



SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION WASHINGTON STATE COLOR GUARD ANNUAL EVENTS



Feb: President's Day (UW Campus)

Members of the DAR and SAR gather each year, on President's Day, to lay wreaths at the base of the George Washington monument located on the UW campus in Seattle. The monument was originally placed in 1909 through the efforts of the Rainier Chapter of the DAR. Although this is primarily a Color Guard event (for the SAR), all SAR members are welcome to attend.



Feb: Patriotic Day/Massing of the Colors (Tacoma, WA)

This event takes place at Stadium High School, in Tacoma. Its purpose is to offer a patriotic salute to those who have served our country in years past, as well as to the young men and women who are serving today. The tradition began in New York on Armistice Day, 1922. The Tacoma event recently marked its 30th year anniversary with an impressive 75 organizations participating. This is a Color Guard event, but all members are welcome to attend.



Feb/Mar: NSSAR Spring Leadership Conference

Each year, in Louisville, KY, SAR leaders from around the country gather to discuss and vote on the many issues affecting our organization. This conference is very similar to the United States Congress in the way it functions. All members are welcome to attend, but you will not be able to vote on any of the items under discussion. It is advisable to make arrangements to attend the conference while accompanied by one of our state's National Trustees, or one of the other officers who plans to attend.



Apr: DAR Annual Conference (TBD)

In the last few years, there has been increased cooperation and collaboration between the Washington State Societies of the DAR and SAR. Part of the reason for this partnership is the realization that both societies share similar goals. Recently, the SAR has begun providing the services of its Color Guard for the Annual DAR Conference. In return, the DAR has graciously allowed the SAR to maintain a recruitment booth throughout the conference.



Apr: Annual Pacific District Conference

The Pacific District Conference is a gathering of members from the state societies of Alaska, Oregon, and Washington. Each year, the event is held in a different location - generally, either in Oregon or Washington. All members are not only invited to attend, they are encouraged. The Color Guard is very active during the conference posting colors, manning display tables, and providing pageantry to the various events. Last year, the conference was held in Portland, and next year it will be held in Olympia, WA.



May: Lilac Torch Light Armed Forces Parade (Spokane, WA)

Recently celebrating its 78th year in existence, this outstanding parade brings out the spectators in Spokane, WA. The parade usually starts around 7:45 pm, and ends after 10:00 P.M. With over 200 entries and 50, 000 people lining the streets, the SAR Color Guard of Spokane Chapter#1 is more than happy to march the 6-mile course. The parade is televised locally and provides the SAR with some great exposure. This is a Color Guard event, but members are encouraged to attend the parade.





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May: Armed Forces Day Parade (Bremerton, WA)

This parade is a favorite of the Western Washington Regiment of the Color Guard. It is a popular, well-attended parade, that winds its way through the streets of Bremerton. The sound of the drums and the tunes of the fifer reverberate on the nearby buildings, and creates a surge of enthusiasm to those who are lining the street. It is a Color Guard event, but all members are welcome to either march in the parade or cheer from the sidelines.



May: Memorial Day Events (Various Locations)

The three main Memorial Day events attended by members of the SAR are as follows: Fir Lane Cemetery, in Spanaway; Mount Tahoma Cemetery, along Highway 18 east of Auburn; and the Ivy Green Cemetery, in Bremerton. These are primarily Color Guard events, but members are more than welcome to show their respects to America's deceased veterans.



Jul 4th: Independence Day Parade (Steilacoom, WA)

Located in the picturesque little town of Steilacoom, this is a hotdog and firecracker kind of parade. Don't be surprised if it reminds you of years gone by - when life seemed less complicated, and Americans were proud to be Americans. This parade is well-attended by thousands of spectators; and sometimes, even, the occasional wandering cat or dog. Whether you're in the Color Guard, or sitting in a lawn chair along the parade route, this parade is one that you will not want to miss.



Aug: NW Colonial Festival (Sequim, WA):

This event is located on the beautiful Olympic peninsula at a home that was built to resemble Washington's Mount Vernon. Each year, compatriots from the SAR Color Guard (primarily the John Paul Jones Chapter) man a recruiting booth at the event and give "Hay-Bale" presentations to visitors. There are daily re-enactments of battles between Redcoats and patriots. Take your kids to this event, and have a blast.



Sep: Labor Day Parade (Black Diamond)

This event takes place in the wooded hills of Black Diamond. The parade route is short, but the sidewalks are packed with cheering spectators. After the parade, if you'd like to spend some time in this little town, there are various food booths and attractions to visit. Like most of the other parades, this is a Color Guard event - but all members are welcome to march, or simply wave from the sideline. Make sure you have a working GPS if you've never before been to Black Diamond.





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Sep: Fair Booth (Puyallup)

The Washington State Color Guard, along with the Mary Ball Chapter of the DAR, both maintain a recruiting booth at this event. Shifts are available from 9AM to 10PM. This is an excellent opportunity to reach out to the fair-goers and tell them about our great organization.



Sep: Citizenship Celebration (Various Locations)

It's always a moving experience to watch as immigrants to this great nation of ours take the oath of citizenship. The SAR is there to help them understand how our nation was founded, and to give them a big congratulatory handshake. This is a Color Guard event, but all are welcome to attend.



Nov: Veterans Day Parade (Richland, WA)

The Veterans Day parade in Richland is smaller than its western Washington counterpart, but it is nonetheless an impressive parade. The members of the SAR Color Guard are attracting more and more attention, sometimes even appearing in articles in the Richland newspaper. If you live in eastern Washington, this is one event you do not want to miss!



Nov: Veterans Day Parade (Auburn, WA)

The Veterans Day parade in Auburn is the largest such parade west of the Mississippi River. Thousands upon thousands of people line the streets to watch the hundreds of parade participants. Last year, in 2015, the Washington State Color was given a huge honor: We were presented with a plaque designating our marching unit as the "Best Non-Motorized" entry. Come out and join us next year for this impressive parade. You will not be disappointed!



Nov: Veterans Day, Kitsap Fair (Sun Pavilion)

This is a Veterans Day event that takes place in Bremerton, WA. The SAR Color Guard (John Paul Jones Chapter) and the DAR (Elizabeth Ellington Chapter) each have a recruiting booth. This event is well-attended and is a great opportunity for us to tell adults and children alike about America's very first veterans. All SAR members are welcome to attend this event, and even volunteer to staff the booth.



Dec: Wreaths Across America (Various Locations)

"Wreaths Across America" is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring America's veterans by placing a wreath on each of their graves. This organization came into existence in 1992, and was originally focused on placing wreaths solely on the graves of those who are buried in Arlington Cemetery. It has since grown into a national effort to honor all of our veterans. The SAR has embraced the cause of Wreaths Across America, and in 2014 SAR members participated in more than 285 wreath-laying ceremonies.





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Honor Flights: WWII & Korea Veterans (SEATAC and Spokane Airport)

As a way of saying "thank you," the Honor Flights organization provides our WWII and Korean War veterans with an opportunity to visit our nation's capital, free of charge. In recent years, there has been an added measure of urgency to this mission since many of our WWII veterans are passing away from advanced age. The SAR has adopted the cause of the Honor Flight organization, and makes every effort to provide a "Welcome Home" greeting to each of the returning flights.



DAR State Events (Various Locations):

Speakers from the Washington State SAR sometimes give presentations on various topics to the ladies of the DAR. Whether it be a discussion about the history of the American flag, or an in-depth look at how Scottish Americans supported the fight for independence, these interactions between the SAR and DAR help to strengthen the bonds between the two organizations. If you are someone who enjoys giving presentations to small groups, or even large groups, this may be something you might consider looking into.

