



THE ORDER *of* ST. GEORGE

Grand Priory of the United Kingdom
BM The Order of St. George, London WC1N 3XX

IN VERITATE IUSTRUS SUM HUIC FRATERNALI SOCIETATI

“In truth, I am faithful to this fraternal society”

The Policy and Procedures for Squires and Demoiselles in the Order of St George.

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This policy supersedes any other policies, protocols, procedures or actions written or otherwise that the Order has used, applied or adopted in relation to Squire and Demoiselles of the Order prior to the approval date.

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Version 1

The Grand Priory is charged with the responsibility of running the Order and furthering the objects of the associated Charitable Trust. The Grand Prior reserve the right to act on behalf of the Order in a considered and reasonable manner on all matters pertaining to the Order.

The Grand Priory is made up of the members. The Grand Magistracy is the Grand Prior, The Grand Prior Emeritus, The Grand Chancellor, The Grand Prior of the American Grand Priory.



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The Policy and Procedures for Esquires and Demoiselles in the Order of St George.

1. Historical Background

Squire is a shortened version of the word esquire, from the Old French escuier (modern French écuyer), itself derived from the Late Latin scutarius ("shield bearer"), in medieval or Old English a scutifer. The Classical Latin equivalent was armiger ("arms bearer").

Traditionally in England, a Squire was a young boy who learnt his 'trade' from a Knight. The Squire could be advanced to Knight only when the Knight said he was ready. It was a long and often arduous process starting around the age of 7.

There were strict rules and traditions that had to be followed prior to the Squire being knighted including 'winning their spurs' in battle. Boys of Royal blood also had to 'win their spurs' before they could be knighted. No-one could be knighted twice irrespective of any Chivalric Order they were in. Knighthoods, then as now, could be removed if a Knight's behaviour did not match the honour and expectations set out in the Code of Chivalry.

Other countries used similar or different terms for young boys carrying out similar functions, such as Page. There was no such comparative equivalent for girls, although young girls did enter service with noble women (Ladies) in preparation for their own advancement. This is because it was the boys and men that took up arms. The term Damsel and Maiden can be found being used to refer to young girls. However, in Viking times, girls who chose, could become Shield Maidens and take up arms alongside the men.

The typical jobs of a squire included:

- Learning to ride – Equestrian Skills
- Carrying the knight's armour, shield and sword
- Guarding prisoners
- Ensuring an honourable burial for a knight
- Replacing an injured or killed horse
- Dressing the knight in armour
- Carrying the knight's flag
- Protecting the knight
- Taking care of the horses
- Accompanying the knight to tournaments and the battlefield
- Maintaining the knight's equipment
- Scrubbing armour

2. The Equality Act 2010

Those historical definitions have long gone. In the United Kingdom, the Equality Act 2010, identifies nine protected characteristics and are designed to protect people from discrimination by:

- * employers
- * businesses and organisations which provide goods or services
- * health care providers
- * someone you rent or buy property from
- * school, colleges and education providers
- * Transport services
- * public bodies

These protected characteristics are:

- * age
- * disability
- * gender reassignment
- * marriage or civil partnership
- * pregnancy of maternity
- * race
- * religion or belief
- * sex
- * sexual orientation.

The Act also provides protection if people in your life, like family members or friends, have a protected characteristic and you are unfairly treated because of that. This is called discrimination by association.

THE POLICY

The Order of St George will abide by and apply the Equality Act 2010 in all its functions publicly and privately.

The terms used within the Order are Squire – male (Esquires) and Demoiselle – female.

1. The role and rationale for a Squire or Demoiselle in the Order of St George.

- 1.1 The future of the Order depends on attracting men and women of good Christian character who are upholding the values of faith, charity and selflessness. The Order is open to those who have no particular religious belief but do and will uphold the chivalric values that the Order stands by.
- 1.2 The admission of young people to the Order as Squires and Demoiselles is set out within Section 2 of the Constitutional Statutes of the Order.
- 1.3 The Order is mindful that there are young people between the ages of 16 and 21 who are already committed to these values, either through their own endeavours or through charitable and nationally recognised organisations and communities to which they belong and serve, but they are not yet able to join the Order as Officers or Knights/Dames.

Examples include organisations such as The Royal Society of St George, Scouts, The St Johns Ambulance, the armed forces and cadets, charities, church youth groups and clubs etc.

- 1.4 Squires or Demoiselles shall, at their appointment by the Grand patron on the advice of the Grand Prior, be deemed to be of equestrian status.
- 1.5 Recommendations for a young person to become a Squire or Demoiselle will come from Knights/Dames in the Order who will be the young person's sponsor while they remain a Squire or Demoiselle.
- 1.6 For young people under the age of 18, written consent to become a Squire or Demoiselle of the Order must be given by the young person's parents or guardians.
- 1.7 At all times, those members of the Order who will support/sponsor young people under the age of 18 must only do so with the permission of the young person's parents or guardians and in compliance with the Order's Safeguarding Policy as it applies to young people, in-line with the Guidance published 6th December 2017 and last updated 22nd October 2019 provided by the Charities Commission – Safeguarding and Protecting People for Charities and Trustees as it applies to Wales and England and also the Guidance that applies for Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- 1.8 To support the young people on their journey, the Order will encourage and enable the Squire or Demoiselle to:
 - attend suitable meetings and activities of the Order where they will have the opportunity to meet and work alongside members of the Order and see it at work
 - join with other Squires or Demoiselles and members of the Order to discuss their work within the charity, organisation or community to which they may belong, in order to help them develop and strengthen their own commitments.
 - uphold the values of the Order.
- 1.9 An elected Knight/Dame will, when appropriate and by invitation, visit the Squire or Demoiselle to observe them when they are engaged in their charitable, organisational or community work such as scouting, cadets etc.
- 1.10 The elected Knight/Dame will take all reasonable* steps to support and encourage the Squire or Demoiselle on their journey to full membership of the Order.

2. Formal welcome

- 2.1 Every Squire and Demoiselle will be eligible and invited to attend the formal investiture of Officers, Knights and Dames and above, held at a consecrated place.
- 2.2 At the ceremony, the Squire and Demoiselle will be formally presented to the Grand Prior by their sponsor (Knight or Dame).
- 2.3 The formal welcome will include a ceremonial welcome.

- 2.4 After the ceremonial welcome, The Grand Prior will place his right hand on the left shoulder of the Squire or Demoiselle and welcome them formally followed by a hand shake.
- 2.5 The Squire and Demoiselle will then be attired with their insignia and any other regalia the Grand Prior deems appropriate to their appointment.

3. Accession to the rank of Officer or Knight/Dame. These proceedings are formal and based on the Code of Chivalry.

- 3.1 In the year leading up to the Squire or Demoiselle's 21st birthday, the elected Knight/Dame will meet with them and discuss their journey to membership in the Order of St George and their readiness to be nominated for admission to the Order.
- 3.2 The Knight/Dame will propose the Squire or Demoiselle to the Grand Prior of the Order for membership and be the Squire or Demoiselle's sponsor.
- 3.3 The Order's procedures and protocols for joining as a member will be observed through to investiture, which includes the formal process of nomination through the Office of the Director of Membership and gazetting.
- 3.4 Prior to nomination as a member or above, a young person entering as a Squire or Demoiselle who is 18 to 21 will be gazetted for one month in order to share with members of the Order their welcome. **Young people under the age of 18 will not be gazetted.**
- 3.5 At the investiture, the Knight/Dame will accompany and present the Squire or Demoiselle to the most excellent Grand Patron and in front of the Knight's/Dame's peers and betters, formally request that the Esquire or Demoiselle/ be admitted to the Order.

The Knight/Dame says:-

'I Chevalier/Dame humbly request the Grand Prior to present to the most excellent Grand Patron for admission to the Order Esquire/Demoiselle That they be risen to the rank of Officer/Knight/Dame in the International Knightly Order Valiant of St George. On my honour as a Knight/Dame I affirm that he/she has and will uphold the Order's values of truth, faith, charity and selflessness in all they do'.

The Grand Prior turns to the most excellent Grand Patron and nods – the most excellent Grand Patron nods in return.

The Knight/Dame then awaits for a nod or hand gesture from the Grand Prior to proceed.

The Knight/Dame then gives the Esquire or Demoiselle the 'collee' - a light blow (tap) with the hand or a white glove, *which represents a gauntlet*, on the left shoulder and says:-

'I do this to secure in you the new knowledge gained as an Esquire/Demoiselle, and pray for God's blessing on your rise to rank of Officer, Knight/Dame.'

The welcome (Officer rank) or investiture (Knight/Dame rank) will then proceed as normal.

4. Regalia

- 4.1 Squires or Demoiselles will not wear the formal regalia of the Order reserved for Officers and above. However, in recognition of being a Squire or Demoiselle of the Order, they will

be entitled to wear the regalia and insignia decided by the Grand Prior as appropriate for a Squire or Demoiselle and the Order's tie, brooch and cuff links.

- 4.2 The formal regalia for Squires and Demoiselles is currently, the Order's Neck Jewel with a white ribbon. The Order's Black $\frac{3}{4}$ mantle with the Order's round crest on the left breast depicting St George and the Dragon surrounded with the Moto

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Which means:- *"In truth, I am faithful to this fraternal society"*



5. Post Nominals

- 5.1 The post nominal that Squires and Demoiselles may use within the Order are:-

Squire – Esg.StG

Demoiselle Dem.StG

- 5.2 The Policies, Protocols and Procedures regarding using and/or applying the Order's name, post nominals, wearing of regalia or any other honour, decoration or medal of the Order apply to Squires and demoiselles as they do to all members of the Order.

6. Duty of Care

- 6.1 The Order is mindful that it has a duty of care towards all young people between the ages of 16-18. It will ensure that it does not place any young person at risk or harm due to any activities of the Order or its members and that the Order upholds and complies with all laws, legislation, statutory guidance and national recommendations regarding keeping young people safe including GDPR.

- 6.2 The Order's Policies, Protocols and Procedures apply to any activities of the Order and its members where young people between the ages of 16-18 years of age are present. They include but are not limited to:-

- a) The Order's Membership policy
- b) The Order's safeguarding Policy for young people and Vulnerable Adults.
- c) The Order's Code of Conduct Policy
- d) The Order's Complaints Policy
- e) The Order's Speaking up Policy

Note - Where the Order has a separate Grand Prior and a Magisterium Officium, the Grand Prior reserves the right to act independently. The Magisterium Officium must consult the Grand Prior and cannot act independently of the Grand Prior.

