

Sons of the American Revolution Tennessee Society Color Guard Handbook

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Sons of the American Revolution Tennessee Society Color Guard

Organized _____

I. Charter

Through participation in historical, patriotic and educational endeavors, the Tennessee State Society SAR Color Guard (TNSSARCG) is to honor our patriot ancestors; promote the TNSSAR; and inspire the community with the principles on which our nation was founded.

II. Organization

Following NSSAR guidelines/policy, the TNSSARCG is made up of those Compatriots who come to SAR events properly uniformed as either Continental Soldiers, Militiamen, as Revolution-era clergymen or other period correct attire.

The TNSSARCG functions under a standing committee of the Tennessee Society Sons of the American Revolution. The Color Guard Committee chairman, appointed by the Tennessee Society President, serves as the State Commander. Division Commanders are appointed by the State Commander. Committee membership is subject to the Tennessee Society Bylaws.

State Commander, is responsible for overall TNSSARCG organization and activities. This includes, but is not limited to: appointing and overseeing all committee functions; leading events; maintaining the list of scheduled events; approving expenditures; recruiting new personnel; receiving and evaluating requests for TNSSARCG appearances; producing a quarterly report for the TNSSAR President.

Division Commanders, whose areas of responsibility are set by geographical boundaries, are responsible for TNSSARCG organization and activities within his designated geographic area. This includes, but is not limited to: leading events; maintaining a roster of compatriots who wish to participate in TNSSARCG activities; maintaining a record of attendees at each Division event; recruiting new personnel; assuring all participants are properly attired; receiving and evaluating requests for TNSSARCG appearances.

TNSSARCG Divisions, Companies and flag standards are identified as follows:

Division	Name	Flag Standard
Eastern Division	Mountain Brigade	Guilford Courthouse

Middle Division	French Lick Company	Bourbon Flag
Western Division	Frontier Company	Gadsden Flag
Statewide	Highland Guard	Scottish National

III. Fiscal Responsibility

The TNSARCG is self-funded, primarily from honorarium. Funds received are maintained in a separate operating fund, with oversight by the Tennessee Society Treasurer. The State Commander will have discretionary spending authority for supplies, equipment acquisition and maintenance, and event associated expenses. Expenditures other than those directly related to Color Guard activities will be subject to approval by the committee.

IV. HEALTH & SAFETY REGULATIONS

The following regulations were enacted for the health and safety of the Guardsmen participating in the various SAR sponsored outdoor events.

The Color Guard Commander at the event (assisted by the Event Coordinator) shall be responsible for enforcing these regulations as much as practicable, but each individual Guardsman is ultimately responsible for his own health and safety including, but not limited to, obtaining the necessary liability insurance.

It shall be the responsibility of individual Guardsman to be aware of their own physical limitations and to excuse themselves from parades or events that will exceed their capabilities. They should also advise the Commander of this situation so appropriate arrangements can be made. In participating in a parade, each Guardsman is expected to maintain the set pace.

The Commander shall be responsible to inform Guardsmen of the expected physical activity required at any event including, but not limited to, the length of any march, the route of march, expected maneuvers and obstacles. The Commander or his designee shall be responsible for arranging transportation both to and from parades.

When participating in a reenactment event not directly sponsored by the SAR, the Guardsman must make themselves subordinate to the effective rules and regulations of the sponsoring organization. An SAR Safety Officer can be appointed by the Commander for such events.

Only reenactor quality uniforms may be worn when participating in a firing squad or when the color guard will be in close proximity of a firing squad. If a Guardsmen is wearing a polyester uniform, he will be asked to move to a safe location or asked to defer in direct participation at that time (credit for attendance will still accrue towards medals).

V. Operations Protocol

Individuals are to first contact the designated Division Commander regarding opportunities for color guard appearances. Requests received by the State Commander will be forwarded to the responsible Division TNSARCG Commander for consideration.

The Division Commander will evaluate the request against prior commitments, available assets and appropriateness of the event, and then forward a recommendation to the State Commander whether to accept/decline the request. This recommendation should include a short statement in support of the Division Commander's decision and, if accepted, whether assets (people, flags, uniforms, etc.) would be required from outside his Division of responsibility (usually from an adjacent Division).

The optimum number in a color guard is five guardsmen, with a minimum of three. Major media events, revenue producing appearances, support of DAR & CAR activities, etc., should be treated with "maximum effort." In all cases, the appropriate number of guardsmen should be evaluated based upon the particular event. It may not be suitable to have fifteen participants at a simple flag posting. Conversely, the SAR would not be adequately represented with only two people participating in a large parade.

Once an event is approved, the event will be "published" and sanctioned by the Tennessee Society. The Division Commander will contact personnel within his Division of responsibility to finalize the roster for the event and keep them fully informed regarding details of the event (date, time, location, special requirements, etc.). It is suggested that the Division Commander identify a local point of contact who would be responsible for gathering and forwarding details regarding the event, particularly last minute changes, to the Division Commander.

VI. FORMATION OF A COLOR GUARD UNIT

Minimum Number in a Color Guard Unit:

- The optimum minimum number of men that form a Color Guard unit consists of four (4) men:
- Two (2) Color Bearers who carry the United States National Flag and the State or SAR Flag;
- Two (2) Musketeers or Riflemen who escort the Color Bearers.

(It is understood that many state and chapter Color Guards do not have Musketeers or Riflemen.)

A Color Guard may consist of a minimum of three (3) members with at least one Musketeer or Rifleman marching to the right of the National Colors. The left side of the National Colors should be covered either by a second Musketeer or Rifleman or another Color Bearer who would carry another flag (most often the state flag). In either situation, the Commander of the Color Guard will either be the Musketeer guarding the National Colors or the Guardsman carrying the National Colors. As the Color Guard grows, the Commander will march ahead of the National Colors separate from any other rank

V. Uniform Policy

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The TNSSAR Color Guard does not require members to obtain a standardized uniform. Members are encouraged to research and acquire the uniform or dress of their Revolutionary War patriot ancestor(s). Either regimental or field dress is appropriate as long as it is historically accurate. The Color Guard is a group activity with the primary mission of presenting and guarding our national colors. Therefore certain criterion needs to be adhered to in the interest of reasonable uniformity.

A. SAR Medals

We will adhere to the National guideline of not wearing any S.A.R., military or hereditary pins, badges or awards.

“... when we wear our “regimentals”, in public or even at internal SAR events, we are memorializing our Revolutionary War heroic ancestors, not our personal accomplishments!

It should be noted that when we wear our regimentals we are reminding the public of our countries origins. The medals we wear, SAR, are not known to the public, and therefore are meaningless, hence confusing.

*Donald N. Moran
Founding National Color Guard Commander
Editor, The SAR Guardsman”*

See appendix for reporting form and qualifying requirements to be used for submitting application for any of the Color Guard Medals.

B. Accoutrements

1. The headgear of choice is the black tricorne. The brim may be lined with white, yellow or black ribbing as appropriate for the particular uniform. Excess decoration beyond a cockade and a single unit pin is to be avoided unless historically based, i.e. feathers. Other tasteful and historically accurate headgear, such as brimmed hats, stocking caps, and scarves may be worn with hunting and minuteman attire.

2. The shoe of choice is plain black lace or buckle oxford. Other tasteful and historically accurate footwear, such as moccasins may be worn with hunting and minuteman attire. Black riding boots may optionally be worn with officer’s regimentals or gentleman’s or squires attire.

3. Socks, depending on the type of breeches being worn, shall appear to be historically accurate, i.e. over the knee, non-ribbed and solid in color.

4. At the discretion of the event leader, white cotton gloves may be worn during formal ceremonies. If gloves are deemed appropriate, they are to be worn by all formation members. An exception will be made for militiamen and musketeers if a salute is to be fired.

6. Other than at formal occasions, such as Posting Colors, all historically accurate accoutrements can be worn by those dressed in either Continental or militia attire.

7. Any questions regarding accoutrements can be directed to the Color Guard Commander or of the Chief of Protocol.

VI. Weapons Policy

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Our main concern is safety for the individual and the environment.

The 1763/66 French Charleville and 2nd Land Model British Brown Bess are considered the "weapon of choice" for color guard events. Other period specific black powder flintlocks, such as Pennsylvania rifles, may also be appropriate, especially with frontiersman clothing and hunting frocks. Pistols were primarily cavalry, officers or men of importance/wealth. Pistols should only be carried by such. Like all firearms, muskets employed by the color guard are inherently dangerous. **They must always be treated as loaded and potentially deadly.** Blank charges can also cause injuries, especially at close ranges.

A. Musket/rifle Guidelines

1. Ball or other projectile shall never be loaded or carried.
2. Muskets shall be maintained in a clean and serviceable condition.
3. Muskets shall be equipped with leather frizzen covers.
4. All fired muskets shall be equipped with metal flash guards, if the musket/rifle is so designed to accept one.
5. Only powder dispensed from paper cartridges shall be used.
6. Charges shall consist of no more than 100 grains of ffg black powder.
7. Muskets shall remain unloaded until instructed to load.
8. Paper cartridges shall be discarded and not used as wadding.
9. Ramrods and other objects shall not be inserted into charged bores.
10. Charged muskets shall be carried at half-cock.
11. Muskets shall always be pointed in a safe direction.
12. Muskets shall never be fired toward anyone.
13. Muskets shall never be fired over anyone within 100 feet.

B. Firing of muskets

On certain occasions a musket/rifle salute is deemed appropriate and shall be conducted according to the following guidelines.

- An SAR Safety Officer, Division Commander or State Commander will perform a safety inspection of firearms prior to the beginning of the ceremony. It should be conducted as follows; the rammer should be pinged to show that the weapon is clear, and it should be hung by the trigger at half cock to make sure that it will not go off accidentally.
- As determined by the event commander, musket firings shall be aimed in a direction which protects against all possible injury to persons and property.
- All guardsmen who are assigned to fire muskets shall be certified as to their competency by the TNSSAR Color Guard Commander, Division Commander or designated safety officer, based upon the following criteria:
 - Demonstrated knowledge of and compliance with the above stated standards.
 - Demonstrated efficiency in breaking down, cleaning and assembling musket.
 - Demonstrated efficiency in safely loading and firing musket.

C. Bladed Weapons

- 1. Bayonets may be fixed for parade, color guard duty, stacking arms, drill, or other scenarios, at the direction of the officers.
- 2. Bayonets will be fixed only at the order of the event commander.

Note: The bayonet should only be used when the public is at a safe distance and the individuals using the rifle with bayonet mounted are able to safely perform all manual of arms procedures.

3. Edged weapons shall remain sheathed or secured at all times, except when used as a tool of command.

VII. Suggested Ceremony Guidelines

A. Posting colors

1. The National Flag should always be protected in procession and posted on the speaker's/podium right.
2. Order of Flags shall be in the following sequence; National Flag, historical National Flags (i.e. Betsy Ross), State Flag, NSSAR, TNSSAR, Division Flags and lastly any and all historical Revolutionary War Flags.
3. Guardsmen in a militia style uniform will appear as the Color Bearers guards and may carry canteens, swords or other equipment that was customary with Patriot Militia of the Revolutionary War era. When accompanying Color Guard Flag Bearers, they will guard and protect the Flags by leading the Color Bearers and bringing up the rear.
4. On formal occasions those in Continental attire should wear white gloves. Those less formal occasions will be left to the discretion of the lead Guardsman. However, either all should wear gloves or none should.

B. REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT GRAVE MARKING

1. SAR Official: Welcome and Greetings
2. Presentation of the Colors: SAR Color Guard, Military Unit, ROTC, Scouts or other appropriate group.
3. Invocation
4. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag
5. SAR Pledge by SAR Members
6. Introduction of the assembly to the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.
7. Life of Patriot and his/her revolutionary patriot service
8. Decoration of the grave with wreath or other floral arrangement
9. Introduction of descendants of Patriot in attendance or identify those that could not be at the service
- 10.** Dedication of the Marker

C. SAR Compatriot Casket Guard Procedures

At the predetermined times during visitation, an Honor Guard will remain posted at all times. One member will be posted at the head of the casket and one member will be posted at the feet. Be prepared to stay at this position for 10 to 20 minutes depending on the situation.

Initial Posting of the Guard-

All of the assigned guards will proceed to a position just in front of the casket in order to give their last respects to the deceased. Depending on the layout of the room, their procession may be done down the center aisle or the side aisle. It is preferred that the center aisle be used so the guards can proceed to the casket side by side, at the front of the casket, the guards will salute the flag (Present...Arms., Order...Arms.

done quietly) if the flag is present either on the casket or folded nearby. The guards will then remove their caps and pay last respects as they see appropriate (prayer, sign of the cross, moment of silence, etc.). The guards shall then place their caps on their heads and make a facing movement (Ready...Face. quietly) and proceed to the separate positions at the head and the foot of the casket. The guards shall do an **ABOUT FACE** automatically upon reaching his/her position and shall then assume the position of **PARADE REST** without a command. The guard(s) that are not part of the initial group will proceed to the area designated for them to wait in.

Time

After the designated time (ten/twenty minutes) both guards are to be relieved by the procedures below. If only three Guards are available, then one of the guards would be relieved every 10 minutes (the max guard time then being again being 20 minutes.

Changing of the Guard-

Upon seeing the relief guard(s) ready to enter the room, (or when the relief stops in front of them, in case they come in from the rear) the guards at the casket will assume to position of **ATTENTION**. The relief guards will make their way stand in front of the guard they are to replace. Upon arrival, they will **HALT** and **Salute** the guard to be relieved. They will **FACE** the retiring guards and give a salute. The retiring guards shall return the salute and then take one step to the side to allow for the new guard to take his/her position. The new guards shall take one step forward and perform an **About Face** movement and shall then assume the position of **Parade Rest**. The retiring guards shall then perform a **FACE** movement towards the direction that they came from and **Forward March** down the aisle until they have exited the area.

END OF GUARD DUTY

Coordination for the end of the honor guard will be made with the funeral director. The honor guard will leave their positions before the beginning of the formal service – a suggestion is that the members on duty come to **ATTENTION** as the family takes their seats and perform a **FACE** movement towards the direction that they will exit and **Forward March** down the aisle until they have exited the area.

D. COMMANDS

While many members of the SAR have a military background, some do not. Accordingly, this section is intended to familiarize all Guardsmen with the standard commands. The commands given below are a mixture of both modern commands and those commands used during the Revolutionary War. Some units may prefer to use all modern commands while some will use a mixture and some will exclusively use those commands outlined in the Revolutionary War Drill Manual. A specific policy has not been adopted as of the writing of this manual.

A. Posting the Colors & Other Indoor Events

The most common activity of any Color Guard will be the posting of the Colors at a meeting or some other public event that occurs indoors. Given the wide variety of locations, meetings, and other details, there is no specific program that can be provided as an example. However, the basic commands that will be used in such an event are provided.

- *"Color Guard, Attention"*. With this command, the color guard should come to attention with flags and firearms on the floor to their right.
- *"Order, Arms"* With this command, the flags and firearms are lifted into position so that they can be carried.
- *"Mark Time, March"* With this command, the color guard marches in place starting with the left foot so that tempo for subsequent commands can be established.
- *"Forward, March"* With this command, the color guard moves forward starting on their left foot.
- *"Mark Time, March"* With this command, the front rank halts their forward progress and continues to march in place allowing for subsequent ranks to catch up to the final position if necessary.
- *"Color Guard, Halt"* With this command, all marching should cease within two beats or steps.
- *"Left / Right, Face"* With this command, all members face the appropriate direction as ordered by the Commander.
- *"Present, Colors"* With this command, all flags except the National are dipped and firearms are brought to the Present Arms position for pledges and the National Anthem.
- *"Post, Colors"* With this command, the color bearers place the flags in the flag stands and dress the flags appropriately. Color bearers are free to move forward and back one step as necessary. Musketeers continue to maintain the present arms position."
- *"Center, Face"* With this command, all members face the appropriate direction to move out of the room in a single column or in double column.
- *"Post (or To your post)"* With this command, all members move to a previously designated location, or post.

The same series of commands can be used for the Retiring of Colors at the end of the meeting except that there will be no Present Colors command and the Post the Colors command would be replaced by a Retrieve the Colors command.

B. Graveside / Outdoor / Other Outdoor Events

There are two common types of outdoor ceremonies in which the Color Guard most often participate:

- The commemoration or celebration of the anniversary of a Revolutionary War battle or event.
- A wreath-laying and/or marker dedication at the grave of a Revolutionary War patriot or of a compatriot member of the SAR.

The commands used at these ceremonies are the same as those outlined above.

The differences between the indoor posting of colors and the outdoor ceremony are that there are more program elements associated with the outdoor event, and the

Color Guard will often remain in place after the presentation of Colors due to the lack of outdoor flag stands. If stands are available then the Color Guard will move away. If the Color Guard remains in place, the Commander should issue the following commands after the presentation of Colors:

- "*Order, Arms*" With this command, all guardsmen return flags and muskets to the carry position.
- "*Parade, Rest*" With this command, flags and muskets are lowered to rest on the ground and the guardsmen are able to stand without being at attention.

If the program includes an honorary firing of muskets and/or the playing of Taps, the Commander should bring the Color Guard to attention and order the Color Guard to Present Arms using the appropriate commands. In most cases, the master of ceremonies will ask for the Retirement of Colors shortly after this event, so the Color Guard should remain at attention and be prepared for further commands.

C. Parades

Given that most parades will only entail simple movements, the commands associated with parades are:

- "*Color Guard, Attention*". With this command, the color guard should come to attention with flags and firearms on the floor to their right.
- "*Order, Arms*" With this command, the flags and firearms are lifted into position so that they can be carried.
- "*Mark Time, March*" With this command, the color guard marches in place starting with the left foot so that tempo for subsequent commands can be established.
- "*Forward, March*" With this command, the color guard moves forward starting on their left foot.
- "*Color Guard, Halt*" With this command, all marching should cease within two beats or steps.
- If there is a Reviewing Stand during the parade, the Commander should brief the Color Guard of the following additional commands that will be used:
- "*Present, Arms*" With this command, all flags are dipped except the National Colors and all guardsmen will turn their heads 45 degrees towards the review stand)
- "*Order, Arms*" With this command, all flags and firearms are returned to the carry position and heads face straight ahead.

VIII. Flag Protocol

Although this is not an exhaustive list it does include useful information for our purposes. For an exhaustive list see NSSAR Handbook Vol. II pg. 21

1. The Flag should be either on the Flag's own right when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, or in front of the center of the line if there is a line of other flags.

2. The Flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except from a staff.
3. No other flag or pennant should be placed above or to the right of the Flag of the United States of America, if it is on the same level, except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea, when the church pennant may be flown above the Flag during church services for naval personnel.
4. The Flag of the United States of America should be on the right when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs. The Flag's own right and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag. The Flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.
5. The Flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument, but it should never be used as a covering for a statue or monument.

IX. Appendix

A. Links

The following is offered as an aid to finding supplies/suppliers for Guardsmen's period attire and in no way implies explicit use of these suppliers only. Each Guardsman is free to search and buy wherever;

1. C & D Jarnagin Company- uniforms, etc.-www.jarnaginco.com
2. Military Heritage-supplier of muskets-www.militaryheritage.com
3. Hamilton Dry Goods-good supplier of period cloth, and some militia type clothing-www.hamiltondrygoods.com
4. G. Gedney Godwin-uniforms, etc.-www.gggodwin.com
5. James Townsend and Son- uniforms, etc.-www.jas-townsend.com
6. Smoke and Fire-great selection of patterns-www.smoke-fire.com
7. American Revolutionary Uniforms by Darlene Neuhaus-this is a supplier of the frequently seen "polyester" Officers [Uniforms-email-dmneuhaus@peoplepc.com](mailto:dmneuhaus@peoplepc.com). (see appendix for a 2010 price list).
8. Index to Uniforms of the Revolution- ww.srccalifornia.com/uniforms/uindex.htm

B. Neuhaus price list:

AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY UNIFORMS

By Bernice's Daughter

DARLENE NEUHAUS

5757 Monterrey Drive

Ft. Worth, TX 76112

(817) 496-4160 or Cell (817) 875-3577

e-Mail: dmneuhaus@peoplepc.com

Scout Certificates or the Americanism Poster Contest.

D. Medals Reporting Form and requirements

SAR Color Guardsmen who believe they qualify for the Silver Color Guard Medal must complete the appropriate form, setting forth their qualifications. This form is available from the State, District or National Color Guard Commander, and must be submitted to the District and/or National Color Guard Commander for authorization to award the Silver Color Guard Medal.

The Bronze Color Guard Medal

The Bronze Color Guard Medal is for service at the State and/or Chapter levels. Award of the Bronze Color Guard Medal is authorized by the State and/or Chapter awarding authority, and should be presented by the State or Chapter President as appropriate. For a Color Guardsman to render acceptable service in any given year at the State and/or Chapter level, he must participate in at least 50% of the scheduled Color Guard activities for his State and/or Chapter.

The Silver Color Guard Medal

The Silver Color Guard Medal is for service at the District and National levels. An SAR Color Guardsman must have the Bronze Color Guard Medal before he can be awarded the Silver Color Guard Medal. SAR Color Guardsmen who believe they qualify for the Silver Color Guard Medal must complete the appropriate form, setting forth their qualifications. This form is available from the State, District or National Color Guard Commander, and must be submitted to the District and/or National Color Guard Commander for authorization to award the Silver Color Guard Medal. The Silver Color Guard Medal should be presented, as appropriate, by the District Vice President General, by the State President, or by the District or State Color Guard Commander. Under special circumstances, the Silver Color Guard Medal may also be presented by the President General or the National Color Guard Commander. For a Color Guardsman to render acceptable service in any given year at the District and National levels, he must participate in at least three District and/or National events. The SAR National Congress and semi-annual Leadership Meetings are National events, and Color Guardsmen are strongly encouraged to participate in them. Other qualifying events which may be substituted for National Congresses and Leadership Meetings shall include:

- An historic commemoration recognized by the NSSAR Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee, e.g. Point Pleasant, the Cowpens, Yorktown, etc.
- An Annual District Meeting or Annual District Conference
- Any National or District event at which the President General is present
- Any event specifically determined by the National Color Guard Committee to be a qualifying event, including Washington's Birthday Parade in Laredo, Texas, and the George Washington Massing of the Colors in Glendale, California.
- Other events may be determined by the National Color Guard Committee to be qualifying events on a case-by-case basis.

