



Chivalry-Now | Path to Knighthood Program, Application Overview

Overview

The **Council of Knights** represents the elite corps of the **Companionship of Chivalry-Now**. Each Companion who received the status of ***Knight-Errant*** is considered a permanent member of the Council, with all the privileges and responsibilities thereof. The permanence of this obligation makes Knighthood a serious commitment, one that should not be taken lightly. In effect, the Knight-Errant of Chivalry-Now publicly represents the core principles of Chivalry-Now, along with the reputation of the entire Council.

Requirements for Knighthood include a thorough understanding of the core principles exemplified by the **Twelve Trusts**. The candidate must exemplify these principles in his or her life. While perfection is not expected, the code of chivalry must reflect itself in the mind, heart and spirit of any true candidate. It is to be remembered, that the spiritual aspects of knighthood must be attained by the candidate before the accolade will be given. This means a serious, life-changing commitment to the cause and advocacy of Chivalry-Now.

The minimum age for Knighthood is 21. Applicants under 21 can use the **Path to Knighthood Program** to achieve the rank of ***Esquire***, which places them on track to Knighthood once the required age is reached. Esquires are provisional members of the Counsel of Knights.

Purpose

By submitting a completed **Path to Knighthood Program Application**, including personal statement and essay, a Chivalry-Now Companion begins the official evaluation process toward becoming a member of the **Council of Knights of Chivalry-Now**.

Essays and Communication and Curriculum

Evaluating a person for Knighthood is not a simple matter, especially when distance prevents personal contact between applicant and mentors. The evaluation has to be based on something substantial, and for this we adopt the approach of many educational centers. We base our evaluations on the applicant's self-expression of chivalric principles. This includes the two essays that accompany each application, forum postings, emails, and a dissertation on a particular topic of interest agreed upon between the applicant and mentors. The dissertation should be a minimum of 20 pages. While forum postings are looked upon just for their meaning, essays and dissertations demand a quality of thought and expression, and should not be rushed.

Special reading will be provided as part of the curriculum. You must verify when these materials are completely read.

Evaluation Process

Upon receipt of the completed application and essays, at least two Council Knights will be assigned to begin the evaluation process. A portfolio will be kept and shared between these Knights. This portfolio will contain your application, essays and any significant communications that reflect upon your qualifications as a Knight-in-Training. During the on-going process, your evaluating mentor Knights will examine your words, ideals and vision in order to judge your understanding and progress. They will ask you questions, and make themselves available to answer any of yours.

The evaluation process has no designated time period for completion. A full year is thought probable for most. For exceptional candidates, the process might be much quicker. For others longer. For some, the accolade might not come at all. There is no guarantee that any applicant will become a Knight-Errant of Chivalry-Now. While this might sound discouraging, please remember that being a Companion is considered an honor by this Council, which recognizes the qualities of chivalry that each Companion exhibits as part of our fellowship. Knighthood formally recognizes the next level of commitment by the Council.

Recommendations

At least two letters of recommendations from non-relatives are required at time of application. They should present details of the applicant's character, achievements, intellectual potential, dependability, maturity and commitment.

Knighthood

The mentoring Council Knights will decide when you are ready to become a Knight-Errant, once they are firmly convinced that you that you are a Knight in spirit already. They will inform you of their decision, and ask if you feel you are ready, giving you one week to reply. If, after searching your soul completely, you feel you are strongly committed to Chivalry-Now, arrangements will be made to administer the accolade. Due to distance, the accolade might not be done in person. When this happens, the status of Knight is bequeathed provisionally, until a physical accolade can be applied. The only difference between knighthood and its provisional status is that the provisional title can be revoked by the Council of Knights at any time. Ideally, the accolade should be performed in person, so that the mentor Knight can look into the eyes of the acolyte beforehand for his or her sincerity.

Before the accolade is given, the knight-in-training must perform a solitary vigil for at least two hours, contemplating the meaning of Knighthood and the solemn, permanent commitment about to be taken.

Once the accolade is given, you will receive a stamped certificate signed by two Council Knights declaring your new status in the fellowship (which may be provisional if the accolade is not performed in person).

As a Knight-Errant of Chivalry-Now, you will be able to advocate for our principles from a position of recognized authority. You can mentor a knight-in-training, along with another Knight. Your advice will be sought in making final decisions for the fellowship.

Knights-Errant enjoy a great deal of autonomy, which is in accord with our principles of freedom and personal responsibility.

If you do not live up to your responsibilities, the following actions can and will be taken:

- Censure if the offense is not extreme.
- If you are a provisional Knight, your title will be revoked.
- If you are a Knight in full status, you will be disassociated from the Council of Knights, and possibly from the Companionship as well.

Application

Now that you have an overview of the application process, if you are still interested in applying for the Path to Knighthood Program,

1. download the application,
2. fill out the necessary information
3. carefully compose your personal statement and essays
4. include two letters of recommendations
5. return all of this in a single packet to:

Chivalry-Now
1 Deep Hollow Road
Chester, CT 06412
USA

Knowing you all as Companions of worth and honor, we look forward to our continued fellowship, whether you apply for this program or not.

Sir Dean Jacques, KCN

Sir Steven Forgette, KCN, KoC