

FLORIDA SONS OF LIBERTY BRIGADE COLOR GUARD MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

In the same manner that Florida Society compatriots join the National Society Sons of the American Revolution through the Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution, Florida Color Guardsmen become part of the NSSAR Color Guard through the Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade Color Guard of the FLSSAR. Therefore, the Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade Color Guard (aka FLSSAR Color Guard) is subject to the rules and regulations of the NSSAR Color Guard as established by the NSSAR Color Guard Committee and published in the NSSAR Color Guard Handbook on the NSSAR web site. This manual covers procedures specific to the FLSSAR Color Guard.

PURPOSE

The Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade Color Guard's purpose is to promote the stated objectives of the NSSAR which are Historical, Patriotic, and Educational. The public appearance of the Florida Brigade and its units is a public relations tool of the NSSAR fulfilling its objectives. These public appearances are an excellent recruiting opportunity while educating the public. In addition, the FLSSAR Color Guard adds pageantry to Society meetings while respecting the sacrifices of our patriot ancestors.

COMMAND STRUCTURE OF THE FLSSAR COLOR GUARD

(adapted from NSSAR Color Guard Handbook)

The FLSSAR Color Guard Commander shall be the head of the FLSSAR Color Guard. The terms of FLSSAR Color Guard Commanders have varied for multiple reasons since its formation, but the standard term of service as the FLSSAR Color Guard Commander shall be two years. The FLSSAR Color Guard Commander shall be assisted by a Vice Commander and at least one but no more than two Adjutants.

When the FLSSAR Color Guard Commander steps down, he shall be succeeded by the Vice Commander, and the Adjutant shall become Vice Commander. If the outgoing Commander had named two Adjutants, only one of these shall become Vice Commander. The new Commander shall name a new Adjutant or Adjutants. In making his selection for new Adjutants, the new Commander should consider geographic diversity.

Positions may be created and appointed by the FLSSAR Color Guard Commander to meet the needs of the FLSSAR Color Guard. The term of these positions is at the discretion of the appointee. These positions *may* include, but are not limited to:

- *Quartermaster*. Responsible for maintenance of all FLSSAR Color Guard equipment. Will also provide a list of all equipment that is no longer serviceable to the Color Guard Commander so that it may be replaced.
- *Safety Officer*. Responsible for educating all guardsmen on the proper protocols with regards to safety at any event in which the FLSSAR Color Guard participates. This includes, but is not limited to, inspecting all weapons for proper safety modifications and the ability to require a guardsman to not use unsafe equipment.
- *Artillery Commander*. Responsible for educating and training of all guardsmen on the proper protocols for the use of and firing of artillery at events in which the FLSSAR Color Guard participates. In addition, at such time as the FLSSAR Color Guard utilizes artillery weapons, this compatriot will command such firings.

FORMATION OF A CHAPTER COLOR GUARD UNIT

The Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade is comprised of Chapter Color Guard units whose commanders report to the FLSSAR Color Guard Commander. To form a Chapter unit known as a Camp (unit with 5 or more Guardsmen) or an Outpost (unit with 3 or 4 Guardsmen), the Chapter shall apply for admission to the Commander of the Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade who will assign a number to the unit; when the unit applies for Camp status, the application shall include an approval request for a Camp name with historical significance related to the American Revolution.

(the following paragraphs in this section are directly from the NSSAR Color Guard Handbook with minor edits)

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 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.

Equipment. Flags, poles, indoor flag stands, and related items are available through varied sources. Color Guard units are encouraged to purchase as much of equipment as possible from

local sources. Since events are conducted both indoors and outdoors, the Color Guard should endeavor to purchase flags that can withstand the elements when used at outdoor events such as parades and grave markings.

Continental or Militia Uniform. There are two types of Color Guard units that can be formed based on the type of uniform that the unit primarily uses. The first and most recognizable is the Continental Unit. This unit is comprised of men who are uniformed in the familiar tricorn hat, blue coat and knee breeches or fall-front trousers identified with the soldiers of the regular army during the Revolution.

The second type of unit is the Militia Unit. There is no set uniform associated with the Militia. As in the time of 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.

Please note, that while the above references separate units based on the type of uniform, this does not preclude having a mixture of uniform types in a single unit. As a matter of fact, most national events will have color guard members in a variety of uniforms – both continental and militia. The common practice in this situation is that those wearing continental uniforms will be towards the front of the unit while those wearing militia attire will be toward the rear.

With respect to the uniform that is worn, many Color Guardsmen choose to wear a uniform similar to that worn by their patriot ancestor(s). However, this requires that the Color Guard member have performed the necessary research to determine the details of the uniform. This is necessary since, while the blue coat was predominate, the coat could have a different facing color on the cuffs and collar, depending where the soldier was from and the hat could vary from unit to unit.

With respect to the Continental uniform, ordinarily the basic uniform consists of the following:

- A tricorn hat;
- A blue coat with either a buff, red or white facing and trim*;
- White shirt and waistcoat;
- White or buff knee britches or fall-front trousers;
- Buckle shoes;
- A pair of white gloves.

**(The 1779 Uniform Order by General George Washington included light blue even though the NSSAR Color Guard Handbook does not include it)*

With respect to a militia uniform, ordinarily the basic uniform consists of the following:

- A hat – either tricorn or round;
- 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).

While these are the basics for each uniform, variations will exist and participation will not be discouraged based on these variations. See the NSSAR Color Guard Handbook for more details.

FLAGS CARRIED BY THE COLOR GUARD

(adapted from NSSAR Color Guard Handbook)

At a minimum, the Color Guard should carry the United States National Flag and the Florida flag or the SAR flag. Other flags can be added as the Color Guard grows. The question becomes one of what flags to add. While there is no set answer to this question other than the Color Guard should follow proper protocol when carrying the flags.

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;
- State Flag of the Color Guard Unit;
- SAR Flag;
- Other historical flags of the Revolution.

COLOR GUARD BEHAVIOR AT EVENTS

(from NSSAR Color Guard Handbook)

Hand Salutes. As with current military custom, only the Commander of the Color Guard and those members carrying muskets will Present Arms when called to salute. No Color Bearer ever renders a hand salute, unless specifically ordered immediately after the posting of colors, since the Commander is understood to present the salute for the entire unit.

Prayers. Likewise, during prayers, Color Guard members only close their eyes. At no time is does the Guardsman bow his head or remove his hat.

Wearing Medals. If a Color Guardsman insists on wearing SAR medals on his uniform because he would not otherwise have an opportunity to wear them, then they may be worn only during SAR internal events such as chapter, state and national meetings where the general public is not present. In any case, the Color Guard Commander in charge makes the final decision on the permission to wear medals on the Color Guard uniform during SAR internal events.

COLOR GUARD MEDALS

The FLSSAR Color Guard uses the point system for earning SAR Color Guard Medals as outlined in the NSSAR Handbook and the NSSAR Color Guard Handbook. All FLSSAR Guardsmen SAR Color Guard Medal awards must be approved by the Florida Society Sons of Liberty Brigade Commander who keeps a record of Color Guardsmen's participation at the FLSSAR Board of Management Meetings and FLSSAR Annual Meeting. It is the responsibility

of each Color Guardsmen to keep an accurate record of points he earns and submit an application to the FLSSAR Commander for his respective medal on the applicable NSSAR Color Guard Medal Application Form available on the FLSSAR or NSSAR web site. All Color Guard medals above the Bronze level will be submitted by the FLSSAR Color Guard Commander for the required authorization by the NSSAR Color Guard Commander to award the medal.

- The Bronze NSSAR Color Guard Medal requires 300 points accrued over a minimum of 3 years through participation in Chapter and/or State Color Guard events; 5 points for each Chapter event or 10 points for each State event in uniform.
- The Silver NSSAR Color Guard Medal requires 200 points accrued in a minimum of 9 of District and/or National Color Guard events and 3 years in addition to the 300 points accrued toward the Bronze Color Guard Medal which must be earned prior to the Silver Color Guard Medal; 20 points for each District and/or National Color Guard event in uniform with possible bonus points for mileage as outlined in the NSSAR Color Guard Handbook.
- The Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard requires 5 years of participation in District and/or National Color Guard events after earning the Silver NSSAR Color Guard Medal accruing 500 points in addition to the points accrued for the Bronze and Silver medals; 20 points for each District and/or National Color Guard event in uniform with possible bonus points for mileage as outlined in the NSSAR Color Guard Handbook.
- The Gold NSSAR Color Guard Medal is only awarded through the NSSAR Color Guard Committee protocol.
- The Molly Pitcher Medal may be awarded to the wife, daughter, sister, relative, or significant female companion of a Color Guardsman who has earned the NSSAR Silver Color Guard Medal for support of a Color Guard unit through participation in Revolutionary-attire at Color Guard events, bringing refreshments for the Color Guard's well-being at events, or other tangible support of the Color Guard; merely attending events shall not be deemed "support" of the Color Guard.

FLORIDA SONS OF LIBERTY BRIGADE COLOR GUARD UNITS

1. George Washington Camp # 1, Jacksonville Chapter
2. Francis Marion Camp #2, Ocala Chapter
3. Cape Canaveral Camp #3, Brevard Chapter
4. Samuel Adams Camp #4, Clearwater Chapter
5. Yorktown Camp #5, St. Lucie River Chapter
6. Marquis de Lafayette Camp #6, Gainesville Chapter
7. Nathan Hale Camp #7, Pensacola Chapter
8. Nathaniel Green Camp #8, Saramana Chapter
9. Thomas Paine Camp #9, Miami Chapter
10. Daniel Morgan Camp #10, Central Florida Chapter
11. Thomas Jefferson Camp #11, Withlacoochee Chapter
12. General Thomas Sumter Camp #12, Lake Sumter Chapter
13. Bernardo de Galvez Camp #13, Naples Chapter

- 14. Hillsborough River Camp #14, Tampa Chapter
- 15. General Lighthouse Harry Lee Camp #15, Caloosa Chapter

COMMANDER HISTORY

Edward Young, Pensacola Chapter	-2010
Phillip Tarpley, Saramana Chapter	2010-2012
Charles Sweeney, Saramana Chapter	2012-2013
Steven Williams, Brevard Chapter	2014
Randy Moody, Caloosa Chapter	2014-