## WELCOME, COMPATRIOT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Congratulations and welcome to the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)! We hope that you take this opportunity to participate in the programs offered by the SAR in recognizing your patriot ancestor.

## This document is provided to you to help familiarize you with the organization and some of the programs available to you, the new member. Answers to more specific questions can be provided by your chapter officers.

## WHAT IS THE SAR?

The SAR is a historical, educational, and patriotic non-profit, United States 50l(c)3, corporation that seeks to maintain and extend:

* The institutions of American freedom
* An appreciation for true patriotism
* A respect for our national symbols
* The value of American citizenship
* The unifying force of *e pluribus unum* that has created, from the people of many nations, one nation and one people.

The SAR, is the largest male lineage organization in the U.S., and consists of 50 state societies with more than 500 local chapters, several international societies (including Canada, France, Germany and Spain), and over 37,000 members. Prominent SAR members include sixteen U.S. Presidents, Sir Winston Churchill, and Kings Juan Carlos I and Felipe VI of Spain.

Members of the SAR are lineal descendants of an ancestor who rendered acceptable service in the cause of American Independence for the period between 19 April 1775 and 26 November 1783.

## HISTORY

In 1876, a group of men in San Francisco, who were descendants of Revolutionary War veterans, gathered to celebrate the centennial of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States. Their purpose was to honor the men and women who pledged their lives, fortunes, and livelihood to the striving for independence from Great Britain. This group formed an organization called the Sons of Revolutionary Sires.

The idea spread across the country, and The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized on April 30, 1889, to "perpetuate the memory of those who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American People." The SAR was formally granted a congressional charter by an act of Congress on June 9, 1906. President Theodore Roosevelt, who was a member, signed the act.

## WHAT IS THE SAR'S MISSION?

The goals of this Society are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational; to unite and promote fellowship among the descendants of those who sacrificed to achieve the independence of the American people, to inspire them and the community-at-large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom.

## SAR PATRIOTIC GOALS

The SAR inspires the community with the principles on which our nation was founded:

* Many chapters and state-level societies have color guards that wear Revolutionary War uniforms and participate in civic and patriotic events and observances such as the Fourth of July, Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, Patriots Day, Bill of Rights Day, Yorktown Day, Constitution Day, and important battles of the Revolutionary War.
* The SAR maintains and extends the institutions of American freedom. The SAR works to preserve U.S. History to help focus public attention on profound problems in some proposed national standards for teaching pre-college U.S. history.
* The SAR recognizes public service. The state societies and chapters of the SAR present awards each year to public safety individuals and other citizens who exemplify the best civic traditions of our nation. This includes young men and women who are leaders in our communities: high-ranking high school students of history, Eagle Scouts, and JROTC/ROTC cadets.
* The SAR honors, respects, and supports veterans, especially those confined to residential and hospital facilities provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

## SAR HISTORICAL GOALS

The SAR commemorates and provides memorials for the people and events of the American Revolution.

* The SAR preserves records relating to the events leading up to and during the American Revolution.
* The SAR was a major force behind the construction of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and the collection of historic documents therein.
* The SAR supports genealogical research and presentations (books, articles, and presentations) related to the history and people of the period from 1750 until 1800.
* The national SAR Magazine publishes authoritative descriptions of historical events in a quality magazine of archival value.
* The SAR Patriot Records Committee administers the SAR Patriot Research System (PRS) and is responsible for its ongoing updating by volunteers; the system now includes nearly 17,000 patriot biographies and additional information on many thousands of patriots and their gravesites, as well as information on their descendants. In addition, the PRS database is used in the SAR Genealogical Research Library catalog to further improve the research capabilities available to members and the public.
* Chapters support the grave marking programs by seeking out patriot grave sites, restoring or replacing stones and marking the stones/sites with SAR markers.

## SAR EDUCATIONAL GOALS

The SAR sponsors youth awards programs, including poster, brochure, essay and oration contests for the full range of students, based on historical and patriotic themes. Winners receive cash prizes and awards.

* The SAR distributes history curriculum and educational media resources across the country
* The SAR supports the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) in their programs.
* The SAR informs the community about the events and philosophical bases of the American Revolution and the Constitution. Important events and persons of the Revolutionary period are portrayed for students and the public at large.
* The SAR helps people locate and evaluate genealogical records through the SAR's state and chapter registrars and the SAR Genealogical Research Library, a major national repository of genealogical information.

## ORGANIZATION

**State Societies**

Compatriots are encouraged to participate in activities offered by their state society.

Each state society holds state-level meetings at which business of the state society is conducted. Meetings are open to all and members are encouraged to attend the state Society meetings that are held each year. State Society officers are also elected at these meetings.

**Chapters**

The chapters of the Society are the lifeblood of the SAR, as nearly all of the SAR activities and programs are most visible to the public at this level. Members come from every walk of life and every age group; chapter membership ranges from ~20 to over 200 members.

Depending on the level of activity, chapters conduct between four and twelve meetings each year, all of which are open to the public and all SAR members; a program is typically presented as part of these meetings in addition to the necessary chapter business being conducted.

## Governance:

Chapters elect their officers on a regular basis, whether it’s annually or every other year. Committee chairs are also appointed to administer the programs at the chapter level.

As a new member of the Chapter, we sincerely hope that you will join us in participating in our many activities. We have many patriotic and educational programs that we participate in, we rely upon our member volunteers to make them successful.

## PROGRAMS

Our various community and educational programs are staffed by committee chairmen who oversee and manage them. The following is a summary of the programs that chapters manage:

## Color Guard

Many Chapters have a Color Guard whose members appear in Revolutionary War uniform and participate in civic and patriotic events and observances in communities, such as Memorial Day, Fourth of Jul y, Veterans Day, Constitution Day, Wreaths Across America.

## Elementary and High School Programs:

## Knight Essay Contest

## Rumbaugh Orations Contest

## Elementary School Poster Contest

## Middle School Brochure Contest

## Scouting:

## Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition

## Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Award

## Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award

## ROTC/JROTC Recognition Program

## ROTC Award

## JROTC Award

## Enhanced JROTC Program

## Navy Sea Cadet Corps / Navy League Cadet Corps Programs

**Veterans Recognition:**

Veterans who have served honorably in a branch of the US Military can apply for membership in the SAR Veterans Corps and receive a Certificate of Patriotism signed by the SAR President General, memorializing their service to the United States.

**Presentation of Flag Certificates:**

Chapters can award SAR flag certificates to individuals or groups in their communities who properly display the U.S. Flag. If over 50% of the state society's chapters present these certificates, they will receive the Admiral Furlong Award.

## Public Safety and Heroism:

The SAR also recognizes first responders and others who have provided significant public service. This includes law enforcement, fire, EMS, heroism and lifesaving.

## References:

## SAR Home web page – [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)

## SAR List of State Societies - [www.sar.org/society-sites/](http://www.sar.org/society-sites/)

## Membership Committee NSSAR