

CHI OMEGA RHO

handbook



THE MEDIEVAL KNIGHT

During the darkest days of medieval Europe, there arose an order of men dedicated to the uplifting of the higher ideals of civilized man; mainly those of respect, loyalty, courtesy, and generosity. These men became known as knights and their system of ideals as chivalry.

The right to bear arms as a knight was earned only after proving one's trustworthiness and ability to bear the responsibility of knighthood. This right to bear arms came to a youth upon his arrival at manhood after serving as a castle page for seven years learning of the manners of courtly life and serving as squire, attached to a knight, where he underwent seven more years of intense training in arms and horsemanship.

An applicant for knighthood was first required to confess his sins and spend time in prayer and fasting before receiving his rank.

Upon being dubbed knight, he swore an oath to uphold the ideals of knighthood and to stand ready to serve his lord or king at a moments notice without question or hesitation. It was this unfailing dedication to ideals which led to the choice of knighthood as a theme for Chi Omega Rho.

THE KNIGHT'S OATH

The knights of the middle ages pledged to their fellow knights, faithfulness and loyalty. Just as medieval knights, the knights of Chi Omega Rho should also pledge faithfulness and loyalty to other fellow knights. We should be true to other knights throughout life.

"With God's help,

I will do my best

to uphold the prin-

ciples of CHI OMEGA

RHO, to fulfill it's

goals and to be a

friend to my fellow

Knights."

HISTORY

Chi Omega Rho was founded in the fall of 1972. Prior to this time, the National Royal Rangers Commander felt the need for a program designed for college students who had an interest in the Royal Rangers ministry. The first two chapters of Chi Omega Rho were started simultaneously at Central Bible College and Evangel College, both located in Springfield, Missouri. The national office made the decision that Chi Omega Rho be designed around the theme of knighthood; and the religious customs and manners of medieval knights.

TRADITIONS

Chi Omega Rho has taken many of its traditions and ceremonies from the knights of the middle ages.

A KNIGHT'S CLOTHING

The knights of the middle ages didn't wear armor at all times, but wore clothing that was colorful and comfortable. When out of armor, the knight was usually attired in a long sleeved undertunic of wool that extended to below the knees and flaired into a skirt. Over this undertunic the knight wore a sleeveless tunic that was similar to a vest. A heavy belt was added. A hooded cloak, hanging to below the knees was also sometimes worn. Knee length stockings and pointed toed leather shoes covered their feet. At his left side he wore his sword, his most important weapon, on his right side his hand dagger.

The knights of Chi Omega Rho are encouraged to make and wear clothing similar to a medieval knight during tournaments and induction ceremonies.

WEAPONS OF A KNIGHT

A knight's weapons were very important because many times his life would depend on them. The weapons were made of the very best material available, and by the best craftsmen. Chi Omega Rho members are encouraged to make suitable weapons for tournaments and ceremonies.

SWORD

The sword was one of the most important and useful of all weapons. It had many purposes. The sword used in close combat was about three feet long. A seven inch

crossguard formed the shape of a cross. The sword also had religious significance. The blade symbolized justice for all, and loyalty to the church and overlords.

BATTLEAX

The battleax came in many different sizes. The ones used on horseback had a handle eight to ten feet long, other styles (more on the order of a tomahawk), and ranged in size from one foot to six feet. The axhead was generally two edged.

MACE

The mace (more correctly called a fail) is known by many different names, sometimes referred to as "armor breaker and "ball of nails." The mace didn't require much skill in use. It weighed about six pounds and actually looked like a rugged metal ball with nails covering the entire surface. This metal ball was chained to a wooden pole about four feet long. Its purpose was to break and tear the armor of a rival knight.

DAGGER

The dagger was the smallest of the knight's weapons. This eight inch knife was used in close quarter combat when a sword was too large to handle.

COAT OF ARMS

Each knight would have his own personal totem instead of signing his name. This coat of arms was used on shields and clothing. Each knight had a different coat of arms. Most of the coat of arms had a shield for the background with crossing swords, battleaxes, or lances surrounding the shield. Inside the shield, each of the knights would design his own coat of arms incorporating his origin, his name, his overlord, etc. Each Chi Omega Rho knight is encouraged to make his own coat of arms to be used at outings, tournaments, and ceremonies.

KNIGHT NAMES

Just as knights of the middle ages, each candidate of Chi Omega Rho will receive a special name. These names are given at the close of the induction ceremony by the knights of the chapter. To get ideas for the names are received by watching the actions of the candidates during the induction ceremony. As you can observe by the following knight names each name is preceded by "Sir" which is also a custom of the middle ages. Sir Thunderbump, Sir Rebel, Sir Patriot and Sir Dragon are all good examples of knight names used by Chi Omega Rho knights. A name given to a knight will be used at all Chi

Omega Rho activities.

CHAPTER NAME

Each college chapter is required to preface the name of their chapter with the name of the college where the chapter is located. For example: the chapter located at Central Bible College would be known as the Central Bible College chapter of Chi Omega Rho.

CHI OMEGA RHO EMBLEM

A shield is the official symbol of Chi Omega Rho. A shield provides protection from others. It is used for defense to help resist the blows given during battle by the enemy. The Royal Ranger points are found in the center of the Chi Omega Rho emblem. This is to signify that Chi Omega Rho is based on the principles and beliefs of the Royal Rangers program. Chi Omega Rho meaning the college order of Royal Rangers. The shield reminds us of our shield of faith and the helmet reminds us of our salvation. The helmet rests atop the shield, constantly on the lookout or on guard, according to Ephesians 6:17 and 18. We should put on a spiritual armor of God to protect us as we battle in the world just as the knights of the middle ages put on the armor of war.

THE SPIRIT OF CHI OMEGA RHO

The chapters of Chi Omega Rho endeavor to develop in each member the same courageous and undaunted spirit of early middle ages knights. High morale and contagious enthusiasm are developed by urging each member to strive for seven important things. These seven vital goals are:

1. Chivalry
2. Humility
3. Loyalty
4. Obedience
5. Resourcefulness
6. Courage
7. Spirituality

CHIVALRY

Early knights acted mannerly toward others. Classes on manners were taught while the knight was a young page. The knights always acted as gentlemen toward the ladies as should the knights of Chi Omega Rho. As Christians we should treat others as we would have them treat us. Matthew 7:12.

HUMILITY

A knight was humble toward his overlord. He would obey him and listen to what he

SPIRITUAL

A knight spent much of his time in prayer. Even before being knighted each day started in prayer and attendance at mass. When a page became a squire, he learned to trust God more and more. On the night prior to being knighted, the knight spent the entire time in prayer, praying that he would be a worthy knight.

Knights of Chi Omega Rho should spend much time in prayer to God earnestly seeking direction for their lives, trusting God for every need and seeking divine help on the journey through life.

PURPOSE OF CHI OMEGA RHO

1. To provide fellowship for students who have been former Royal Rangers, who are currently involved in some phase of Royal Rangers ministry or those who are interested in the Royal Rangers ministry.
2. To provide opportunity for occasional outdoor activities, socials and special Royal Rangers projects.
3. To become involved in service endeavors such as:
 - a. The Royal Rangers Leadership Training Course.
 - b. To provide leadership placement in local Royal Rangers outposts.
 - c. To provide manpower for campus, community service projects, sectional help with Royal Rangers projects.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Active membership shall consist of college students who adhere to the basic principles of the Royal Rangers ministry, who regularly attend the functions of the chapter, who cooperate with the various projects and who pay their annual membership dues.

Each new member will have to go through a very special induction ceremony. If he passes induction he will become an official member of Chi Omega Rho. Each member is required to attend at least one meeting every two months to remain in active status. If justifiable excuses are not given for non-attendance, the member will be dropped. Each candidate will be required to submit an application for membership. The chapter members will vote upon the candidate for membership.

had to say. But most important, the knight was humble toward God. We too should be humble toward God and listen to what He has to say to us. We should also be humble to those in authority. Just as knights of old we should wait upon the Lord, wait for His direction for our lives.

LOYALTY

A knight was loyal to his church, his fellow knights, and his round table. A knight was willing to die for the church. He was willing to fight for his fellow knights, and ready to defend the principles of his round table.

As knights of Chi Omega Rho, we too should be loyal to God and our church. We should be regular in attendance and faithful in giving of our time and money. We should be loyal to our fellow knights standing by their sides when they are in need or by just being a good friend to them. We should be loyal to our local Chi Omega Rho chapter by remaining faithful in attendance, by giving of our time to special projects, by being faithful in attendance at meetings and by telling others of our organization. If elected as an officer we should strive to give our best.

OBEDIENCE

A knight was obedient to his overlord. He responded willingly because he trusted his overlord. Chi Omega Rho members should also obey those in authority.

RESOURCEFULNESS

Many stories are told about knight's using whatever was available to them. Sometimes it was not the best but it did the job. Chi Omega Rho knights also need to be resourceful. It will take some thinking sometimes but we'll soon find that all things are possible because we've got the Lord on our side.

DEMONSTRATE COURAGE

The knights of the middle ages had to demonstrate courage during battle. Each member of Chi Omega Rho is encouraged to develop this same spirit of courage. Each candidate must show courage by enduring a night of rugged induction. Many of the tests and ceremonies of induction demand a courageous spirit. Each knight must continue to demonstrate a spirit of courage by taking an unwavering stand for the principles of Christianity, by facing personal problems, by bravely enduring each difficulty of life by quickly giving help to those in need, even at the risk of our own safety.

After serving as a member of Chi Omega Rho for one year, plus completing the Royal Rangers Leadership Training Course, a knight may be promoted to a Knight Bachelor.

Once elected as an officer in Chi Omega Rho, a knight becomes a Knight Baronet. He retains this title permanently.

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

1. REGENT (President) The chapter regent shall preside at meetings of the chapter and shall be responsible for coordinating all projects and special events.
2. VICE-REGENT (Vice-President) The vice-regent will assist the regent in his responsibilities. If the regent is not present, the vice-regent will assume the duties of the regent.
3. SCRIBE (Secretary) The scribe is required to keep minutes of every meeting and be ready to read the minutes of the previous meeting at each business session.
4. EXCHEQUER (Treasurer) The exchequer is charged with keeping the chapter funds. He must keep an accurate record of all monies received and all expenditures.
5. KEEPER OF SCROLLS (Recorder, Historian) It is the responsibility of the keeper of scrolls to record the history of the Chi Omega Rho chapter. Events such as inductions, outings and special projects are recorded in the scroll.
6. FRIAR (Chaplain) The friar shall be responsible for conducting devotions at chapter meetings and other functions, or he is responsible for providing a special speaker to conduct these devotions. The friar should be a member of the college staff.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of officers will be at the last chapter meeting during the current year. New officers will assume their office at the beginning of the new school year. Election will be by secret ballot.

1. REGENT--The regent is elected from the members of the chapter and his term of office shall be for one year. He may be re-elected to the same office, but cannot be elected for more than three terms. He must, at the time of election, have been a Chi Omega Rho member for at least one year and have completed the Royal Rangers Leadership Training Course.
2. VICE-REGENT (Deputy Regent)--The vice-regent is elected from the members of the chapter and his term of office will be the same as the regent. He must have been a Chi Omega

LEVELS OF CHI OMEGA RHO

1. PAGE--This is the first level of Chi Omega Rho. It is given to those who have shown an interest in Chi Omega Rho and have attended meetings prior to our semi-annual induction meeting. They remain at this level until the beginning of the ceremony. As middle age knights, a page was a boy who was about 9 years old. His duties included attending mass, drawings, working, praying, studying, playing and learning manners. Chi Omega Rho pages must also learn to follow the rules of the chapter and perform certain duties.
2. SQUIRE--At the age of 14 a page would become a squire. This was the last and hardest of the stages of training for knighthood. Physical exercises and tests of endurance became the most important part of the program. In training the squire was required to run long distances wearing full armor and go for days without water. During this time of training each squire was assigned to a baron knight. He taught how to become an excellent knight. Some of the things taught were: warfare, physical endurance, and chivalry. In Chi Omega Rho at the beginning of the induction ceremony you become a squire.

CEREMONY FOR KNIGHTHOOD

The ceremony of knighthood was a rigorous one. The ceremony came first Pentecost Sunday after the twenty-first birthday of the squire. The night before the ceremony the squire spent much time in prayer praying that God would help him to be a worthy knight. On the morning of the ceremony, the squire rose early, bathed and put on his ceremonial clothing. The squire wore a robe of white (the symbol of purity and chastity), over the robe he wore a scarlet cloak, which symbolized blood. Brown boots were worn to remind him that one day he would return to the earth from which man was created. A white belt was worn denoting his virginity.

Knighting was performed by tapping first the right shoulder and then the left shoulder, and top of the head with a sword. They were knighted with the words, "I dub the Knight _____, be gallant, be courteous, be loyal.

Following the ceremony the knight was treated to a big feast.

Chi Omega Rho squires will be knighted in a similar way. The knighting is performed by the chapter Regent. Following the dubbing the squire becomes a Knight Esquire.

Rho member for one year and have completed the Royal Rangers Leadership Training Course. In the absence of the regent, he will assume the duties of the regent.

3. SCRIBE--The scribe is elected from the members of the chapter and his term of office is for one year. He must have been a Chi Omega Rho member for one year and have completed the Royal Rangers Leadership Training Course.
4. EXCHEQUER--The exchequer is elected from the members of the chapter for a one year term. He must have been a member of Chi Omega Rho for one year and have completed at least two sections of the Royal Rangers Leadership Training Course.
5. FRIAR--The friar is elected from the college staff for a term of one year.
6. KEEPER OF SCROLLS--The keeper of scrolls is elected from the chapter members for a term of one year. He must be a member for at least one year.
7. SERGEANT AT ARMS--The sergeant at arms is elected from the chapter members for a term of one year.

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Each new member will be inducted into membership through a special induction ceremony. No physical harassment will be included in this ceremony and will be conducted under the supervision of the officers of the chapter. The induction ceremony is based on the theme of Knighthood. Prior to the induction ceremony each candidate for membership is required to obtain the following items: a wooden sword, one dozen cookies, two candy bars, a blindfold, lady love colors, sleeping bag, and ground cloth.

Each portion of the induction ceremony has a special meaning. Part one teaches chivalry. Just as medieval knights, knights of Chi Omega Rho are taught to be mannerly toward ladies. Prior to battle, a knight would obtain colors from his lady love. Therefore, it is necessary for a candidate to obtain colors from his lady love prior to induction. Colors are a scarf or bandanna that can be tied around the left arm, the left arm being nearest the heart.

Part two teaches humility. Knights were humble before God and their overlord. Chi Omega Rho knights should also be under subjection to God.

Part three teaches resourcefulness. Knights of the middle ages just couldn't go to the nearest shopping center and get whatever was available. In Chi Omega Rho we must be resourceful.

Part four teaches obedience. Knights had to be obedient to God and those in authority, even if the orders were questionable, the knight was obedient. But most important of all, he was obedient to God. As knights of Chi Omega Rho we too should be obedient to our leaders.

Part five teaches courage. A knight had to have a lot of courage. This was certainly true during battle. We do sometimes become involved in dangerous situations that require courage. The induction ceremony will require a candidate to demonstrate courage.

Part six teaches us to be spiritual. The most important of all these teachings is spirituality. It was shown on the weapons of the knights of old who were concerned with the spiritual aspect of life. Many a knight would spend much time in prayer asking for God's help and guidance. We need to be spiritual and spend much time in prayer asking for God's direction for our lives. We should also pray for our fellow knights.

TOURNAMENTS

Tournaments developed in the 1100's to train a knight for battle. Men would gather together, divide into two sides and fight each other. Their battle might continue for one day or for several days.

Jousting was most popular of the tournament games. Two knights on horseback would charge one another and attempt to knock the opponent off his horse. Each knight wore armor and carried a lance.

Tournament games included backgammon, chess, arm-wrestling, foot races, climbing ladders, and throwing the battleax.

Chi Omega Rho knights will utilize many of these games in tournaments with other chapters.