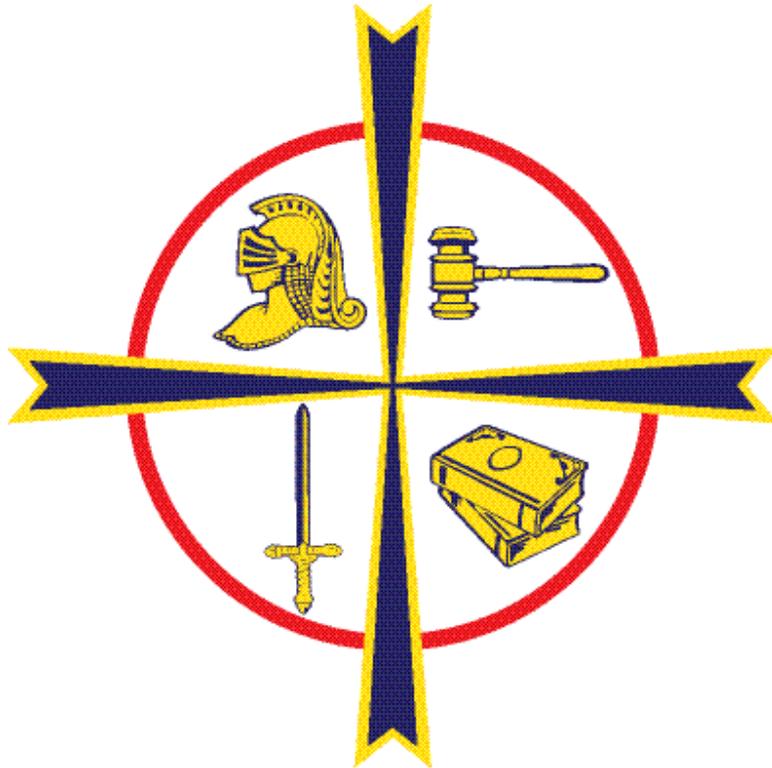


Ritual of the
Order of Squires



FIRST EDITION

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Introduction

The Order of Squires is an organization for young men that is an appendant body of DeMolay International. The goal of the Squires is to allow boys between the ages of nine and twelve 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." 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 were 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 desk in the Southeast
Squire Recorder	-- Next to Treasurer at desk in the Southeast
Squire Chaplain	-- In the Southeast
Squire Marshal	-- Next to Chaplain in the Southeast

A Manor Advisor is present at all Squire meetings and functions, and coordinates and facilitates the Manor. The Manor Advisor sits in the East, at the left of the Master Squire.

In addition, a DeMolay, whose title is Squire Mentor, serves as a DeMolay representative to mentor the Squire members. The Squire Mentor sits in the East, at the right of the Master Squire.

The term of office is normally 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. 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 Manor Advisor.

When meeting, it is suggested that the Squires follow Robert's Rules of Order, as they apply to DeMolay functions. Use of the gavel is the same as in other DeMolay functions. Also, no one is allowed to speak until recognized by the Master Squire, and he always stands while speaking.

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. If permitted by the Executive Officer, Squires may be invited to attend non-ritual portions of DeMolay meetings along with other guests, and should be recognized by the Master Councilor.

When meeting, the Altar is covered with a round table top, which is decorated as shown on the logo on the first page of this ritual. The top of the table, or East, points to the Master Squire's station. 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 are the school books.

Opening Ritual

Before opening their Manor, the officers line up at the entry to the Lodge room (preferably in the Lodge Preparation Room, if available). Other Squires are seated in the room. The Manor Advisor and Squire Mentor are in the East. The emblems of the Master Squire, Senior Squire, and Junior Squire are at their respective stations.

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

The Squire Mentor and Manor Advisor sit, with the Manor Advisor at the left of the Master Squire's chair and the Squire Mentor on the right.

Squire Officers enter the room in the following order:

*Squire Marshal
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. Officers remain standing.) **

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 emblem represent?

Senior Squire:

It is a symbol of Justice and Leadership.

Master Squire places the Gavel in the Southeast (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 Northwest (lower-left) quadrant, as it is in the Squire Emblem.

Master Squire:

Brother Junior Squire, what emblem do you keep?

Junior Squire:

I keep the Books of Wisdom.

Junior Squire moves directly to the Round Table and places the school books in the Southwest (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. All rise.) ****

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

Squire Marshal:

Brothers, you will pledge 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 respond: Amen.)*

Squire Chaplain rises and returns to his station.

Master Squire:

Brothers, 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 fellow man.

I promised to seek the truth.

I promised to be just and kind to my brothers.

To all these things and more I did promise.

Master Squire:

I now declare this Manor open for Business. (*1 rap. All sit down.*) *

Order of Business:

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

Closing Ritual

Master Squire:

Brothers, is there anything further to come before this Round Table?

(Waits for response)

None appearing, we shall proceed to close. (*2 raps. Officers rise.*) **

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, what 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 offices.

Master Squire nods again. All three officers 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. All rise.) ***

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 honor you, and be faithful to our brothers. Amen.

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

Squire Chaplain closes the Bible, then rises and remains at the Round Table.

Master Squire:

This Manor is closed. (1 rap) *

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. If necessary, the ritual can be modified to indicate two or more candidates.

Master Squire:

Squire Marshal, (*Squire Marshal stands*) there is a friend outside the door who wishes to become a Squire. You will retire and escort him into our Manor.

Squire Marshal retires and escorts the candidate to the West of the Round Table.

Squire Marshal:

Master Squire, I present _____, who wishes to become a Squire and brother of our Manor.

Master Squire moves to the East of the Round Table.

Master Squire:

My friend, I welcome you to this Manor of the Order of Squires. We understand that you have come to join us in our work of being better sons, dedicated to Truth, Wisdom, and Justice. We ask that you now kneel at our Round Table; 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, _____, on my honor,
promise that from this time forward,
I will strive to do what 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.

You will arise.

Master Squire moves to the West of the Round Table.

I now extend to you my right hand, which is a sign of my friendship and loyalty as a brother.

Master Squire shakes hands with the 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 Squire Marshal. He will conduct you on a Quest for the Lessons of Life.

*Master Squire gives 1 rap to seat everyone except the new Squire and Squire Marshal. **

Squire Marshal conducts the new Squire to the Junior Squire in the South.

Squire Marshal:

Brother Junior Squire, I present _____, who seeks to know the lesson of the Books of Wisdom.

Junior Squire:

My Brother, I welcome you to this station of life, and will explain the Books of Wisdom. In your journey through life you will find them to be of great value. In your home, in your school, in your community, you will discover lessons that will help you grow in mind and spirit. They open the door to hopes and dreams of great accomplishments and an amazing and happy future.

Seek now the lesson of the Sword of Truth from the Senior Squire.

Squire Marshal escorts the new Squire to the Senior Squire in the West.

Squire Marshal:

Brother Senior Squire, I present _____, who seeks to know the Lesson of the Sword of Truth.

Senior Squire:

My brother, I welcome you to this station 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. Through Truth you will gain Courage. Through Truth you will show Wisdom. Through Truth, you will gain Strength. May the Sword of Truth become your greatest shield.

Continue now to the Master Squire for the lesson of the Gavel of Justice.

Squire Marshal escorts the new Squire to the Master Squire in the East.

Squire Marshal:

Master Squire, I present _____, who has been taught the lessons of the Books of Wisdom and the Sword of Truth, and now seeks the lesson of the Gavel of Justice.

Master Squire:

My Brother, I welcome you to this station of life, and will explain the Gavel of Justice. As the leader of this Manor, 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 your shield. Leadership is the result of combining these great powers with the fairness of Justice.

Squire Marshal escorts the new Squire West of the Round Table. Master Squire comes to the East of the Round Table. Pointing to each of the three emblems of the Squires, he gives the Charge.

Master Squire

In the name of Wisdom, Truth, and Justice, I now proclaim you to be a member of the Order of Squires. Welcome, Brother Squire!

Master Squire may allow the Manor to informally congratulate the new members.

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:

Squire Mentor
Installing Officer
Installing Chaplain
Installing Marshal

INSTALLING CEREMONY RITUAL

SM:

Parents and friends, DeMolays, and Squires, an installation ceremony of the Order of Squires 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 Order of Squires. In a few moments these young leaders will assume their respective duties, and each will reach a milestone in his quest for the lessons of life.

This organization is for young men between the ages of nine and twelve, who want to be better sons, students, and citizens by learning the lessons of Wisdom, Truth, and Justice.

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 knees 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:

My Brothers, I congratulate you on your selection to be the officers of this Manor. It is a great honor 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? *(Response, "I Do")*

Do you promise that you will faithfully lead your brothers, 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. All rise.) ****

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. All sit down except for IO and IM.) **

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 your heart is wise,
Then my heart will be glad.

My inmost being will rejoice
When your lips speak what is right.

Listen, my son, and be wise,
And keep your heart on the right path.

Buy the Truth and do not sell it.
Get wisdom, discipline, and understanding.

May your father and your mother be glad,
May she who gave you birth rejoice.

My son, give me your heart
And let your eyes keep to my ways.

*(Holy Bible, New International Version, 1978
Copyright, 1978 by the New York International Bible Society.)*

Installing Chaplain returns to his station.

IO:
Brother Installing Marshal, present the Master Squire-elect for installation.

*The Master Squire-elect stands as the Installing Marshal approaches the officers to be installed.
Installing Marshal escorts the Master Squire-elect to the East.*

IM:
Brother Installing Officer, I have the pleasure to present Brother _____, who has been elected Master Squire of this Manor.

IO:
Brother _____, you have been elected to the honorable office of Master Squire by your brothers. You are the leader of this Manor. You 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, and tell you that if you always use it with Wisdom and Truth, then you will always use it to be fair to your brothers. *(3 raps. All rise.) ****

You will now take your place in the East. *(Master Squire is conducted to the East by the Installing Marshal.)
(1 rap. All sit down except the IO and IM.) **

IO:
Brother Installing Marshal, you will present the Senior and Junior Squires for installation.
(done as before)

IM:

Brother 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 lesson taught through these symbols is the very basis of the Order of Squires. 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, that true leadership can exist. You will now be conducted to your stations in the West and South. *(done)*

IO:

Brother Installing Marshal, you will present the Squire Chaplain and Squire Marshal for installation.

(done as before)

IM:

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 teach us lessons of humility and patriotism.

You will now be conducted to your stations. *(done)*

IO:

Brother Installing Marshal, you will present the Squire Treasurer and Squire Recorder for installation.

IM:

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 and history. It is a great responsibility. You have been selected 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. *(done)*

IO:

Who has been selected as Squire Mentor of this Manor?

Squire Mentor moves to a place between the Round Table and the East.

SM:

Brother Installing Officer, I _____, a member of the _____ Chapter, Order of DeMolay, have been chosen Squire Mentor of this Manor of the Order of Squires.

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. At their meetings and activities, you will be 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 SM.

I now place upon your shoulders this Mantle of Responsibility. *(Places jewel around SM's neck.)*

You will now return to your station next to the Master Squire in the East. *(done)*

IO:

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