

# **Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution**



**COLOR GUARD HANDBOOK**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information about the Color Guard of the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Our Color Guard is an important component of our National and State Society overall mission. We have accepted responsibility to best represent our ancestors while wearing colonial attire. As a Color Guard member, we invite you to have fun presenting a historical representation of our ancestors and enjoy the fellowship of other Compatriots and Guardsmen.

It is highly recommended anyone interested in our society Color Guard subscribe to the Color Guard Mailing List located on the private site under Information. You will receive Color Guard updates as released by your Texas State Color Guard Commanders and be in the know.

In order to track your Color Guard participation for earning medals and to support your chapter with their annual Americanism Report it is best to maintain a Color Guard attendance log. List the date, event, location, and note if chapter, state or national event with the associated points - More on that below.

One of the sections that this revision deleted was the list of colonial commercial vendors providing clothing and equipment. There are many wonderful vendors to reach out to. We also have guardsmen who tailor their own garments. By including a commercial list in this handbook, we would have to constantly ensure the active link and business status on a routine basis to ensure you are not disappointed. We highly recommend that you talk with an active guardsman to get this time sensitive information or check other sources.

We also thought best not to attach forms to this document as they change on occasion. Always refer to the National Color Guard Handbook as well as the Texas SAR public and private website for the current Color Guard forms.

As all Texas Society Committees with handbooks, any modifications must be approved by the Texas State Society President. He will review the document with our State Chancellor for legal issues for the final approval prior to publishing to our Texas SAR website. The Color Guard Committee and our Texas Color Guardsmen at large have been very helpful with insight and suggestions for this revision. Thank you all

A lot of changes have been made in this revision with the hope it will offer consolidated guidance and more complete instruction for new and seasoned Guardsmen alike. We have attempted to design this as a "How To" resource to provide a road map for your enjoyable experience as a Texas Color Guardsman. Huzzah! (Blair Rudy, Texas SAR Color Guard Commander 2020-2022.)

### **Important Note:**

Guardsmen, please keep the following important information in mind for all events when representing your Chapter, State, or National Society. Failure to do so has

extraordinary consequences for our society existence, as well as potential IRS personal fines up to \$10,000.

In order to maintain our Society tax-exempt status, all Guardsmen are reminded of article XVII(A) – Section 5 of the Texas State Society bylaws:

**XVII(A) - COLOR GUARD AND COLOR GUARD COMMITTEE**

**SECTION 5. As the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization under the United States Internal Revenue Code, neither the Color Guard Committee nor the Color Guard shall take any action which demonstrates or implicates support of a particular partisan or political point of view.**

For additional information please refer to the Legal Advisory Committee Memorandum found in appendix A.

***TEXAS SAR COLOR GUARD MISSION STATEMENT***

The mission of our Texas Society Color Guard is:

1. To promote and participate in patriotic, historical, and educational events and activities in the State of Texas or other locations as requested, while wearing American Revolutionary War period attire.
2. To convey a commitment to excellence and honor when presenting the colors and the Flag of the United States of America in a respectful manner at all Texas State Society SAR meetings and in our communities as visual spokespersons for the Texas Society.

***HANDBOOK AND BY-LAWS***

The Color Guard Bylaws take precedence over this manual and the Texas SAR Bylaws take precedent overall.

## ***WHAT IS THE TEXAS SAR COLOR GUARD***

The Texas SAR Color Guard is made up of Texas Society compatriots who attend society and chapter meetings and events, uniformed as either Continental Soldiers, Militia or Clergy.

We promote the objectives of the Sons of the American Revolution: Historical, Patriotic and Educational. We strive to best represent our Patriot ancestors' uniformed participation in our struggle to be an independent nation.

Our attire and behavior is our modern attempt to pay honor and homage to our founding ancestors and do our best to relate our nation's past to our present. We are not re-enactors, no one will hold you to that standard. We invite all Texas Society members with color guard interest to seek us out and engage this wonderful and fun piece of our society's activities. Huzzah!

## **Organization:**

### ***THE TEXAS SAR COLOR GUARD COMMITTEE***

The Texas Society Color Guard Committee will meet at each Texas SAR Annual Meeting and Board of Managers meeting or as needed at the committee chair discretion via electronic means.

Per our Bylaws, the Color Guard Committee is composed of twenty (20) voting members, the State and Regional Commanders, and their adjuncts for a total of twenty-six (26) voting members. The committee members comprise ten (10) guardsmen from the North and ten (10) from the South. No more than two representatives per chapter on the committee, commanders excluded. The regional commanders submit their proposed list of voting members to the State Color Guard Commander for consideration. The State Color Guard Commander will submit the committee list to the Texas State Society President for final approval.

### ***COMMAND STRUCTURE OF THE TEXAS SAR COLOR GUARD***

The Texas Society Color Guard consists of a State Commander, Regional Commanders, North and the South each with appointed adjutants. The State President selects the Color Guard Committee Chairman, who may or may not be the elected State Color Guard Commander. The term of service as the Texas SAR Color Guard Commander shall be one (1) year, unless otherwise extended by a vote of the committee. The Color Guard Commander and regional Commanders are elected by the Color Guard Committee as per the Color Guard bylaws at the annual convention at the Spring state conference.

The State Color Guard adjutant will record the minutes of all Texas SAR Color Guard

Committee meetings. He is responsible to ensure all flags are present at the Opening of each BOM and State Conference, banquet and functions that may be required by the Color Guard Commander or Texas SAR State President.

Upon completion of the Color Guard Commander's term, he shall be succeeded, alternately, by the Northern or Southern Commander, subject to a committee vote. Each shall appoint an adjutant to support his position.

The elected ranks of Commanders are, State Commander: Brigadier General, Senior Regional Commander: Colonel, Junior Regional Commander: Lt. Colonel. The outgoing Color Guard Commander may accept the honorary rank of Major General from the Society President for as long as he remains a member of the Color Guard. Adjutants may be promoted up to the rank of Major at the discretion of his commanding officer.

All guardsmen start out with no rank. For Texas SAR Chapters, Color Guard rank is awarded by the Chapter President or state commanders up to the rank of Major. Ranks higher than Major are reserved for State Color Guard officers.

## **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 for typical events shall consist of four (4) men:

- Two (2) Color Bearers who carry the United States National Flag and the State of Texas or SAR Flag
- Two (2) Musketeers or Riflemen who escort the Color Bearers. As an option the commander of the unit can substitute a sword for a musket.

### **Equipment**

Flags, poles, indoor flag stands, and related items are available through varied sources. Since events are conducted both indoors and outdoors, the Color Guard should endeavor to use flags that can withstand the elements when used at outdoor events such as parades and grave markings.

The host society or chapter is responsible for providing the National and State flags and the related equipment.

## **UNIFORMS**

### **Continental or Militia Uniform**

Guardsmen may select either Continental or militia impression dress. Some have both. The militia dress is often less costly and a good way to begin in the color guard. We welcome all uniformed guardsmen into our ranks. We do not distinguish either impression for duty assignments.

## Continental Uniforms

Continental uniforms have the familiar tricorne hat, blue coat and knee breeches or fall-front trousers identified with the soldiers of the regular army during the Revolution. Early in the war there was no uniformity. In 1779 General Washington directed the army to wear blue coats, white waistcoats and facings of various colors based on state/region:

- White facings and linings: New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts.
- Buff facings and white linings: New York, New Jersey
- Red facings and white linings: Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia
- Blue facings with white linings: North/South Carolina and Georgia
- Blue coats with white facings: Light Dragoons

In 1782 Blue coats with red facings became the overall standard except for generals and staff officers.

The typical Continental uniform consists of the following:

- A tricorne hats
- A blue coat with state facing color and trim
- White shirt and waistcoat
- White or buff knee britches or fall-front trousers
- Buckle shoes
- A pair of white gloves

*Rank Insignia:* A variety of items were used to denote rank within the Revolutionary army. Prior to 1779 there were no standard guidelines. In 1779 General George Washington directed coats of blue, white waistcoats and facings of various colors as noted above. Most common for rank determination are sashes, hat cockades and epaulettes. As a matter of note, the private in the army did not wear sashes or epaulettes on his uniform coat. Epaulettes denoted rank through both color and placement on a specific shoulder. In general, NCOs are Corporals with a green epaulet of the right shoulder and Sergeants wear a red epaulet on the right shoulder. Officers wear gold or silver shoulder epaulets on left shoulder for Sub-Alterns and right shoulder for Captains. Major and above wear gold/silver epaulets on both shoulders.

*Gorget:* This ornamental metal device is worn suspended from the neck. This alludes back to its original purpose as the component of metal armor that protected the neck of the wearer from swords and other non-projectile weapons. By the time of the Revolution, this had become an ornamental accessory to a military uniform for general officers. For purposes of the SAR, the gorget is most often worn by either a Color Guard Commander or a past Commander.

## Militia Attire

The Militia attire is more civilian in dress. There were no rank insignia with civilian attire as there were with the continental uniform. There is no set uniform associated with the Militia. During the Revolution the Militia consisted of everyday men

who wore the clothes that they wore in normal everyday activity when called to service. As such, there is more leeway in the type of clothing that the Militia Color Guard wears.

The basic militia uniform consists of the following:

- A hat – tricorn, round, or fur
- A hunting shirt.
- A white or checkered shirt.
- Long britches or fall-front trousers.
- Shoes (not necessarily buckle since the long pants leg will cover the buckle area). Moccasins are also appropriate.

While these are the basics for each uniform, variations will exist. We highly encourage guardsmen to research their impression. Such as naval or marine dress.

Many guardsmen chose to obtain a less expensive uniform made from modern fabric, most often polyester or gabardine. These uniforms made from modern fabric are perfectly acceptable for all events **EXCEPT** for those where the guardsman will either fire a musket or a flag retirement ceremony with the burning of the flags.

For those guardsmen who wish to fire a musket, the uniform should be made from natural fiber material such as cotton, wool and linen. If a spark from a fired musket lands on uniforms made of these materials the fibers will smolder and can be easily extinguished before causing injury instead of melting quickly. Polyester burns and spreads very quickly and should not be used in these types of activities.

## Other Items

In addition to the continental or militia attire many guardsmen seek to add to their appearance by adding equipment and other accoutrements. What follows is a brief discussion of common items:

- *Headwear:* While many in the general public identify the tricorn hat as the exclusive headwear of the Revolutionary era this was not the case. Many different types of headwear were worn including helmets (predominately cavalry units), woven caps, and flat round hats. If wearing a specific unit's uniform, the correct headwear should be worn to best complete the impression. For purposes of the SAR Color Guard, a simple black tricorn will suffice.
- *Footwear:* During the Revolution, most shoes and boots were center lasted with the determination of right and left coming only after long wear when the leather molded to the foot. Obtaining period, buckled shoes can be expensive. As such, many guardsmen elect to purchase buckles that can slide over modern shoes and give the appearance of buckle shoes. Another option is to have the either gaiters made (secured with buttons and garters just above the calf) that cover the lower leg and tops of the shoes thus hiding the fact the shoes have no buckles or by having long pants made as part of the uniform that have facings that extend over the face of the shoe and are secured using either elastic or leather straps below



the shoe that also obscure the lack of a buckle of the shoe. An important consideration is both the comfort and safety of the guardsmen in walking or marching in a parade since period correct footwear can cause blisters or may not provide appropriate traction on modern surfaces.

- *Kilts*: While there were many Scotch and Scotch-Irish patriots who fought in the war, there is no known accounts of American Colonists wearing a kilt of any kind in battle during the war. While they were very proud of their heritage, they were prouder of their new country and recognized that the British had groups who wore kilts. So, in reality, the wearing of kilts for a typical event would be historically inaccurate.
- *Belts & Straps*: When in the Continental uniform, most belts and straps used for carrying other equipment should be made of white leather or heavy white canvas. Equipment that was supported by a belt or strap included a cartridge box, haversack, bayonets and canteens. For militia impression any color works wonderfully.
- *Cartridge Box / Powder Horn*: Continental soldiers used a cartridge box when in battle. The cartridge box should be made of black leather attached to a hanger. Powder horn should be attached by a leather thong.
- *Haversack*: The haversack carried the basic necessities of the soldier including rations, smaller mess kit items, wallet, etc. Today, it is an ideal place for the guardsman to carry his wallet, cell phone, glasses or other necessary items. It should be made of linen or similar material. It should be worn on the left of the uniform.
- *Canteens*: Period correct, authentic for the guardsman impression from metal, gourd, leather or wood.
- *Knapsacks*: These should be made of linen, canvas or similar material and worn using white leather or canvas straps. While part of the Continental uniform, these are not commonly worn by members of the SAR Color Guard.
- *Tomahawks / Knives*: These items are not parts of the Continental uniform, but may be part of the militia uniform. For safety reasons they are discouraged for society activities.
- *Sidearms / Pistols*: Sidearms shall not be carried for safety and overall impression.
- *Swords*: Are solely worn by the event commanders, State and Regional Commanders or if a chapter event by the chapter Color Guard Commander.
- *Spontoons*: Evolved from the much longer pike, the spontoon was used by sergeants or other noncommissioned officers as a both a symbol of rank as well as a signaling device to control the movements of a rank of men. It was also a means of defending the colors as well as a means of personal defense. It should be used here with great caution.
- *Musket / Rifle*: Carried by both Continental and Militia units. Examples are the Brown Bess or French Charlesville Musket. Non-firing muskets are acceptable. Bayonets are highly discouraged as they are an edged weapon. If carried, extreme safety precautions must be observed. Black powder is to be carried in prewrapped rolls or containers and not bulk loaded in the field.

## **Uniform Closets:**

Chapters are welcome to have Uniform Lending Closets. Uniform closets can assist new members to borrow uniform pieces while they are acquiring their own uniforms.

Chapters are encouraged to share with their Regional Commanders uniforms available for loan. A virtual clearing house is being proposed.

## **FLAGS CARRIED BY THE COLOR GUARD**

At a minimum, the Color Guard should carry the United States National Flag and the Texas State Flag or the SAR flag. Other period flags are acceptable.

Proper protocol provides that flags should be carried in a specific order. The SAR has adopted the following protocol with respect to established flag regulations for usage by a single Color Guard unit.

- United States National Flag
- Betsy Ross Flag
- Texas State Flag
- SAR Flag
- Other historical flags of the Revolution.

If the Color Guard participates in events (such as the George Washington Birthday Parade in Laredo) where the Color Guard will be made up of a combination of guardsmen from multiple states or units, the protocol is slightly different.

- United States National Flag
- Texas State Flag
- State Flags of other State Societies (carried in order of the date of the state's admission to the union)
- Betsy Ross Flag (if carried is next after the National Flag)
- SAR Flags
- Other historical flags of the Revolution

If the President General (PG) is in attendance, *and if the flag of his state is available*, it is carried prior to the state flag of the host state society. Note that if the PG is present, the Washington Command Flag, will be located near where he is seated.

## **COLOR GUARD COMMANDS**

The commands given below are a mixture of both modern commands and those commands used during the Revolutionary War.

### ***Posting/Retrieving the Colors & Other Indoor Events***

#### **Posting**

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. In all commands where direction is given, the command should be timed so that the execution of the command begins on the left foot.

### Posting

- *Color Guard, Attention.* With this command, the color guard should come to attention with flags and firearms on the floor to their right.
- *Carry Arms.* With this command, the flags and firearms are lifted into position so that they can be carried.
- *Color Guard, 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.
  
- *Color Guard, Forward March.* With this command, the color guard moves forward starting on their left foot.
- *Color Guard, 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.
- *Color Guard, 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.
- *Color Bearers, About Face.* With this command, all color bearers will turn to face toward the flag stands.
- *Post the 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. Following the posting the guardsman is to hat salute the flag. Musketeers continue to maintain the present arms position.
- *Present Arms.* With this command, color bearers will salute the posted Colors.
- *Order Arms.* With this command, all color guardsmen return to the attention position.
- *Color Guard, 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.
- *Color Guard, Post (or To Your Post).* With this command, all members move to a previously designated location or post

### Retrieving

- *Color Guard, Attention.* With this command, the color guard should come to

- attention with flags and firearms on the floor to their right.
- *Shoulder Arms*. With this command, the color guard muskets are brought to the left shoulder.
  - *Color Guard, 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.
  - *Color Guard, Forward March*. With this command, the color guard moves forward starting on their left foot.
  - *Color Guard, 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.
  - *Color Guard, Left / Right Face*. With this command, all members face the appropriate direction as ordered by the Commander.
  - *Retrieve Colors*. Guardsmen will recover flags from the stands and about face.
  - *Present Arms*. Non-US flags dip, muskets to present arms position.
  - *Shoulder Arms*. With this command, the color guard muskets are brought to the left shoulder.
  - *Color Guard, Post (or "to your post")*. With this command, all members move to a previously designated location, or post
  - *Color Guard, Forward March*. With this command, the color guard moves forward starting on their left foot.

Additional notes for indoor events:

- Musketeers will not fix bayonet
- The Commander must make all guardsmen aware of obstacles such as lighting fixtures
- The National Colors should always either lead a column or process on the right of any rank
- If ranks are used, a cross-over maneuver will be necessary after the Color Guard halts since the National Colors are always placed on the left (speaker's right)
- 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.

### **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

- The wreath-laying and/or marker dedication at the grave of a Revolutionary War patriot or a patriot 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 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
- *Color Guard, 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 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.

For safety concerns, polyester materials cannot be worn at all during musket firings or flag retirement ceremonies. The combustibility of polyester is well-known and only natural materials (wool, cotton, etc.) should be worn by color guardsmen for these types of events.

## **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
- *Color Guard, 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
- *Color Guard, Forward March.* With this command, the color guard moves forward starting on their left foot
- *Color Guard, 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

If there is a Reviewing Stand during the parade, the Commander should brief

the ColorGuard of the following additional commands that will be used:

- *Present Arms.* With this command, all flags are dipped except the National Colors and allguardsmen will turn their heads 45 degrees towards the review stand)
- *Carry Arms.* With this command, all flags are returned to the carry position and heads facestraight ahead

## **Change of Command**

*The following ceremony is to be observed at the Change of Command for the Texas SAR Color Guard. The incoming Commander may alter the ceremony at his discretion.*

Texas SAR State President: ***"Color Guard please come forward for the Color Guard Change of Command Ceremony."***

Outgoing Commander: **"Color Guard, Forward March!"**

Northern Commander and Southern Commander will follow the outgoing Commander one pace behind with the incoming commander to his right.

The Commander will proceed to the area in front of the podium and face the Incoming Commander. The Incoming Commander will proceed to a point abreast of the outgoing commander and perform a left facing movement. The other regional commander will proceed to the Outgoing Commander's left and perform an about face movement to face the audience.

Outgoing Commander is positioned stage right and Incoming Commander stage left in front of podium.

Texas SAR State President: ***"The change of command ceremony is a tradition that is rich with symbolism and heritage dating back to medieval times. Soldiers often carried staffs or standards into battle that identified them as a unit. Throughout history, the colors have served as a rallying point.***

***In more recent times, the colors represent not only heritage and history, but also unity and loyalty. The purpose of the Texas Society Color Guard, as the most visible arm of the Texas Society, is to symbolically protect, preserve, and present the colors in communities across our state and at State Society meetings. The 'Passing of the Sword of Command' represents the transfer of authority and responsibility for the Texas Society Color Guard from one Color Guard Commander to another. "***

The Outgoing Commander salutes the Incoming Commander passes the "sword of command" to the Incoming Commander stating, "I relinquish command". The Incoming Commander accepts the "sword of command" and salutes the Outgoing Commander stating, "I accept command"

Texas SAR State President: recognizes the Outgoing Commander as being promoted to Major General awarding him the certificate and stars.

The Incoming Commander pins stars on the Outgoing Commander's epaulettes (or alternatively hands him the stars) & steps back.

The Incoming Commander: "**Color Guard Retire!**"

The Incoming Commander leads out with the Regional Commander behind (the Outgoing Commander falls in behind them).

## **EVENTS**

### **Color Guard Conduct at Events**

#### ***Flag Presentation***

It shall be the duty of the officer of the day (event color guard commander) to ensure that all flags are properly dressed and presented in the proper order and that all color guard participants are aware of the process that has been coordinated with the event organizers – practice makes perfect! Huzzah!

#### ***Salutes***

At the 128<sup>th</sup> Congress meeting of the National Color Guard Committee, the recognized flag salute was determined to be the tipping of the hat with the right foot forward. This salute was the only recognized salute of the period of the American Revolution.

We recognize not everyone in the community will observe that as a traditional salute. Each Color Guard event commander may at his discretion choose to use a modern hand salute to render honors. Huzzah!

#### ***Pledges***

Guardsman do not speak or salute during the pledges.

#### ***Prayers***

During the prayer, the guardsman may close their eye or bow their head. Do not remove headgear during prayers, as you are under arms.

#### ***Wearing Medals***

Medals are worn at the discretion of the event Color Guard Commander. In general, we do not wear medals when the National President General is present or during a national color guard event. National guidance is not to wear medals on our uniforms. It is always best to check in advance with the event commander for guidance. Keep in mind that medals may

be lost during strenuous outdoor activity such as parades. Best to keep them safe on the brag wall or sport coat.

## **National and State Color Guard Events**

### **National Events**

National events are determined by the National Color Guard Committee. These are listed on the quarterly posted Color Guard E-Magazine "The Guardsman". Several events of note in Texas are;

- 1) The George Washington Birthday Celebration Parade in Laredo, Texas.
- 2) The Medal of Honor Parade in Gainesville, Texas
- 3) Any state meeting where the President General or his delegate takes an active role, and the uniformed color guardsman are present

### **Texas Events**

The Texas SAR Color Guard Committee presents the incoming state president with a list for his approval or modification. The list is posted on the Texas State web site.

## **Memorial and Grave Marking Services**

At the request of the family. Guardsmen may be asked to participate in memorial services. Refer to the SAR Prayer book on the national web site for additional guidance. Each situation is unique for the honoring of a patriot or compatriot time with us as they transfer into Chapter Eternal. Best guidance for us is to do all you can to honor them as the family requests and desires as is legally as possible.

## **COLOR GUARD MEDALS**

### ***NATIONAL COLOR GUARD MEDALS***

*Refer to National Color Guard Handbook for final guidance.*

The SAR Color Guard Medal series, authorized in 1998, may be awarded for SAR Color Guard activity at all levels of society service. Recipients may be awarded the Bronze, Silver or Gold Color Guard Medal only once. Award of each medal may be for retroactive service, so that any living compatriot may receive it, even if he cannot march anymore. These awards may be presented, onetime, to the family of a compatriot posthumously.

The Texas Society adopted the point system for National Color Guard Medals at the Board of Manager's meeting on July 30, 2011, in Houston.

**Points:** Points for all National Medals are as follows:

- Chapter events (5 points)



- State events (10 points)
- District/National events (20 points).

### **Mileage**

For Color Guardsmen whose State societies employ the point system, they may also earn points based on round trip mileage, whether such miles are traveled by driving or by flying.

- Up to 100 miles, no points
- From 101 to 200 miles, 5 points
- From 201 to 999 miles, 10 points
- From 1,000 miles and over, 20 points

### **Earning the National Bronze Color Guard Medal**

The Bronze National Color Guard Medal is for service at the State and Chapter levels. Award of the Bronze Color Guard Medal is authorized by the Texas Color Guard Commander and should be presented by the State or Chapter President as appropriate.

To earn an SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal, a Guardsman must accrue three hundred (300) points by participating in uniform at Chapter, State or National Color Guard events.

As there is no National Bronze form, you are to complete the National Silver Form on the National web site (crossing out the word Silver and adding Bronze). This form is available in the National Color Guard handbook on the national SAR website -> Committees -> Color Guard -> Handbook. Under record of service list "see attached." On a separate page, document the date, event name, and indicate whether they are chapter, state, district or national events. The points for each event must be noted. The total point should meet the three hundred (300) points needed.

Forward the completed form to the Texas State Color Guard Commander for approval. He will order the medals and certificate from national headquarters for presentation to the guardsman.

### **Earning the National 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.

Qualifications include the National Bronze Color Guard Medal, three (3) years of service and an additional two hundred (200) points of District and National Events.

This form is available in the National Color Guard handbook on the national SAR

website as noted above. The completed form to be submitted to the State Color Guard Commander for review. The State Color Guard Commander will submit for approval to the National Color Guard Commander for final authorization. On approval the Texas Color Guard Commander will order the medals and certificate from national for presentation to the guardsman.

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 strategies to earn both the National Bronze and Silver medals at a faster pace please refer to the document in Appendix B.

### **The Gold Color Guard, Von Steuben and Molly Pitcher Medals**

Refer to the National Color Guard Handbook for details.

## ***TEXAS SAR COLOR GUARD MEDALS***

The purpose of the Bernardo De Galvez Texas SAR Color Guard Medal (approved by NSSAR at the 2009 National Congress) is to promote Color Guard Activity within the Texas Society, to show recognition to the Texas Society Color Guard, to promote the service of our Patriot Bernardo De Galvez, to promote the history of New Spain and Texas in the American Revolution, and to offer recognition for Color Guardsmen who come to Texas to support a National Color Guard Event. Bernardo De Galvez Medals are awarded at three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Each medal may be earned once.

### **Application Process:**

The Bernardo De Galvez Medal form is located on the State Society Private Site. The completed form needs to be reviewed and signed by the Chapter President or Color Guard Commander then forwarded to the State Color Guard Commander for approval.

### **Earning the Bronze Bernardo De Galvez Medal:**

**Purpose:** To encourage participation in National and State Color Guard Event within the borders of the State of Texas

### **Requirements:**

Participation in three State or National Events within Texas, or participation one time in

the George Washington Parade, in Laredo, or the Medal of Honor Parade in Gainesville to qualify.

### **Earning the Silver Bernardo De Galvez Medal:**

#### **Purpose:**

To recognize distinguished service to the Texas Society and the Texas Society Color Guard.

#### **Requirements:**

Participation in three (3) State or National Events within Texas, for each of three (3) years, not necessarily continuous.

### **Earning the Gold Galvez Medal:**

#### **Purpose:**

To recognize distinguished and prolonged service to the Texas Society and the Texas Society Color Guard at District and National events.

#### **Requirements:**

This one is for long term National participation. It is also awarded to the Texas Society Color Guardsman of the Year.

Active membership in the Texas Society Color Guard for at least six (6) years. A reasonable degree of activity is required over the service period. A Color Guardsman must participate in State events and at least six (6) National events in each of three (3) years, which do not need to be continuous.

Complete and submit the Galvez form as above.

## **SELECTION OF THE TEXAS SAR COLOR GUARDSMAN OF THE YEAR**

#### **Purpose:**

To recognize annually one (1) exceptional Color Guard member of the Texas SAR Color Guard.

- The award may be given only once.
- The guardsman must be a current active Color Guard member.
- Must serve in at least 50% of chapter Color Guard events.
- The application must be signed by the chapter President.
- Chapters may submit one nomination per year.

Chapters should consider that Compatriot who best exemplifies both the spirit of the

Sons of the American Revolution and the use of Color Guards to display that spirit. The submission form is located on the private site

**Requirements:**

A nominee must have completed at least three years of service in the State of Texas Color Guard and have received the Bronze and Silver Galvez Medals. As this is for Color Guardsman of the year, only events between September 1, and August 31<sup>st</sup> of the nominating year, should be listed on the submission form. This is NOT a life September 2021 time achievement award. It is recommended that letters of support accompany the application whenever possible.

**Procedure:**

A Chapter President may nominate only one individual per year. The form can be found on the State Private Web Site. Completed nomination forms must be submitted to the Texas SAR Color Guard Commander no later than the August 31<sup>st</sup> preceding the State Meeting at which the Texas SAR Color Guardsman of the Year is to be awarded. Each year, there shall be no more than one Texas SAR Color Guardsman of the Year. Nominations shall be submitted, by the State Color Guard Commander, to the State Color Guard Committee for selection at the fall Board of Managers Meeting and awarded at the spring State Conference.

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

The following “common-sense” guidelines are for the health and safety of the Guardsmen participating in the various Color Guard outdoor events.

- The event Color Guard Commander (assisted by the Event Coordinator) is responsible for following these guidelines as much as possible. Each individual Guardsman is ultimately responsible for his own health and safety. Whenever possible the commander will position his Guardsmen in the shade and provide rest breaks as needed.
- The Commander, or his designee, shall be responsible for ensuring adequate water is available for his Guardsmen. All Guardsmen should bring their own water to meet personal needs anyway. This is Texas, we know it gets hot
- It is the responsibility of individual Guardsman to be aware of their own personal physical limitations and to excuse themselves from efforts that will exceed their capabilities. They should advise the Commander of this situation so appropriate arrangements can be made to best accommodate and protect the Guardsman.
- The Commander will inform Guardsmen of the expected physical activity required at any event including the length of the parade, time standing outdoors or and other expected exertions. The Commander is encouraged to have a watchful health eye on his Guardsmen at all times whether indoors or out.

**MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

***History of the Color Guard***

The Color Guard of the 21st century is primarily ceremonial in terms of purpose and

duty.

However, the origins of the Color Guard are based in military practicality. The following is a concise history of the origin of the Color Guard.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, flags were commonly referred to as “the Colors.” These colors were of primary importance to the military regiment or brigade as the line of battle was formed around the colors of the unit which were placed at the center of the line. These colors were easily seen through the smoke of battle. If the colors advanced, the line would advance. If the colors retired, the line would retire. As battles would progress and casualties mounted, the line would contract to the colors. In effect, the colors would serve as a rallying point if the line was broken, or the men became dispersed. Thus, success in battle was often dependent on the handling of the colors.

The importance of the colors was so significant that a ceremony was performed before battle called “The Trooping of the Colors.” The men of the regiment or brigade were assembled on the parade ground in camp and the colors were paraded before them. This way, each man would see and thus be certain of *his* colors before taking the field of battle.

Likewise, while there could be many diverse objectives in a battle, one of the most prestigious was capturing of the colors of the enemy unit. This would deprive the enemy of their primary means of control and rallying point during the battle. To prevent this, regiments and brigades would select the most valiant men to protect the colors and color bearer. These men comprised the “Color’s Guard,” a posting of great honor and source of pride. As in years past, this posting continues to be a position of honor.

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TEXAS SAR COLOR GUARD**

The following is taken from the *Texas Society History, Volume II, page 166*. "The origin of the Texas Society Color Guard has its seeds in the establishment of the Patrick Henry Chapter Color Guard in Austin, Texas by Compatriot Robert Carl Tumey in 1975. Shortly after joining the chapter on May 15th, 1975, he acquired a uniform for himself and two additional uniforms so that the chapter would have a three-man color guard for both July 4th and Veteran's Day parades."

Today, our Texas Society can proudly boast a vast number of guardsmen across the state. Each one committed to our uniformed participation in our society.

## **Texas SAR Color Guardsmen of the Year**

The Texas SAR Color Guardsman of the Year is elected by the eligible voters attending the fall meeting of the Texas SAR Color Guard Committee and awarded at the next Annual Conference.

- 2010 Peter Baron, San Antonio Chapter
- 2011 James Mitchell, Piney Woods Chapter
- 2012 Ray Cox, Piney Woods Chapter

- 2014 James Taylor, San Antonio Chapter
- 2015 William B. Watts, East Fork Trinity Chapter
- 2017 John Greer, East Fork Trinity Chapter
- 2018 Stuart G. Hoyt, William Hightower Chapter
- 2019 T.L. Holden, Edmund Terril Chapter
- 2020 Tom Whitelock, Dallas Chapter
- 2021 Frank G. Rohrbough, San Antonio Chapter

## **Texas SAR Color Guard Leaders**

### **Texas SAR Honor Guard Committee Chairman**

1988-1991	Joseph M. Clark
1991-1994	William E. (Buck) Tinsley, Patrick Henry Chapter
1994-1995	Clovis H. Brakebill, Dallas Chapter
1995-1996	David Crymes
1996-1998	Richard L. (Dick) Robinett, William Hightower Chapter
1998-2000	Richard F Arnold and Patrick J. Haughton (Co-chairmen)
2000-2002	Richard L. (Dick) Robinett, William Hightower Chapter

### **Texas SAR Color Guard Commanders**

2002-2004	John W. Knox, Patrick Henry Chapter
2004-2006	Michael Green
2006-2008	James J. Johnson, Denton Chapter
2008-2010	Michael J. Radcliff, Plano Chapter
2010-2011	Donald Stone, Freedom Chapter
2011-2012	Marvin B. Morgan, Patrick Henry Chapter
2012-2013	Peter Rowley, Plano Chapter
2013-2013	Robert Northcraft, Dallas Chapter
2013-2014	Frank Rohrbough, San Antonio Chapter
2014-2015	John K. Thompson, Freedom Chapter
2015-2016	Drake M. Peddie, Plano Chapter
2016-2017	Ronald J. Walcik, Heart of Texas Chapter
2017-2018	William B. Watts, Dallas Chapter
2018-2019	Stuart G. Hoyt, William Hightower Chapter
2019-2020	Ted Wilson, Edmond Terrell Chapter
2020-2022	Blair Rudy, William Hightower Chapter

## **REVISION HISTORY**

The Texas SAR Color Guard handbook may be updated or changed by a written submission to a sub-committee appointed by the Color Guard Commander and recommendation of that sub-committee at the Color Guard Committee meeting held at the Annual meeting each year.

As the Texas SAR Color Guard Handbook is updated, a brief notation may be made below so as to track revisions made to the Handbook.

*March 23, 2012*

Approval of baseline version of Texas SAR Color Guard Handbook.

*October 13, 2018*

Updated the process to succeed the Commander, Clarified Rank in the TX SAR Color Guard, Clarified when the Color Guard unit should be referred to as the TX Society, Sons of the American Revolution when making publicity statements for an event, Defined the hand salute and wearing of medal and nametags at an event, Defined the counting of events for medal requirements, Clarified the TX Society Medal precedence, Updated the list of National Events, Redefined the Change of Command Ceremony, Updated the Color Guardsman of the Year and the Color Guard leaders, and Added a Uniform and Supply list.

*April 5, 2019*

Added the process to allow email voting for the Color Guard Committee, modified those eligible to vote for Color Guardsman of the Year, adjusted the date on the Color Guardsman of the Year application, defined the procedure to modify this handbook and added vendors to the Sources for Clothing and Supplies.

*October 2021*

The manual was edited, rewritten, and re-organized to facilitate understanding of the guidelines and responsibilities of the Texas Color Guard.

*March 2022*

Appendix A and B added to document.

## Appendix A:

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### LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**FROM:** EDMON H. MCKINLEY, CHAIRMAN, GENERAL ADVICE GROUP

**SUBJECT:** 501(C)(3) ISSUE

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 15, 2021

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The NSSAR is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. As such, the NSSAR, state societies, and chapters are governed by the rules that apply to those organizations.

Two areas that need to be of particular concern to the NSSAR at all levels relates to the 501(c)(3) charitable organizations absolute prohibition “from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in any political campaign on behalf (or opposition to) any candidate for elected political office.” You are encouraged to review the very fine instructive comments relating to this entire issue in the Handbook, Volume III of the Official Handbook, Requirements for Maintaining Tax Exemption; Additional Restrictions on 501(c)(3) Organizations – Paragraphs 3-4-5.

Participation of Color Guard Units and political comments or speakers at meetings are areas where extra caution should be exercised. For illustration purposes only, the following scenarios are presented:

1. A Color Guard Unit should not participate in an event or activity that clearly or indirectly that is political in nature or sponsored by an identifiable political party or group. This includes groups that are known to have partisan political positions or are supported by individuals who take strong political positions. Note that this includes organizations or activities that may promote or express liberal or conservative values not just Republican or Democrat agendas.
2. An individual SAR member who participates in such a partisan political event should clearly do so as a private individual and ensure that their actions or statements are not attributed to the SAR. No SAR flag should be used and the members should not wear any SAR medals and the program or other publicity should not identify them as SAR members. Also, this applies to units of individuals.
3. At any meeting, extra care should be taken to ensure that speakers do not give political campaign speeches supporting themselves or another political candidate. This prohibition includes a political candidate or elected officials seeking reelection.
4. No political candidate or elected official should be endorsed by a SAR entity or member who does so as a SAR member.



It is understood that each activity or event must be considered on its own merits and circumstances to determine if it demonstrates support of a partisan political issues or point of view or political candidate.

It is strongly recommended if an SAR society, chapter or unit has a concern that they are being asked to participate in, support, or provide a venue that may violate or appear to violate political restrictions on a 501(c)(3), they seek advice from a person knowledgeable in this area. As a practical matter, it is also recommended that they become fully familiar with the organization or individual sponsoring an event or speaker at a meeting.

## **Appendix B:**

Texas Guardsmen,

This is an update on how to earn the National Bronze Color Guard Medal and set yourself up for the National Silver potentially within the three years required for both medals. You can simultaneously accrue points for both. Nothing has changed. This my attempt to further clarify the situation and answer questions you may have. My staff and I will re-craft this work some and replace the How to Earn Medals now on the state site. We will also modify the Texas Handbook to reflect this approach.

### **Background:**

As always, first read the National Color Guard Handbook for a review and understanding prior to submission of your medal request to the State Color Guard Commander. If in doubt review with your Regional Commander. The Handbook may be found on the national site: Members -> Committees -> Color Guard.

I have run this note by our National Commander Lou Raborg (February 17, 2022). He concurs with this approach for Texas guardsmen to acquire these hard to earn recognitions. He informs me the National Color Guard Handbook was recently updated but for some reason has not been posted on the national website. He is aware and will follow up.

### **Process:**

Guardsmen send applications for both medals directly to the State Commander. He will review the Silver and forward on to the National Commander for final approval. The Texas Commander approves the Bronze because it is focused on chapter and state events the National Commander would not have visibility to. Paperwork for the Bronze remains in Texas. Our Texas Society will acquire the medals from the national store for presentation to the guardsman.

There is no form for the National Bronze. I have directed Texas guardsmen to use the National Silver form located in the National Handbook. Cross out the word Silver and overwrite the word "Bronze". Then write "See attached

list” in the event section and include a separate list. No need to send me your entire log, just the events you wish counted up.

### **Record Keeping:**

I suggest you maintain two attendance logs, one for Silver and one for Bronze. You can earn points simultaneously towards both medals.

We in Texas use the point method. Enter milage points next to your event entry. Keep at least five (5) columns: date/event and location/event points/milage points/total point for the event and a total points at the bottom.

Travel Points:

- a. Up to 100 miles, 0 points,
- b. From 101 to 200 miles, 5 points,
- c. From 201 to 999 miles, 10 points,
- d. From 1,000 miles and over, 20 points.

An event is counted once even if it takes place over several days with multiple color guard activities. Presenting the Colors on Saturday and retiring them on Sunday at the State Conference or National Congress is one (1) event.

Each national medal has a different focus to recognize your participation.

### **National Silver:**

This medal is to recognize your district and national participation over the course of three (3) years and two hundred (200) points.

Only enter the twenty (20) point district and national events: Veterans Day Independence Day, District meetings...

A list of National Events may be located in the most recent edition of the National E-Magazine SAR Colorguardsman. National site: Members -> Committees -> Color Guard.

In general you need ten (10) events over this period. You may include mileage points so your application may not need ten (10) entries. Ten (10) events at twenty (20) points each = two hundred (200) points.

**Your application must cover three years from first to last entry. This is key!** Failure to do this is the main reason for rejection from the national commander.

### **National Bronze:**

This medal is to recognize your chapter and state participation. This also needs three (3) years of service and three hundred (300) points.

Enter chapter events at five (5) points. This includes a chapter meeting as long as you do a color guard activity such present the colors or a musket salute. Attending in uniform is not a color guard function so no points. I often wear my uniform to chapter meets but may not actively present the colors, so no points for me at that time.

Enter state events at ten (10) points. State events are listed on the state website. See below. This is where keeping up with miles can add up. You need three hundred (300) event & mileage points for the Bronze.

**Your application must cover three years from first to last entry. This is key!**

### **The State List:**

The new State Commander submits the list for approval to the new State President. Once approved our webmaster posts it on our public website for your reference. [txssar.org](http://txssar.org) -> About... -> Color Guard. During the course of his term our President may modify the list. The web posted list is the final determination of state color guard events.

Having a State President attend an event or meeting does not automatically log it as a State Color Guard event even though you may participate in a color guard activity for the chapter.

At the end of the Texas Society Presidents term I suggest you archive the list. You now have documentation of state events during that year.

Memories may slip and color guard staff will change over time. Lock it down.

### **Conclusion:**

You may currently use national event points towards the Bronze. However it removes your ability to count them towards the Silver. No double dipping. We should consider ourselves grateful to have the option of using national events for the Bronze but it defeats the medals intent of recognizing chapter and state focus. The Bronze must be earned prior to the Silver.

Theoretically you could earn two hundred (200) Silver points before the three hundred (300) Bronze and three (3) years but can not apply for it until you satisfy the Bronze requirements that also require three (3) years. The three (3) years can overlap. Again, refer to the National Handbook for additional details.

Maintaining two lists ensures you do not double dip and makes best use of your national attendance at the same time. This is not a race and these are not intended to be easy to earn.

Stay active with chapter, state and national color guard events and you will be recognized.

Huzzah!  
Blair Rudy  
Texas SAR Color Guard Commander 2020-2022