

# Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage





# Sons of the American Legion Preamble



**Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes:**

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
- to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism;
- to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars;
- to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation;
- to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
- to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth;
- to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
- to consecrate and sanctify our friendship, by our devotion to mutual helpfulness;
- to adopt in letter and spirit, all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands;
- and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

# What is the Sons of The American Legion?

The Sons of The American Legion is a program within the American Legion. We are a service organization built on the foundation of patriotism and honoring those who have served.

- Must be attached to a Post – can not stand alone
- Should have a strong tie and work with the sponsoring Post - live out the Preamble
- Is encouraged to also coordinate efforts within District and Detachment (working in developing Districts)



# How to form a Squadron

The formation of a Squadron is a lot like planting a garden for the first time.....

- Check and Prepare the Soil (verify interest)
- Plant the Seeds and promote growth (form the squadron, Post Committee supports the new squadron)
- Reap the harvest (Post/Squadron working together) to achieve more than before
- Plan for the next year/future



# Checking and Preparing the Soil

It Starts with the Post exploring the possibility of starting a squadron:

- Confirm support from the Post
  - Identify reason/goals for creating a Squadron (more than just because we can)
  - Post agree with taking on the effort
  - Identify committee to lead effort
- Start to Identify interest in Membership
  - Family Members
  - Neighbors/Friends of Post Members
  - Civic Leaders and Civic Workers
  - Other Organizations
- Get the packet (if you do not already have one)



# Planting the Seed – supporting growth

If there is enough interest/support, start to form:

- Hold informational meetings to confirm interest in SAL Membership
- Confirm Charter Members (at least 10 needed)
- Start Holding Regular Meetings to
  - Elect temporary officers
  - Complete Charter Application
  - Received Approved Charter



# Reaping the Harvest and planning for the future



Start your Squadron activities:

- Develop a 1 year plan with the Post
  - Elect Officers
  - Start completing some activities together
  - Start identifying if/where a squadron can execute activities on their own.
- Beyond – Squadron develops yearly Plans/Goals with Post supervision/interfaces
  - Work/interface/coordinate with the Post
  - Work/interface/coordinate with the Community
  - Work/interface/coordinate with District/Detachment
- Continue to grow.....continue the Mission

# Common Questions about Squadron and Post?

- Meetings
- Activities
- Fundraisers
- Finances



There is not a “Right Answer for All”, it all boils down to what is best for the Post/Squadron?



# Other Items – SAL Squadron Handbook

- 10 Ideals
- 5 Point Program
- Calendar of Events
- Services and Ceremonies
- Bylaws
- Resources available at:

[www.wisal.org/new-squadron](http://www.wisal.org/new-squadron)



# Final Comment

We work best and achieve the most when we work together as a *Family*

Thank you for considering adding a SAL Squadron as part of your *Post Family*



***Thank you for the opportunity  
to be with your Post tonight***