

# COSSAR

## New Member Manual



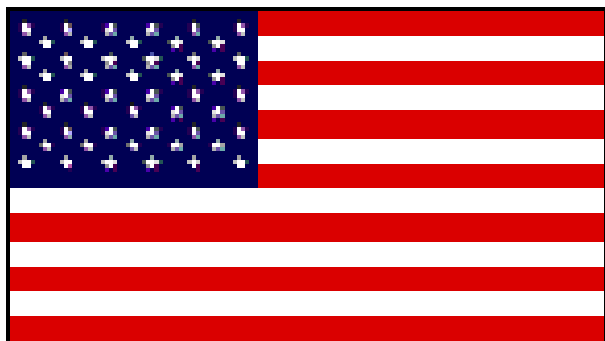
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**[Colorado Sons of the American Revolution Chapters](https://www.cossar.us/chapters)**

**<https://www.cossar.us/chapters>**

**[Colorado Society of the Sons of the American Revolution](https://www.cossar.us/)**

**<https://www.cossar.us/>**

**[National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution](https://www.sar.org)**

**<https://www.sar.org>**

## Welcome, Compatriot!

As a new member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) you have joined the largest male lineal society in the United States which is dedicated to furthering understanding of the American Revolution and its significance past, present, and future. SAR is chartered by the United States Congress, signed into law by Compatriot President Teddy Roosevelt. You are encouraged to actively participate in the brotherhood and patriotic service of the society.

<b>Brief History of SAR</b>	<b>Brief Summary of Organizational Structure</b>
<p>The first effort to organize descendants of Revolutionary War, occurred in San Francisco, in 1875. This was in anticipation of the centennial of the revolutionary War. The first official meeting was June 29, 1876. The group attracted about 80 men and the group named themselves “Sons of the Revolutionary Sires”. They marched in the July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1876, parade in San Francisco. The organization fell in numbers over the years.</p> <p>In 1883, the New York Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized by John Austin, this could be traced as the founding of the Sons of the American Revolution.</p> <p>William Osborn McDowell with Josiah Pumpelly and William Stryker, all who were members of the New York Society, organized the New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in 1889. They refused to accept being subordinate to the New York Society. After approaching other states to organize societies, the Sons of the American Revolution were organized at the Fraunces Tavern in New York on April 30, 1889, the centennial of George Washington’s inauguration.</p> <p>The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was incorporated on January 17, 1890, in Connecticut, with the first National Congress on April 30, 1890, in Louisville, Kentucky. A congressional charter was granted on June 9, 1906, and signed by President Theodore Roosevelt, a member of the SAR.</p>	<p>The National Society is organized into State Societies. Membership in the National Society Sons of the American is through a State Society—there are no National at-large memberships in SAR! State Societies are organized into Chapters which is the level through which membership is attained. State Societies receive their charters from the National Society which is chartered by an act of the United States Congress (36 U.S.C. Chap. 1533). State Societies and Chapters which are chartered by State Societies must comply with all National Society policies which are outlined in the multivolume <i>SAR Handbook</i>. State Societies are further organized by the National Society into Districts for cooperation and mutual support of the National Society’s mission. All members are required to pay annual Chapter, State, and National dues to retain membership.</p>

# MY SAR CHAPTER

## CHAPTER SPECIFIC

PICTURES – CHAPTER HISTORY – PRIMARY CONTACT NUMBERS – SPECIAL EVENTS



*Chapter-Specific Page*



## COLORADO SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (COSSAR)

Our Colorado Society was admitted into the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution on July 1, 1896. We have grown from 16 charter members to more than 500 members in five chapters around the state.



The Chapters work closely with their respective communities to keep alive the Patriotic ideals for which our ancestors fought and died protecting. Some of the ways the SAR does this is by awarding certificates and medals for public service, scouting, ROTC, and good citizenship.

As a new member it is important you participate actively in your chapter. Attend chapter meetings and contribute your time and expertise on a committee. These include **Education, Eagle Scout, Legislative, Chancellor, Awards, Registrar, Americanism, Veterans, Historic Sites, and Youth Programs.**

*Our Color Guard makes an appearance for many parades, flag raising ceremonies, funerals, and other special events.*

## Opportunities

At the national level members can attend the annual congress and the leadership meetings held twice a year in Louisville, Kentucky. Delegates for congress are appointed from each state which enables a member to vote for new officers, bylaws, and financial requests. There are also events for the ladies, tours of historical points of interest, banquets, and the chance to meet compatriots from other states and countries.



## Activities

At National, District, State and Chapter levels there are numerous activities to support. Color Guard presents a great opportunity for the SAR to be visible to the public. The Color Guard marches in parades such as July 4, Memorial Day and Veterans Day. They participate in Grave Marking for Patriots and other events such as History Day in some states. Points are awarded for events and Color Guardsmen can earn medals.

Compatriots are encouraged to participate with committees such as ROTC/JROTC, Eagle Scouts, Oration, Essay, Poster and History Teacher. These committees conduct patriotic education contests through which youth earn awards and medals relating the significance of the American Revolution to current day issues.

Educational, Historic, and Patriotic programs including the Patriot Chest where Compatriots present Colonial and Rev War items and tell a variety of stories depending on the audience age groups.



Public Service medals are awarded for outstanding service in Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, and Emergency Medical Services. Medals are also awarded to citizens for Life Saving and Heroism as well as Good Citizenship.

Wreaths Across America (WAA) is a support program where wreaths are placed on veterans' graves at National Cemeteries. Some chapters have chapter-specific websites that need to be used to coordinate chapter volunteer efforts and receive a portion of the wreath's cost directed back to chapter. Contact your chapter for further information regarding the need to use a specific website.

*National WAA website:* <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

Compatriots work with the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) and support their activities.

*C.A.R. website:* <https://www.sar.org/national-society-of-the-children-of-the-american-revolution-nscar/>

DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution-formed 1890) is supported by the SAR in various ways such as providing a Color Guard. DAR is correctly pronounced "dee a ar" not "daaahrr".

*D.A.R website:* <https://www.dar.org/>

Flag certificates are awarded to those who fly the American Flag in a respectful way.

SAR supports our veterans with Ancestor Search to help them discover their ancestors.

SAR, state societies and chapters have websites with information on dates, times and locations of activities to keep members informed of events. A more complete listing of activities can be found on their websites state's website address in Resource section.

*State SAR societies websites:* <https://www.sar.org/society-websites/>

SAR Patriot Research System (PRS) - Database with combination of the previous SAR Patriot Record Index, the SAR Revolutionary War Graves Registry, and information from the SAR Patriot Index CD (2002), plus additional information and updates from various state grave registry databases and patriot biographical sketches submitted to tell the story of our patriot ancestors.

*PRS website link:* <https://sarpatriots.sar.org/>

## NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (NSSAR)

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized on April 30, 1889 -- the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as our Nation's first president.

**The NSSAR**, the largest male lineage organization in the U.S., consists of 50 societies with more than 500 local chapters, several international societies (including Canada, France, Germany, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom), and over 33,000 members. Prominent NSSAR members include sixteen U.S. Presidents, Sir Winston Churchill, and Kings Juan Carlos and Felipe VI of Spain. The NSSAR was conceived as a fraternal and civic society composed of lineal descendants of the men who wintered at Valley Forge, signed the Declaration of Independence, fought in the battles of the American Revolution, served in the Continental Congress, or otherwise supported the cause of American Independence. The National Society was chartered by an Act of the United States Congress on June 9, 1906. The charter was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt, who was a member of the NSSAR. The first State Society and Chapter was that of New Jersey Society, named "Elizabethtown Chapter #1" formed in present day Elizabeth, New Jersey.

**NSSAR Compatriots** have answered their country's call in every major American conflict beginning with the battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, and continuing to present day, including Operation Desert Storm, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. NSSAR members have received the highest awards America can bestow, including the Medal of Honor.

**Mission.** The NSSAR is a historical, educational, and patriotic "lineage" society comprised of male descendants of patriots who supported the cause of American Independence during the years 1774-1783. It seeks to maintain and expand the meaning of patriotism, respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship, and the unifying force of "e pluribus unum" that was created from the people of many nations -- one nation and one people.

**The National Headquarters for NSSAR**, was originally located at 16th St NW in Washington, DC from 1927 - 1959. As the society grew more space was needed so the National Headquarters was relocated to 2412 Massachusetts Ave from 1959 - 1977. Continued growth required even more space so the National Headquarters was relocated to its current home in Louisville, Kentucky.

809 West Main Street  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202  
(P) 502.589.1776 | (F) 502.589.1671

**NSSAR Website** - Any visitor interested in accessing the features and functions of the NSSAR website should complete the log-in forms and create a user profile. After successfully setting up a user or membership profile, you will have access to the many tools at SAR online.

*The NSSAR webpage may be accessed at: <https://www.sar.org/>.*

**NSSAR Museum** - The Museum collection has grown to include artifacts from the period of America's War for Independence and some of its most notable members. There is also a sizable collection of artworks including a portrait of George Rogers Clark painted by Otto Stark and a reproduction of Houdon's bust of George Washington. The museum is currently located in the NSSAR Administration Building in Louisville, KY.  
*Education Center & Museum website: <https://www.sar.org/nssar-education-center-and-museum/>*



**NSSAR Store** - A store for members to purchase items for the operation of Chapter, awards, NSSAR logo items and more is in operation at the National Headquarters. The web NSSAR Store is where members may purchase a nametag with the NSSAR Logo, personal name and chapter name tags. It can be purchased from SAR Online store. However, to complete purchases, a separate (other than SAR user account) must be created and used. *SAR Online Store Account Creation website:* <https://store.sar.org/login.aspx>  
*SAR Online store website:* <https://store.sar.org>

**NSSAR Library** - Established in 1927, the NSSAR created its library in its Washington, DC headquarters. In 1978 the NSSAR moved its headquarters to Louisville, KY and has now grown to over 58,000 items and includes family histories, state genealogy materials, federal censuses, Revolutionary War pension applications, and CD collections. The library is open to the public and free of charge to NSSAR members, and its online catalog and other information is available at the NSSAR website.  
*NSSAR library website:* <https://www.sar.org/library-about-us/>

**NSSAR Pledge** - *We, descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.*

**NSSAR Recessional** - *Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.*

### **National (NSSAR) Publications** (Requires member log on)

**NSSAR Handbook and National Bylaws** - This official handbook, printed after each Annual National Congress, contains the most current National Bylaws plus complete information about every aspect of the National Society. The NSSAR Handbook is an essential tool for members and provides point-to-point instructions for membership procedures, committees, contests, etc. The most current National Handbook, Bylaws and Protocol, forms and committee information can always be found on the NSSAR website noted below.  
*SAR Handbook Volumes I-VIII website link:* <https://www.sar.org/nssar-handbook/>

**NSSAR Magazine** - Published quarterly by the National Society, the NSSAR Magazine is a professionally produced magazine available to its adult members and is paid for by your national dues. It includes articles on patriotic endeavors, historic sites, people, artifacts and events, genealogy, and more. Archived editions can be found at the NSSAR website.

*Archived SAR Journals website link:* <https://www.sar.org/sar-magazine-2/>

## Common Terms Defined

**Compatriot** is the official designation of a member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

**Membership categories** are **Regular Member** or **Regular Life Member** the age of 18 years and older, **Junior Member** under the age of 18 years, and **Memorial Membership** for a deceased male of the same family as current members.

**SAR** is the shortened acronym for National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR). It (SAR) is correctly pronounced by speaking the letters as “ess aa ar” not “saahr”, never as a one syllable term.

**SAR Member Badge** is worn by a compatriot at SAR functions and when representing the SAR. It is a Maltese cross of four arms and eight points with a bust of George Washington at its center and available from SAR online store. However, to complete purchases, a separate (other than SAR user account) must be created and used and must be a SAR member.

*SAR Online Store Account Creation website:* <https://store.sar.org/login.aspx>

*SAR Online store website:* <https://store.sar.org/>

**SAR Rosette** is worn by a compatriot, at his discretion, on the left lapel of his jacket, but is not worn simultaneously with the SAR Member Badge. It may be purchased from the SAR Online store

**Annual Congress** sometimes simply called “Congress,” is the yearly convention of the National Society hosted by a State Society. State Societies select delegates based upon its membership, but every compatriot is welcome to attend; spouses and family members are also welcome.

**General Officer** is the term given to the National Society officers elected at the Annual Congress to one-year terms.

**President General** is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Society, followed in descending rank by: Secretary General, Treasurer General, Chancellor General, Genealogist General, Registrar General, Historian General, Librarian General, Surgeon General and Chaplain General. A Vice President General is nominated by each District (see below) and elected at Congress.

**Trustee** is the member nominated by his State Society to serve a one-year term and is elected at the Annual Congress to serve on the Board of Trustees; General Officers, Executive Committee Members and former Presidents General are also elected to the Board of Trustees.

**Board of Trustees** manages the business and affairs of the National Society and is the custodian of all National Society property; each State Society is represented by one Trustee.

**State Society** is chartered by the National Society in any State or Territory, including any foreign country, in which a Society does not exist.

**Chapter** is the local organization chartered by a State Society to promote growth in membership and interest in the objects of the National Society.

**District** is group of State Societies served by a Vice President General to strengthen the constituent State Societies.

**Leadership Meeting** is each fall and spring in Louisville, KY at which National committees meet to make recommendations and the Board of Trustees manages the business and affairs of the National Society.

**Record Copy** is a verified official copy of an approved NSSAR or NSDAR membership application or supplemental application.

**SAR Education Center and Museum** is at 809 West Main, Louisville, KY. SAR is active in education and raising funds to complete the SAR Education Center and Museum. *Education Center & Museum website:*  
<https://www.sar.org/nssar-education-center-and-museum/>

**SAR Color Guard** is the compatriots who attend SAR meetings and events properly uniformed as either Continental Soldiers or Militiamen or attired as Revolutionary-era clergymen.

**Ladies' Auxiliary** provides assistance to SAR at Chapter, State Society, and National Society levels. Membership is open to ladies who are related by marriage or blood line to SAR Members in good standing.

**SAR Patriot Chest** program is an interactive presentation intended to compliment Elementary and Middle School lesson plans on the Revolutionary War and Colonial period of American history. The program purpose is to bring that history alive, while providing students with a sense of the times and appreciation of the Patriot men and women who founded our Nation.

*Patriot Chest YouTube presentation:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HajCRMClKw>

## Basic Protocol

**Attire:** Each chapter varies in expected attire at meetings influenced by their meeting location and/or climate. Period attire (Continental Army, Militia, and period civilian clothing) are always acceptable, including formal events. The basic attire for State and National meetings is coat (normally navy blazer), shirt, and tie. State and National meetings often include formal banquets which should indicate Black Tie or White Tie on the schedule.

**Insignia:** Every member when attending an SAR event/meeting or representing the SAR at a public event is entitled to wear the National Society Sons of the American Revolution insignia which can be purchased from the SAR Online store. However, registering on the member website is required with separate id & password to purchase items. The insignia is worn on a blazer or suit coat (never an overcoat) on the left breast suspended on the included drape. Current and Former General Officers, State Presidents, and Chapter Presidents may wear the insignia suspended from the SAR Neck Ribbon.

SAR Online store website: <https://store.sar.org>

**Medals and Awards:** Medals are presented by the National, District, State, or Chapter level according to criteria published in *The SAR Handbook, Volume V*. They may be worn at an SAR event/meeting or when representing the SAR at a public event. Mounting medals when the compatriot has earned three or more is recommended according to the criteria in *The SAR Handbook, Volume IV*.

## Protocol

The principles of protocol are dictated by ethics, manners, tradition, and common sense. The basic procedures outlined in the NSSAR Handbook, in Volume 2 under Protocols, and online on the National Website, assure that most events may proceed in an orderly manner. The following guidelines should assist every member:

1. The President General is the highest-ranking officer of the National Society and is the honored guest at any NSSAR function. The State President is the highest-ranking officer in his state.
2. NSSAR Members refer to each other as Compatriots.
3. Current and past National General Officers, State Presidents and Chapter Presidents can be identified by the neck ribbons they wear with their respective office medallions on them.
4. NSSAR meeting procedures follow Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, unless otherwise dictated by the National Society.
5. Compatriots should remain standing until the Opening Ritual is completed which includes Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the NSSAR Pledge.
6. Compatriots should remain standing until the Closing Ritual is completed which included Benediction, Retiring of the Colors, and the NSSAR Recessional.

## Insignia



**NSSAR Seal** - The seal of the Society is a figure of a Minuteman grasping a musket in his right hand, surrounded by a constellation of thirteen stars which shall be depicted in the period of the American Revolution, in the act of deserting the plough for the service of his country; the whole encircled by a band with the legend, " National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, organized April 30, 1889." The seal of the Society shall be used upon all documents and large certificates.



**NSSAR Emblem** - The emblem of the Society shall comprise (1) a silver cross of four arms covered in white with 8 gold points, and a gold medallion in the center bearing a bust of Washington in pro-file and on reverse a minuteman surrounded by ribbon enameled in blue, with the motto, "Libertas et Patria," on the obverse, and the legend, "Sons of the American Revolution," on the reverse, both in letters of gold, surrounded by an eagle in gold, (2) a rosette.



**NSSAR Logo** The SAR logo was recently adopted. Use of it can be found at (pdf) website link: <https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/SAR-Social-Media-Hashtags-Guide.pdf>.





**NSSAR Rosette** - The rosette may be worn by all members, at their discretion, on the left lapel of the jacket or shirt collar. The rosette is informal and therefore is not appropriate for formal wear. The rosette should never be worn when wearing the NSSAR Badge.



**NSSAR Badge** - Members may wear the NSSAR Badge bearing the Insignia on the left breast of a jacket from a chest ribbon, while current or former General Officers, National Trustees, and State Society or Chapter Presidents may wear the NSSAR Badge suspended from a neck ribbon. The chest and neck ribbons are of the NSSAR colors, with a deep blue center flanked by buff and white stripes.



**NSSAR Supplemental Star** – The patriot supplemental star is a one quarter inch diameter, five-pointed star used to denote additional Revolutionary War ancestors that have been approved by the National Society. Supplemental star(s) may be displayed on the NSSAR chest ribbon.



**NSSAR 5 Supplementals Star** – A similar, but larger one-half inch diameter star with a flat area with the numeral 5 is awarded after approval of five supplements.

**Other Awards** - Numerous Awards in the form of medals are presented to NSSAR members for their service. Each of these awards has specific requirements which must be met to receive the award, and as such each has its own hierarchy position in the protocol. These can be viewed in the NSSAR Handbook Volume 3, found online at the NSSAR website as noted in the following Resources section.

## Resources

The best source of information is the SAR website: <https://www.sar.org/> . Access to some material, including the SAR Handbook requires being logged on using your member account sign on. You will be prompted to sign on if needed.

### SAR Handbook, Volumes I-VIII

*Volumes I-VIII website link:* <https://www.sar.org/nssar-handbook/>

#### Individual Downloadable PDF's

Volume I: Governing Documents (effective 07 Sep 2022)

*Volume I website link:* [https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NSSAR\\_Handbook\\_Volume\\_I\\_07\\_Sep\\_2022.pdf](https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NSSAR_Handbook_Volume_I_07_Sep_2022.pdf)

Volume II: Organization (effective 1 Aug 2022)

*Volume II website link:* <https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/NSSAR-Handbook-Volume-II-01-Aug-2022.pdf>

Volume III: Membership, Compliance & Other Policies (effective 1 Aug 2022)

*Volume III website link:* <https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/NSSAR-Handbook-Volume-III-10-Dec-2022.pdf>

Volume IV: Insignia, Protocol, Ceremonies & Rituals (effective 1 Aug 2022)

*Volume IV website link:* <https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/NSSAR-Handbook-Volume-IV-10-Dec-2022.pdf>

Volume V: Individual Medals & Awards (effective 1 Aug 2022)

*Volume V website link:* <https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/NSSAR-Handbook-Volume-V-10-Dec-2022.pdf>

Volume VI: Youth Programs, State Society & Chapter Awards (effective 1 Aug 2022)

*Volume VI website link:* <https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/NSSAR-Handbook-Volume-VI-01-Aug-2022.pdf>

Volume VII: Summary History of the Sons of the American Revolution (effective 1 Aug 2022)

*Volume VII website link:* <https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/NSSAR-Handbook-Volume-VII-01-Aug-2022.pdf>

Volume VIII: Historical Roster of SAR General Officers (effective 1 Aug 2022)

*Volume VIII website link:* <https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/NSSAR-Handbook-Volume-VIII-01-Aug-2022.pdf>

## Miscellaneous Links

Color Guard Handbook website pdf downloadable link:

<https://members.sar.org/media/uploads/pages/201/E2YTwVFUMOKY.pdf>

Education website link:

<https://education.sar.org/>

SAR Magazine (current and archived issues) website link:

<https://www.sar.org/sar-magazine-2/>

Colorado Society of the Sons of American Revolution (COSSAR) website link:

<https://www.cossar.us/>

Listing of Other Great Links published at SAR website link:

<https://www.sar.org/great-links/>

Genealogy Resources website link:

<https://www.sar.org/genealogy-resources/>

Other Forms and Manuals website link:

<https://www.sar.org/resource-repository/>

# Appendixes