

Costumes for the Court of Camelot

1. It's best to keep it simple and cool. We'll be meeting in mid-September and while the nights will get cold, the days will be the tail-end of Indian Summer and can get up into the 90's (that's degrees Fahrenheit). I'd recommend thinner fabric like "Silkessence" for a gown rather than satin (which wrinkles horribly) or tapestry, velvet, velour which will be heavy and hot, for this time of year. Gentlemen use a medium-weight cotton for the tunic like trigger cloth or poplin.

2. www.waterwitch.org has some good ideas for Medieval costumes.

3. www.renstore.com also has some lovely clothing and veils and circlets for women. Be careful to get MEDIEVAL rather than TUDOR/ELIZABETHAN or Renaissance. (The Guenevere gown is a nice medieval choice.)

4. www.museumreplicas.com also has some ladies gowns and mens tunics that would be appropriate. Buy or use them for ideas of your own.

Gentlemen:

Court dress included long robes and soft hats, so if you want to pack your regular ritual robes in white and black, we can give you some ideas about how to make a simple tabard to make it more medieval. Or bring your cloak, but be prepared to sweat.

Half-armor indicates covering for the torso, so a chain-maille tunic under a knee-length tunic and tights would be just right. (Gentlemen's tights are available at www.theatrehouse.com) And a simple tunic is very easy to make. Patterns for knit chain-maille (from fishing cord, not metal) are available at www.usitt.org/tdt.index/extras/39-3chainmail.html Contact us for more directions or to see if we can find volunteer knitters for you.

Men: also look at the "Medieval Costume Paper Dolls" book by Dover (see the link below)

Women:

A simple long gown with rounded neck and long sleeves can work just fine. You can also use the "jumper" idea and have an overgown of a richer fabric. See the ideas in waterwitch.org above. A long gown with extra fabric added to the sleeves (the "false-sleeves" idea) is also very pretty. See some ideas

in "Medieval Costume Paper Dolls" by Dover [Amazon.com: Books: Medieval Costumes Paper Dolls \(History of Costume\)](#)

Covering for the head can be as simple as a lightweight cotton or silk scarf held on with a circlet of metal or ribbon. Let's not get too fancy with the tall pointed hats. We're aiming more for a simple, soft look. Our Camelot will be more of the Celtic-early Christian of the 5th to 9th century, rather than the elaborate late medieval of the 11 - 14th centuries.

For patterns see the pdf file with patterns you can buy at your local fabric store.