

Dear Overlord(s) of the Manor,

Your young squires have now undertaken the path to knighthood. As part of this path, they will be participating in the Squire's Challenge, which involves a commitment to enter into a regimen of self-improvement and discipline. In order to become worthy of knighthood, the squire must demonstrate his or her prudence, temperance, fortitude, justice, faith, hope and love. I ask that the youth or maiden consider seriously what he or she may do to practice and display these important qualities on a regular basis for the training period that will begin _____, and end on _____. I ask that you, as Feudal Overlord, help your squire come to an agreement on the tasks that will be most meaningful to accomplish this challenge.

The Seven Virtues

- ❖ *Prudence: To discipline oneself with reason in speech, dress and behavior.*
- ❖ *Temperance: Moderation in all things, including thoughts and actions.*
- ❖ *Fortitude: Strength and mind to bear misfortune.*
- ❖ *Justice: Treating fairly, conformity to truth, to uphold what is right.*
- ❖ *Faith: Complete trust, confidence and reliance.*
- ❖ *Hope: To cherish a desire with expectations of fulfillment.*
- ❖ *Love (charity): Unselfish, loyal and benevolent concern for the good of others, mercy.*

This Challenge is a preparatory step to the challenges the squire will face during the Medieval Games event. Successful completion of this Challenge (a collective score of _____pts) will make the squire eligible for being knighted, which will culminate in the Ennobling Ceremony of Knighthood at the conclusion of the trial.

In Movement,

I, (squire's name) _____

Have set before myself for the period of _____ days, challenges in these four areas:

Identify one thing you will challenge yourself to improve upon for each of the seven virtues listed below. Once completed please turn in for review.

➤ Prudence and Temperance

➤ Justice and Fortitude

➤ Faith and Hope

➤ Love

I hereby dedicate myself to excellence in body, mind and soul as I strive to master these accomplishments.

Marked this _____ day of (month) _____ in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand _____.

Seal of Overlord: _____

*Please keep a copy so you know what your squire is working on.

Examples of Virtuous Acts

Prudence: common sense, care, forethought. Carefully planning out the work you will put into your main lesson book so it will be the best piece of work you can produce. Use common sense and think problems through to solve them yourself instead of immediately asking someone else to solve them for you. Choose to save your money for something instead of spending it all at once.

Temperance: self-control, self-discipline. Being angry with a classmate or parent and refraining from acting on it. Choosing not to speaking out of turn in class or interrupting someone when they are speaking. Choosing to be quiet in class even when others are talking.

Fortitude: courage, willpower, determination, bravery. Giving a presentation in the front of the class even though you are afraid to. Completing your homework even though you really want to do something else. Standing up for yourself or someone else despite what others might think.

Justice: fair play, neutrality, equity. When playing a game of tag, you are tagged and you do the appropriate thing instead of denying it. When you have a lot of something and someone else only has a few and you choose to share. Help classmates sort out disagreements in a fair way. Sharing with your sibling.

Faith: trust, confidence. Trusting that your parents have your best interest at heart instead of arguing with them. Having confidence in your ability to complete the task at hand. People can trust that you will follow through with what you agree upon. When your parents give you chores they can have faith that you will complete them in a timely manner. Instead of being afraid or angry you can have faith that things will work out, even though it may not seem that way in the moment.

Hope: expectation, believe, count or rely on or upon. Choosing to have a positive outlook on the day even when your morning hasn't gone so well. Being someone others can count on.

Love (charity): friendship, concern, harmony, generosity, unselfishness, and compassion. You say hello to others as you pass them by on the sidewalk. If your parents are bringing in the groceries you help without them asking you to. You take notice when someone is doing something that they could use help with and then offer to help. You make a conscious effort to be friends with all your classmates. When you've done your best and you feel like it still isn't good enough, give yourself a break. Not comparing yourself to others.

Squire's Name _____

Total

This month's challenge is **points.** *(See next page for tracking instructions)*

Total Marks
Received:

Tracking Your Squire's Efforts

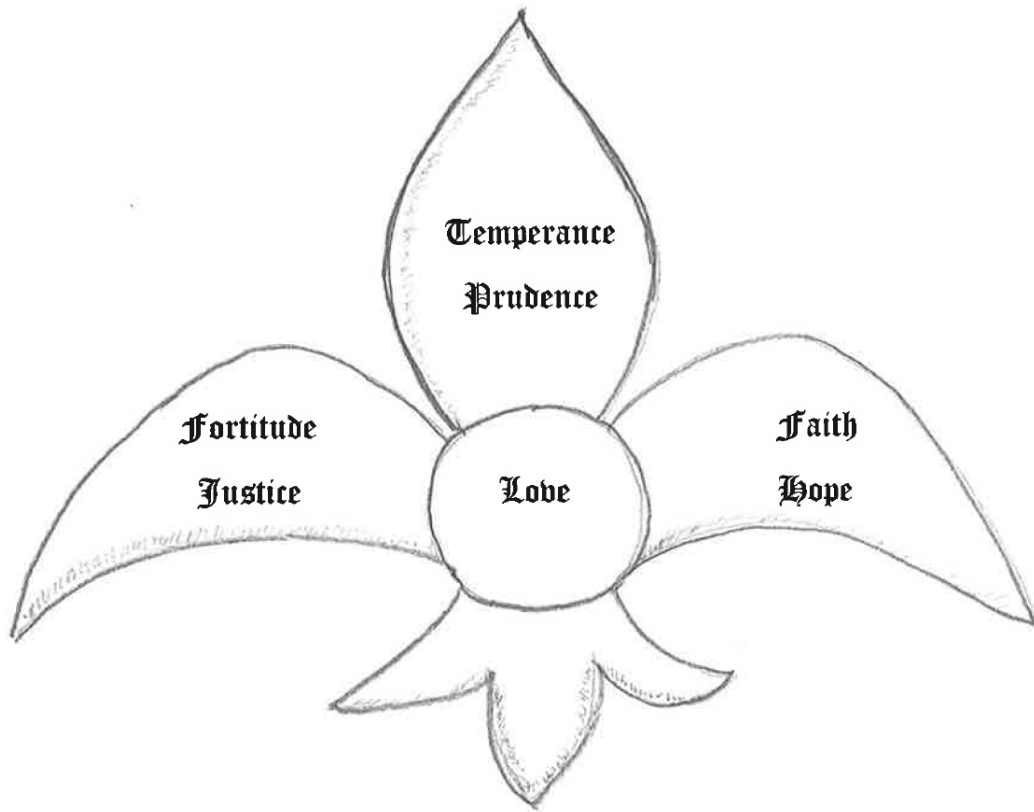
Please score your squire's efforts when exercised on the score sheet. Note: copies of the score sheet should be made prior to scoring. Put a checkmark next to each virtue your squire does that day (reference the sheet they wrote their virtues on). If you see them do a virtuous act that is not one they listed you can still give them a mark for it. The virtues are grouped together: Prudence/Temperance, Justice/Fortitude, Hope/Faith and Love. The bottom line is a bonus line for acts of Chivalry (going above and beyond any listed virtue; a knightly act). Please leave the lines blank if the squire does not do any virtuous acts that day.

Your squire is expected to be working on virtuous acts at school as well and those points will be added to the points they get from home.

The minimum number of points needed to successfully complete the Squire's Challenge is _____.

Seal of the Overlord Final Score

For the purpose of record keeping, the Overlord will put a total (*taken from the score pages*) in the section designated for each area of challenge: Prudence-Temperance, Justice-Fortitude, Hope-Faith, Love. Your squire will be eligible for knighthood with a collective score of _____ points or more. The squire must still succeed in the tasks of the Games, along with this challenge, to complete the journey to knighthood. Your seal is required at the end of the challenge period. (*Parents please turn this page in at the end of the challenge with your signature.*)



Overlord's Seal