

## SAR Structure

The chapter is the basic unit of the organization. Each chapter determines its procedures and selects the programs it implements. Chapters can vary greatly depending upon their location, number of members, and selected program priorities.

Each society (made up of numerous chapters) is equal to and independent of other societies, though all still fall under national SAR guidelines. Societies hold annual meetings to set goals and benchmark their achievements, as does the National Society.



**SAR Genealogical Research Library**

The SAR Library collection contains over 55,000 items including family histories; local, county, and state records; and online genealogical databases. The Mary & James S. Craik Special Collections Room features museum-quality pieces relating to the early history of the United States and the American Revolution.

## SAR Membership Requirements

Hundreds of thousands of men are eligible for membership, and members are available to assist you with your application process. Joining the SAR will afford you the opportunity to serve your community, to whatever degree your time allows, all while becoming acquainted with others with whom you share many common interests.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the SAR, or for further information, please contact a member of your local SAR chapter. Society contact information and further details can be found online at <http://www.sar.org>.



## The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

809 West Main Street  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202-2619  
<http://www.sar.org>  
(502) 589-1776

# SAR



## To Help Preserve A Precious Heritage

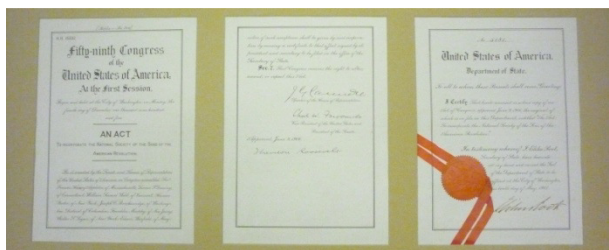
The Objects of this Society are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational; to unite and promote fellowship among the descendants of those who sacrificed to achieve the independence of the American people, to inspire them and the community-at-large with a more profound reverence for the principles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

## SAR History

A patriotic fervor developed throughout the United States after the Civil War and with the approach of the Centennial of the Declaration of Independence. Many citizens realized that their personal connection with the patriots of the Revolution was being lost, and that many of the patriots' sons and daughters were also passing unacknowledged.

A number of groups and societies were formed across the country in the 1880s, two of these being the Society of the Sons of the Revolutionary Sires in San Francisco and the New Jersey Sons of the Revolution.

These combined to form the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in 1889, which also marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Washington's taking the oath of office of the President of the United States.



The organization's Charter was established by an Act of Congress and signed on June 9, 1906, by President Theodore Roosevelt, who was also a member of the Empire State Society, SAR.

The SAR, 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 33,500 members. Prominent SAR members include sixteen U.S. Presidents, Winston Churchill, and Juan Carlos I of Spain.

## SAR Goals

### Patriotic Goals:

- inspire the community with the principles upon which our nation was founded
- maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom
- carry out the promises expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution
- provide recognition for public service
- honor, respect, and support veterans, especially those in the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital facilities

### Historical Goals:

- commemorate and provide memorials for the people and events of the American Revolution
- preserve records relating to the events leading up to and during the American Revolution
- support genealogical research and presentations, through books, articles, and talks, related to the history and people of the period from 1750 to 1800

### Educational Goals:

- sponsor essay and oration contests for students, based on historical and patriotic themes
- distribute history curriculum and educational media resources across the country
- inform the community about the events and philosophical bases of the American Revolution and the Constitution



## SAR Programs

You may see our SAR members in many aspects of outreach and community support programs, including:

**Americanism** - to promote principles of freedom and liberty for all Americans

**Color Guard** - to encourage patriotic respect for the Flag of the United States and promote Flag Day programs

**Veterans** - to encourage recognition of support to veterans in VA hospitals

**Law Enforcement** - to promote the recognition of those who have distinguished themselves in the preservation of law and order



**Historic Sites and Celebrations** - to preserve, mark, and interpret historic sites and buildings and promote their recognition

**Revolutionary War Graves** - to register final resting places of patriotic ancestors and publish the results

**Lineage Research Workshops** - to promote family research and courses on genealogical procedures

**Youth Programs** - to sponsor Eagle Scout Awards; oration, poster, and essay contests; JROTC and ROTC recognition awards; and many others

**Education** - to foster a better understanding of U.S. history in schools