

GUARDIAN PROGRAM

Society of Confederate Descendants

As adopted on October 13, 2025



Society of Confederate Descendants

GUARDIAN PROGRAM RULES AND GUIDELINES

PURPOSE:

The Society of Confederate Descendants, SDC, has instituted a special program to honor the memory of our Confederate Ancestors and to help ensure the preservation of their final resting places.

ELIGIBILITY:

Any Society of Confederate Descendants member in good standing, who has demonstrated their willingness to serve in this special capacity, and who is at least fourteen years of age, and has tended a Confederate soldier's grave for two years prior, may become a FULL GUARDIAN. All compatriots are encouraged to participate in this most worthwhile program to honor our ancestors and protect their final resting places.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

They shall care for and protect the grave of a Confederate Veteran, ensuring that the site is kept clean and well-maintained year round. They shall perform these duties personally, unless physically prevented from doing so by reason of health problems.

They shall be responsible for ensuring that the grave has an appropriate marker designating it as the resting place of a Confederate Veteran. (i.e.: a family stone with reference to Confederate services, or a government issued veteran's stone.) They shall also be responsible for replacing or repairing any marker that is destroyed, damaged or badly worn.

They shall personally visit the grave a minimum of three times a year, to include on or near Memorial Day, when they shall place either a wreath or small Confederate Flag, or both, on the grave.

APPLICATION:

Individuals who wish to become a GUARDIAN must complete the Guardian Application form and submit it to the Chairman of the Guardian Review Committee. The application must be accompanied with a map showing the location of the gravesite and photograph(s) of the grave and marker. The grave may or may not be that of the applicant's Confederate Ancestor.

The applicant must also remit an application fee of \$15.00 at the time of the application to cover the cost of the GUARDIAN medal and certificate, which will be awarded upon successful completion of the period of candidacy. This fee is non-refundable, regardless of if the candidate successfully completes their candidacy period or not. There will be a fee of \$5.00 for each additional application thereafter for multi-guardian status. Make checks payable to: SDC Guardian.

REVIEWS AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS:

The Guardian Review Committee will review and approve all applications. The committee will consist of a Chairman, one representative from each Chapter, and others deemed necessary all of whom should have Full Guardian status. The Society of Confederate Descendants President General shall also serve as an ex officio member.

If approved, the applicant will be given the title “Guardian Pro Tem” (meaning: “for the time being”), and they shall have the status of “candidate”. They will carry this title and status for two years, less any time already completed in the care of a grave, if during such time they carried out the minimum duties specified of a GUARDIAN. (e.g. An applicant who has already cared for a grave for one year in accordance with criteria would only have one more year of service required as a “GUARDIAN PRO TEM” candidate before becoming a full GUARDIAN.)

FULL GUARDIAN STATUS:

Individuals who successfully complete their “Guardian Pro Tern” candidacy period, meeting the criteria established for this program, and are approved by the Guardian Review Committee will be formally awarded the status of “GUARDIAN” by order of the Society President General.

GUARDIANS will be presented with a special certificate and shall be given a place of honor and formally recognized by the Society President General at all official Society of Confederate Descendants functions and events, to include Society Reunions.

GUARDIANS shall be authorized to wear a special medal device/badge as designated by the Guardian Committee.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Multiple Grave Sites:

GUARDIANS may care for more than one Confederate Veteran’s Grave and will be so recognized by the Guardian Review Committee. Special certificates or indications on the Guardian medal may be authorized to signify the care of multiple veterans’ graves. Normally no more than 25 gravesites will be

awarded per compatriot. More than 25 may be authorized on a case-by-case basis with approval of the Guardian Committee.

Retirement of GUARDIAN Position:

A Guardian must notify the Guardian Review Committee when they are no longer able to carry out their duties for reasons of health or relocation. Under such circumstances, their Guardian position will be honorably retired, unless passed on under the provisions noted below.

Bequeathing of GUARDIAN Position:

In lieu of retiring his Guardian position, a Guardian may bequeath their position and pass on their responsibilities to another SDC Member in good. All such transfers must be reviewed and approved by the Guardian Review Committee.

Revocation of GUARDIAN Status: The Guardian Review Committee may revoke a GUARDIAN'S status, if they fails to carry out their duties and responsibilities. The Guardian review Committee has the power to inspect, with or without notice, any GUARDIAN'S Confederate Veteran's Grave site to confirm compliance with all rules and regulations.

Wilderness Grave' Site:

Is defined as a completely neglected and abandoned gravesite in a wooded area. Application must be accompanied by before and after pictures of the gravesite along with all other requirements set forth in these rules. If this status is approved, applicant will be approved to wear a silver star on the ribbon of the Guardian Medal.