

STATE SOCIETY MEDALS



Patriot Medal

Precedence: 28

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 40](#)

Summary: The Patriot Medal is the highest award presented to a Compatriot by a State Society and recognizes long, faithful, outstanding, and distinguished service at the state and/or chapter level. The Patriot Medal is awarded only by a State Society and may be presented only to an individual. Service at the national level is not considered in making the award. It is desirable that it be presented at the annual meeting of the State Society. A representative cannot accept the Patriot Medal. All requirements should be thoroughly reviewed before requesting this medal.

Description: The medal has a silver finish and bears the portrait of Compatriot General of the Army Douglas MacArthur on the obverse within the inscription, "The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution." The reverse is inscribed "Awarded to for Patriotic Service by the Society SAR, 20__." The medal is suspended from a chest ribbon of royal blue color. Compatriot MacArthur selected the design for the medal just prior to his death. He received the first medal, presented posthumously at his tomb in Norfolk, Virginia, on October 19, 1964, where it is on permanent display. The Patriot Medal is available in full and miniature sizes. The medal is also available from SAR Merchandise in Sterling Silver as a Special-Order item.

Limitations on Presentation: The Patriot Medal may be awarded annually by any state society. State societies with fewer than 500 members may present no more than one medal each calendar year. State societies with 500 to 1000 members may present two medals each calendar year. State societies with over 1000 members may present one medal for each 500 members. The cutoff date for determining the number of medals that a society may award in the following year is 31 December of the prior calendar year.

Subsequent Presentation NOT Authorized: A Compatriot may receive this medal only once. Oak leaf clusters or other ribbon attachments are not authorized.



State Medal of Distinguished Service

Precedence: 29

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 40](#)

Summary: The State Medal of Distinguished service may be awarded to SAR members who have rendered particularly distinguished service to the incumbent State Society President during his term of service. The distinguished service rendered should be stated in the citation.

Description: The State Medal of Distinguished Service ("SMDS") is diamond shaped with a blue SAR insignia surmounted on a white enamel background and trimmed in silver hanging from a drape of solid maroon ribbon. A miniature medal is available.

Authorized Presentation: The incumbent State President may present one medal during his term (or each year of his term if elected to a multiyear term) at the Society's Annual Meeting to a Compatriot in recognition for that Compatriot's conspicuous service to the State Society during his administration. The SMDS is awarded by a State Society President at his discretion; no other approval is required.

Subsequent Presentation NOT Authorized: A Compatriot may receive this medal only once. Oak leaf clusters or other ribbon attachments are not authorized.



State Meritorious Service Medal

Precedence: 30

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 41](#)

Summary: The State Meritorious Service Medal may be awarded to SAR members who have rendered long, faithful and meritorious service to their state society. The meritorious service rendered should be stated in the citation.

Description: The medal has a silver finish and bears on the obverse a relief of Thomas Jefferson. The ribbon drape is of the same style used for the membership insignia drape. The ribbon drape includes a silver bar inscribed with "MERITORIOUS SERVICE." The reverse includes a space to insert the recipient's name and the date of presentation, surrounded by laurel leaves. It is available in miniature and comes with a certificate, which should be engrossed and presented with the medal.

Subsequent Presentation NOT Authorized: A Compatriot may receive this medal only once from a state society.



State Roger Sherman Commendation Medal

Precedence: 31

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 41](#)

Summary: The State Roger Sherman Commendation Medal may be awarded to a compatriot in recognition of, and in appreciation of, outstanding services rendered to a State Society. The medal is presented to a compatriot for significant service which lacks the requirements for the Meritorious Service Medal. It should be awarded in place of the Bronze and Silver Good Citizenship Medals, which cannot be awarded for service to the SAR. The recipient must have served as an active officer for a minimum of two years, as an active committee chairman for three years, or as an active member of a committee for four years.

This Medal is named after Roger Sherman (1721-1793), who was a founding father, and the only person to sign all four Congressional papers of the United States: the Continental Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution.

Description: The medal is antique silver in color and bears on the obverse a portrait of Roger Sherman, with the inscription "Roger Sherman Medal." The reverse of the medal is inscribed "In Appreciation for Service to the SAR." It is suspended from a chest ribbon of blue, white and red.

Subsequent Presentation Authorized: A Compatriot may receive this medal multiple times. A bronze oak leaf cluster may be awarded for an additional two years of active service as an officer, chairman or committeeman. The service is counted cumulatively rather than consecutively, and may not be added concurrently for multiple offices, committee chairmanships, or committee memberships. Presentation and wear of oak leaf clusters shall follow NSSAR policy.



State Henry Knox Achievement Medal

Precedence: 32

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 42](#)

Summary: The State Henry Knox Achievement Medal may be awarded by a State Society to a Compatriot or non-SAR member to recognize a specific outstanding contribution, achievement, accomplishment, deed, performance, or effort that advances the mission, governance, programs, or activities of that State Society. This award is not limited by a specific time of service requirement and may be presented to recognize a singular act or multiple acts.

This medal is named for Henry Knox (1750-1806). In May 1775, Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys captured Fort Ticonderoga. General Washington called on Henry Knox for a seemingly impossible mission: to move the captured heavy artillery from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston, some 300 miles away. Knox selected 58 pieces of artillery. While primarily selecting 12-pounder and 18-pounder cannons, Knox also included the 5,000 pound 24-pounder cannon called "Old Sow." Weighing over 60 tons, Knox moved this train of artillery, ordinance, and powder over ice-covered Lake George and crossed the Hudson River four times. In forty days, Knox and his men completed this singular achievement and positioned the cannons on Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston city and harbor. British General William Howe commented, "these fellows have done more work in one night than I could make my army do in three months."

Description: The medal is silver in color and features on the obverse a portrait of Henry Knox. It bears the inscription "Henry Knox Achievement Medal" on the top perimeter and "Sons of the American Revolution®" on the bottom perimeter. The reverse features a cannon and the phrase, "For Exceptional Achievement." It is suspended from a chest ribbon of Kelly green. It is available in miniature and comes with a certificate, which should be engrossed and presented with the medal.

Subsequent Presentation Authorized: A Compatriot or non-SAR member may be recommended for and receive this medal multiple times. A bronze oak leaf cluster may be awarded for an additional, qualifying achievement. Multiple oak leaf cluster recognition shall follow NSSAR policy.



Silver Good Citizenship Medal

Precedence: 33

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 43](#)

Summary: The Silver Good Citizenship Medal recognizes outstanding and unusual patriotic achievement and service that is of a more local degree (state or regional level) than required for the Gold Good Citizenship Medal. The medal is presented to persons of prominence in the areas of government (including military service), religion, education, business and other professions, and other fields of endeavor. Since it recognizes extensive service, a biographical sketch of the candidate should accompany the request for a medal. There is no requirement that persons must be awarded a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal before they may be awarded a Silver Good Citizenship Medal.

Description: The award consists of a circular medal, silver in color, suspended from a ribbon of the society's colors. The obverse of the medal depicts a minuteman standing in front of a plow with an image of the Liberty Bell and the date "1776" surrounded by the words "THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION®" and "GOOD CITIZENSHIP MEDAL." The reverse is inscribed with the phrase "OUR INSPIRATION IS FROM THE PAST, OUR DUTY IS IN THE PRESENT, OUR HOPE IS IN THE FUTURE. AWARDED TO" and includes a space for engraving, all surrounded by laurel leaves. A certificate suitable for engraving is available. A miniature medal is also available.

Non-member Service Requirements: In the case of a non-member, the National Society or a state society determines the qualifications. Awards of this medal to a national officer of organizations must be approved by the President General before a district, state or chapter makes the award.

Compatriot Service Requirements: In the case of a Compatriot, to have uniform criteria, the requirement has been established that the member shall have served in six leadership capacities in any of the following local organizations: Church, School, Scouting, Fraternal, Business Associations, Government, Patriotic, Military, Veterans, Conservation, Hereditary, Genealogical, Historical or organized Sports (Little League, etc.).

SAR Service Restriction: The Silver Good Citizenship Medal is not used to recognize service to the SAR. SAR service is only recognized by the service medals identified in this handbook and any nationally approved District or State Society service medal.

Subsequent Presentation NOT Authorized: An individual (including Compatriots) may receive this medal only once. Oak leaf clusters or other ribbon attachments are not authorized.



State Outstanding Young Member Medal

Precedence: 34

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 44](#)

Summary: The Silver Outstanding Young Member Medal is awarded to a member of the State Society who is 40 years old or younger. The recipient shall have exhibited continued, exemplary service to the Society at the State level, especially focused on leadership and service to youth and younger members.

The medal is named for Sgt. Joseph Plumb Martin, who enlisted at the young age of 16, and served for the duration of the war, fighting in many notable campaigns, being mustered out in 1783. This young man, dedicated to seeing the war through to the end, is a Patriot that all our younger members should emulate.

Description: The State Outstanding Young Member Medal (OYMM) is silver in color and bears on the obverse a depiction of Sgt. Joseph Plumb Martin in front of a circle of 13 five pointed stars. The reverse is inscribed "For the Duration—Outstanding Young Member" and a space to engrave the recipient's name and date of presentation. The medal is suspended from a ribbon drape of navy blue, buff, old glory blue, white, and old glory red. It is available in miniature and comes with a certificate, which should be engrossed and presented with the medal.

Approval Requirements: The State President shall approve the award of the medal. Nominations for the award shall be made by the State Society. All nominations should be submitted on the standard Outstanding Young Members Medal application form. The recommending authority should carefully read the form and follow the instructions relative to the type of supporting documentation needed.

Subsequent Presentation NOT Authorized: A Compatriot may receive this medal only once. Oak leaf clusters or other ribbon attachments are not authorized.



Service to Veterans Medal

Precedence: 35

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 44](#)

Summary: The Service to Veterans Medal may be awarded to SAR members who have given long and exemplary service to veterans.

Description: The medal is bronze, with a design on the obverse side of the medal showing one hand reaching down, offering assistance to the second hand. Across the top are the words "Service to Veterans," and across the bottom are the words "National Society Sons of the American Revolution." The reverse of the medal is inscribed "Awarded for Voluntary Service" with the awardee's name and date. The medal is suspended from a blue, white, and red (from left to right) vertically draped ribbon. A certificate will accompany each medal and cluster.

Requirements: The medal is awarded for 5000 USS Stark Award points accrued by the SAR member. The medal will be awarded at the Chapter (or State) level following the Chapter Veteran Committee Chairman's (or State Veteran Committee Chairman, as necessary) approval of the member's documentation. Documented points will be accumulated and held locally at the Chapter (or State in unusual cases) for the member seeking to qualify for this award. The cost of this award will be paid by the awarding entity.

Subsequent Presentation Authorized: A Compatriot may receive this medal multiple times. A Bronze oak leaf cluster will be awarded for each multiple of 3,000 points earned after the first award. Presentation and wear of oak leaf clusters shall follow NSSAR policy.



Bronze NSSAR Color Guard Medal

Precedence: 36

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 45](#)

Summary: The Bronze Color Guard Medal is for service at the State and/or Chapter levels. Each medal is awarded for at least three years of service at the applicable level. The three years may be broken, not continuous. The award of each medal may be for retroactive service, so that any living compatriot may receive it, even if he cannot march anymore

Special Restriction for Youth Color Guard Medal: Double-counting events/points is not permitted. Any events used to qualify for the Youth Color Guard Medal may not be used simultaneously to qualify for this medal. Additional qualifying events over and above those used to qualify for the Youth Color Guard must be used to earn the Bronze Medal.

Qualifications: Each State Society shall determine for itself whether to employ one of the following systems for earning the Bronze and Silver Color Guard Medals. The first system is based on points; the second system is based on the number of events in which a Guardsman participates.

A. Point System

1. To earn an SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal, a Color Guardsman must accrue at least three hundred (300) points by participating in uniform at qualifying Chapter and/or State Color Guard events.
2. A Color Guardsman shall earn five (5) points for his participation in uniform in each Chapter event. A Chapter event shall be defined as an event in which a Chapter participates, but to which an invitation has not been extended to the State Color Guard. Examples include, but are not limited to: participation at schools, civic clubs, churches and other public organizations, Chapter meetings, flag retirement ceremonies, local veterans events, local Revolutionary War event celebrations, proclamation ceremonies by local governments, and similar local events. The Chapter President should approve a Chapter event before the event may be counted.
3. A Color Guardsman shall earn ten (10) points for his participation in uniform in each State event. A State event is an event in which the State Color Guard has been requested to participate. Examples include but are not limited to: Revolutionary battle and historic sites celebrations, grave markings, parades, State Society meetings. The State President should approve a State event before the event may be counted.
4. A Color Guardsman must keep track of the events in which he has participated and must prove that he has accrued 300 points to the State President or State Color Guard Commander, or to such other appropriate State authority.
5. For Color Guardsmen whose State societies employ the point system, they may also earn points based on mileage, whether such miles are traveled by driving or by flying. (Please see the NSSAR Color Guard Manual for updated numbers).

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

B. Events System

1. To earn an SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal, a Color Guardsman must participate in at least 50% of the scheduled Color Guard activities for his State and/or Chapter in each of three years, which do not need to be continuous. A year shall be any period of twelve consecutive months.

Subsequent Presentation NOT Authorized: A Compatriot may receive this medal only once. Oak leaf clusters or other ribbon attachments are not authorized.

Youth Education Medal

Precedence: 37

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 46](#)

Summary: The NSSAR Youth Education Medal recognizes sustained education of our youth by members of the Sons of the American Revolution. The Compatriot, doing the presentation, should develop and submit Presenter Data Sheets to the National Education Committee.

Description: The award consists of a medal, bronze in color, suspended from a ribbon of equal parts blue, red, and blue. The obverse of the medal includes a scholastic lamp on a pile of books in the center of a red enameled circle bearing the words "NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION®" and "YOUTH EDUCATION." The reverse has a blank space flanked by laurel leaves for inscription. The medal is available in full size and miniature. A certificate is available for presentation.

Criteria:

1. The Youth Education Medal will be awarded to a Compatriot after fifteen (15) educational presentations have been made.
2. The Compatriot must have completed and currently hold a NSSAR Youth Protection Training certificate.
3. For purposes of this award, a presentation will count if it satisfies the following criteria:
 - a. The presentations must be given to preschool or school age children.
 - b. The presentations may be given in both public and private schools. The presentations may be given in or out of the classroom.
 - c. Presentations made in different classes during the same day, in the same school, may be counted as separate presentations if specific data such as teacher or separate class periods is provided.
 - d. Presentations given as part of a 'school day' for living history events are acceptable.
 - e. Presentations may also be given to youth groups or organizations such as, but not limited to, the following: Children of the American Revolution, American Heritage Girls, Trail Life, Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H, home school co-ops, church youth groups, etc.
 - f. The presentations must be recorded in the Chapter and Societies' Americanism Report to be used towards the tracking and award of the PG's Education Outreach Streamer.

Authorized Look-back Period: Presentations made after 1 January 2021 may be used to satisfy the above criteria.

Subsequent Presentation Authorized: A Compatriot may receive this medal multiple times. Oakleaf clusters will be awarded for each additional fifteen (15) presentations given. Presentation and wear of oak leaf clusters shall follow NSSAR policy. The presentation(s) must be approved by the State Society Education Program Chairman or equivalent state society committee.

Special Award for Lifetime Achievement: A State Society may present the NSSAR Youth Education Medal with "Lifetime Achievement" Bar upon satisfaction of the following additional criteria:

1. State Societies may present only two (2) Lifetime Achievement awards each year.
 - a. If presented to a Compatriot: The Compatriot must have distinguished himself in bringing the history of the American Revolution and the accomplishments of our patriot ancestors to young people by being involved in education or by presenting Education Outreach Programs to our youth for a period of more than 10 years.
 - b. If presented to a Non-SAR Member: A State Society may nominate a non-member for the NSSAR Youth Education Medal with Lifetime Achievement Bar. Nominations should be directed to the NSSAR Education Committee via email request; the Education Committee will vote on a case-by-

case basis whether to approve the awards for non-SAR persons based on the merits of the nomination and maintain a file of the recipients.

2. Nominations must detail the State Society's rationale for the presentation, including:
 - a. the proposed recipient's name and organization.
 - b. a description detailing what the proposed recipient did to qualify for the award; and
 - c. an explanation as to why the proposed recipient deserves our recognition.
3. These non-SAR member awards will count against the State Society's annual allotment of 2 presentations of the Medal for Lifetime Achievement.
4. State Societies are responsible for purchasing and reporting the presentation on the Society's Americanism Report.



Silver 250th Anniversary Recognition Award

Precedence: 38

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 48](#)

Summary: The medal is designed recognize those compatriots, chapters, societies, and partner organizations who participate in local, state, national and international events which recognize and honor our Patriot ancestors and the events of the American Revolution. The Anniversary period begins in 2014, with the 250th Anniversary of Parliament's passage of the Sugar Act, and extends to 2033, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. Celebrations are encouraged to honor and recognize Patriot Ancestors or significant events during public education events. All references to the 250th Anniversary at public celebrations is encouraged to give the broadest exposure to this significant time in our history. Medal points are earned for taking part in each celebration that brings attention to the 250th Anniversary period of 2014 through 2033

Description: The medal is silver in color and suspended from a drape (patterned red/white/blue/white/red). The obverse is the official SAR logo for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. The reverse is blank and suitable for engraving. A certificate is available for presentation. A miniature medal is available.

Requirements for Earning the Silver 250th Anniversary Recognition Medal:

1. A formal score sheet will be made available for the calculation of the levels. The following should be kept in mind:
 - a. An "event" may refer to an event which may be part of an ongoing program (repetitive events) or activity focused on the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution or events that led up to the Revolution, in accordance with the time period listed above.
 - b. Points are cumulative, so a compatriot may earn points for multiple aspects of the event and subsequent events.
 - c. Extra points are awarded for color guard performance and for attendance in colonial attire.
 - d. Attending a Chapter, State, District or National meeting only counts towards award points if it includes a specific 250th Anniversary event.
2. Awards are based on activity and the awarding of points for each type of activity:
 - a. Directing, chairing, or co-chairing an event or sub-committee for the duration of the event. (20 points)
 - b. Participation in the planning, financing, promotion or conduct of an event other than directing, chairing, or co-chairing an event. Those that do direct, chair or co-chair an event and serve as a regular member of a committee or sub-committee in a non-leadership role, may also earn points. (10 points)

- c. Attending an Event (3 points)
 - d. Attending an event in Colonial Attire (5 points)
3. SAR Members may be awarded the Silver 250th Anniversary Recognition Medal for achieving a total of 60 promotion points as certified by their chapter, state, district, or national society. This is 35 points over and above the points required for the Bronze Medal. Events used to qualify for the Bronze Medal may be counted towards qualification for the Silver Medal. There is no requirement for a member to earn the Bronze Medal before submitting for the Silver Medal.
 4. The State President may award the Silver 250th Anniversary Recognition Medal to a Non-SAR member, or to one of its Partners in Patriotism, who has significantly assisted in the SAR's celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. A State Society may also nominate one of its Partners in Patriotism to the National Society for higher recognition.

Subsequent Presentation NOT Authorized: Individuals may receive only one medal for each level (i.e., one Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze). Oak leaf clusters or other ribbon attachments are not authorized. The Challenge Coin may only be earned once.