

A Medieval Enrollment

(with a bit of the round table thrown in)

For Pathfinders

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Author's Note:

This year our Pathfinders chose a medieval theme for their enrollment. I prepared the following knighting ceremony using a ceremony prepared by the "Society for Creative Anachronism" as the precedent. Following the initial draft, I discussed it with the girls. The girls chose their names. The girls are "Dames" as this is the correct title for a female who has been knighted. (Men receive the title of "Sir".)

Set Up:

We will keep the CD player in the kitchen. It can sit on the ledge where we usually pour drinks. We can put up "tapestries/banners" on the curtain. Set up the chairs facing the "middle" of the room. Place any foods or drink required for "feasting" at the "side" of the room by the kitchen. We will place the stage and the chair against the curtain. We will turn the lights off and just use "lighting" which will give a better effect. (This has been discussed with the Sparks and they will attend as guests.) (SEE LAST PAGE SET UP PLAN)

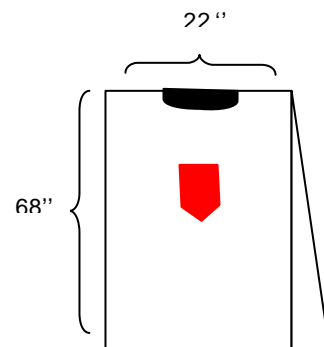
Things we need:

- CD Player
- table cloth (for feasting table)
- robes or costumes
- "torches" (maybe)
- "sword"
- Enrollment pins
- "Medieval Babes" or "Lord of Rings" C D
- "tapestries/banners"
- "Furry Blankets"
- Pillows/cushions for new members to kneel on
- "Fire Pot" (one of the halloween pots which works with batteries if not candles)

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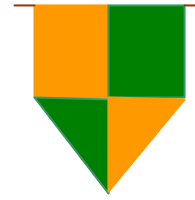
Costumes:

The girls were asked to be in costume. For those who did not have a costume to wear, I created a simple tabard from broadcloth (22 inches by 68 inches, folded over and a hole for the girl's head cut in the middle – a normal 2 m piece of broadcloth – cut lengthwise down the middle is all it takes- it will give you 2 tabards). We did not have time, but you can decorate the front of the tabard with a crest by sewing one on or using fabric paints. They can also be belted at the waist.



Banners

I quickly sewed together broadcloth banners. These were 22 inches wide and either 34 inches long or 51 inches long. I created four panels – each 11” x 17” for a banner 34 inches long and 11” by 25.5” for a banner 51 inches long. The panels were then sewn together with colour opposite each other. I then pulled up one end of the rectangle to form a point at one end. At the opposite end I sewed a wide hem which would allow a dowel to slide through. Then it was ready for hanging.



Parents arrive around 7:00, met at the door by Merlin [Leader] and asked to be seated.

Once everyone has arrived, Merlin turns out the rest of the lights (to let us know that everyone is ready to go) and goes her to her position.

Ceremony Begins:

Out of the darkness comes a voice:

Morgan Le Fey [Leader]: Hear me and know my voice;

*Morgan walks
out carrying
the fire pot or
candle.*

I am Morgan Le Fey, witch, wizard, priestess of ancient arts, student of Merlin and sister to Arthur;

I call to you from a time long past to step through the veil and join me in this time, in this place,

Walk with me through castle gates, sit with me in the Great Hall, stand in witness with me;

As I so will it, so mote it be!

Blow our the candle (turn off pot)

pause

Hit the “lights”

Hail and Welcome to all Lords and Ladies, Knights and Squires

On this night of all nights we meet and again celebrate the ancient Order of Knighthood.

On this night we will welcome into our ranks 3 aspiring Knights, 3 who wish to uphold the Promise and Law.

Behold, the Queen comes

HRM enters after lights are back on. Merlin follows slightly behind, HRM stops in front of throne, Merlin stands off to right, slightly behind, Morgan leaves

Merlin : Her Majesty calls forth the Knights [*Pathfinders, Each girl is announced as follows:*].

Dame Krazie du Krae [Mel];
Dame Gaheris [Emily];
Dame Tristan [Tina];
Dame Lancelot [Katie];

Dame Galahad [Amanda];
Dame Marian [Angela Billings];
Dame Kay [Sharon];
Dame Guinevere [Brittany]

*All Pathfinders except girls to be enrolled
walk out and take their places*

Dame Krazie du Krae [3rd yr. Pathfinder]: Your Majesty, on behalf of the Knights of the Unit, I beg to inform you that our numbers are not complete. There are three who by deeds and demeanour have the right to a place in our company, a place they have deserved for quite some time.

HRM [Leader]: Then let them come forward

Merlin: Bring forth the Squire [*New Pathfinder*]

Morgan leads new member up the isle saying

Morgan Le Fey: I bring forth, Lady Robin of the Hood. Who amongst you will speak for the Lady Robin of the Hood?

"Sponsors" step forward

HRM: "Dames Guinevere, Kraze du Krae and Lancelot, is the candidate free to take the oath and accept responsibilities of Knighthood?"

Dames: "Yes your Majesty."

HRM: "By what deeds is she deemed worthy?"

Dame Guinevere: By the deed of _____

Dame Kraze du Krae : By the deed of _____

Dame Lancelot: By the deed of _____

*The new member shall come forward and
kneel on a cushion before her majesty.
The Dames return to their places.*

Merlin: Bring forth the Squire

Morgan leads new member up the isle saying

Morgan Le Fey: I bring forth, Lady Percivale. Who amongst you will speak for the Lady Percivale?

"Sponsors" step forward

HRM: "Dames Galahad, Tristan and Kay, is the candidate free to take the oath and accept responsibilities of Knighthood?"

Dames: "Yes your Majesty."

HRM: "By what deeds is she deemed worthy?"

Dame Galahad: By the deed of _____

Dame Tristan: By the deed of _____

Dame Kay: By the deed of _____

*The new member shall come forward and
kneel on a cushion before her majesty.
The Dames return to their places.*

Merlin: Bring forth the Squire

Morgan leads new member up the isle saying

Morgan Le Fey: I bring forth, Lady Gewaine. Who amongst you will speak for the Lady Gewaine?

"Sponsors" step forward

HRM: "Dames Guinevere, Kraze du Krae and Gaheris, is the candidate free to take the oath and accept responsibilities of Knighthood?"

Dames: "Yes your Majesty."

HRM: "By what deeds is she deemed worthy?"

Dame Guinevere: By the deed of _____

Dame Kraze du Krae: By the deed of _____

Dame Gaheris : By the deed of _____

*The new member shall come forward and
kneel on a cushion before her majesty.
The Dames return to their places.*

All "Squires" should now be kneeling on cushions in front of HRM

READING OF THE CHARGE

HRM: Read the Charge

Dame #1: May you allow your faith to lead you. The Round Table was founded in patience and humility. You are to never be cruel, and always to protect and support those weaker than yourself.

Dame #2: You should be polite and never refuse mercy to one who asks for it, for a Dame that is courteous and kind will find a welcome wherever they go.

Dame #3: You must be honest and worthy of the trust we place in you. You must endeavour to gain the wisdom to know the difference between good and evil. You must fight against vanity as appearances can be deceiving and looks fleeting. Should anyone require your assistance, you should try to help them, if the deed is for the harm of none.

Dame #4: Ever is the Dame ready to help another who is in need. For a Dame is never afraid to live with courage and strength and will treat all people as she wishes to be treated.

Dame #5: You should not fail in these things: charity and truth. No Dame will win respect if she thinks more highly of herself than anyone else. All Dames should share in the sisterhood of Guiding.

Dame #6: A boastful and vain Dame shall never win friends and if she does, she shall find that her actions have caused others to turn away from her.

Dame #7: Do not do or say anything that will in any way blacken the name of Guiding, for only by living good and honest lives, and not by being the best and first, shall the final goal be reached.

Dame #8: Therefore be a good Dame and so if you be worthy then you shall be a Dame of the Round Table.

SWEARING OF FEALTY

HRM turns to the 1st girl in line:

HRM: You have heard the words of the charge. Will you accept these words and live by them?

New Member: I will

HRM: Then swear fealty to your Unit and Girl Guides of Canada.

New Member: *(All make the Guide Sign)* I promise to do my best, to be true to myself, my God/Faith, and Canada, I will help others, and accept the Guiding Law

BESTOWING THE TOKENS OF KNIGHTHOOD

HRM: "Is there a pin?"

Merlin steps forward with the enrollment pin and pins it on.

DUBBING THE KNIGHT (THE ADOUBEMENT)

HRM:

"In remembrance of oaths given and received." (Strike the right shoulder)

"In remembrance of your lineage and obligations." (Strike the left shoulder)

"Be thou a good knight." (Strike the head)

"Rise, Dame Robin of the Hood."

Return to beginning of "Swearing of Fealty" and repeated for each girl.

"Rise, Dame Percivale"

"Rise, Dame Gawaine"

After all the girls have been knighted

