

# Squire Expectations

---



## **I. Relationship with your Peer**

Being a Squire is a relationship, not an award. It does not move you up in the order of precedence. That belt and chain you wear symbolizes the relationship and nothing else. The relationship should be one of give and take, and hopefully, of friendship. That is certainly what I strive for. Half of the responsibility for this relationship is yours. Fighting, research, projects, parties, letters and phone calls, and events are all things that you can do with your peer.

Remember that part of the burden of organizing, starting, setting up and taking down is yours. It is especially important to keep lines of communication open. Misunderstandings are most likely to happen when people don't talk enough. If you have a problem, discuss it with your peer. You'd be surprised how understanding we can be.

## **II. Fighting Activities**

The number one thing that Knights (and therefore squires) are looked to is to fight. I expect squires to Fight/Marshall as often as they can – both at events and for their home group. Even working with individuals and sharing your knowledge, time, and skill is very important. Entering tournaments is a good way to be seen by other Knights and getting to know other fighters. “Pick-up fighting” after tournaments and wars is very important to developing your style, so it is expected for you to fight as many different people as you can, as time allows. I expect you to fight with me in wars and/or melees. Circumstances will come up in which you may be asked to fight with someone else’s group. Please talk to me first before you agree to fight with anyone else.

## **III. Fighting Ability**

Fighting can be its’ own reward. If you didn't believe that, you wouldn't want to be a Squire. Seeking excellence in what we do is what makes this game fun, but don't lose sight of the real goal. On the road to perfection, it is the trip, not the destination that is important. Not one of us will ever be perfect. Few of us will ever win every fight in a day. (I certainly see room for improvement in everything I do, no matter how good it is.) The joy of learning new things, developing new things, and sharing those tools with others is what the Knighthood is all about. It is not about being better than someone else. It is not about winning every fight through being a rhino hider. This is the SCA, not real war. I don’t care if you win every fight or every tournament. Show honor and courtesy on the field. Always be chivalrous on and off the field and you will do well at this game.

## **IV. Honor**

I am writing this section, because I have a very deep belief in honor. The above paragraphs touch on characteristics of honor: loyalty, commitment, don’t rhino hide, etc., but I believe in personal honor above all else. Remember that you are the person in control of your personal honor. You are the only person that can truly compromise that sense of honor, by your own actions. If you are true to yourself, your family, your household, and me, you will maintain a strong honor in everyone’s eyes

## **V. Fealty**

Knights are required to take an oath of fealty to the crown. Some people consider that their oath of fealty is to the actual man or woman. Some people feel that the oath is sworn to the representation of the crown, not the person. I don't feel that I have the right to tell you what to believe because that will have to be a decision you have to work out for yourself. I see too many problems with messing with people's belief system. I do expect your loyalty to me and my house, just like I, by accepting you as a squire, will have loyalty to you. In swearing your "fealty" to me, you will be in fealty with the crown, when I am in fealty with the crown. If you wish to proclaim that in person, that will be your decision.

## **VI. Becoming a Knight**

In becoming a squire, you have stated a commitment of having a desire to be a Knight. You are about to embark on a quest in what is called the "great glass fish bowl". Do not think that just because you are only a squire, only have this award or that award, that no one is noticing you. The rumors about Knights keeping a little black book, and are checking a squire's names off, is true. They are watching, we do talk, and you will be among those conversations someday. What is said about you during those conversations will be up to you. Your actions will demonstrate what kind of peer you might become. So at all times do your best to be chivalrous, be courteous, and maintain honor on and off the field. I cannot make you a Knight. I can only provide guidance and give advice. Someday you may be recognized for your presence of Knightly attributes by the Circle and, by permission of the Crown, be elevated unto Knighthood.

---

(Some of this was written by Magistra Rosemounde of Mercia, for her apprentices. I have utilized some of her information as good advice for anyone in the SCA and have added my info for squires).

### **Specifics to the Man-at-Arms title are as follows:**

I see this relationship as one in which I am willing to devote to you my time and experience in Heavy Weapon arts.(You do not need to be my man at arms, for me to teach you fighting.)

I offer this relationship to you as a service of association. It gives you a place to belong. People to eat with, camp with, it gives you a household to fight with at wars, etc.

I refer to the Man-at-Arms title as a "try before you hire" situation. You get all of the benefits of being a member of a peer household, but if you decide the match isn't working, you can break the association a lot easier than a squire relationship. A squire relationship is a little more binding.

My commitment to you is that I will do whatever I can to help you in your SCA development, on and off the field. If some day you decide that Knighthood may be a path of interest and you like our association we can discuss being a squire.

If you decide down the road that you want to be a Knight and are interested in being someone else's Squire, because you have more in common with another Knight, I will do whatever I can to help you with that situation as well.