



Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben

Condensed Requirements For
The National SAR
Von Steuben Medal

The Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard

(Data extracted from SAR Official Handbook, Vol V, dtd 6 Feb 2022)

Precedence: 41

Year Authorized: 2012

Presented By: District Vice President General, State President, or by the District or State Color Guard Commander (as appropriate). Under special circumstances, the President General or the National Color Guard Commander may present this award.

Approved By: State or District Color Guard Commander and National Color Guard Commander

Description: The National Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard is gold in color, and depicts a likeness of Baron Friederich von Steuben.

Summary: The National Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard, authorized 2 March 2012 by the NSSAR Executive Committee, may be awarded for sustained service to the Society as a Color Guardsman at the National or District Levels. Recipients must already have been awarded the Bronze and Silver Color Guard Medals.

Special Application Required: SAR Color Guardsmen who believe they qualify for the National Von Steuben Medal must complete the appropriate form, setting forth their qualifications. This form is available on the SAR website, and must be submitted to the State or District Color Guard Commander for review and recommendation, and then to the National Color Guard Commander for final authorization to award the National Von Steuben Medal.

Qualifications: A Guardsman must employ one of the following systems for earning the National Von Steuben Medal. The first system is based on points; the second system is based on the number of events in which a Guardsman participates.

B. Events System *(used by the State of Washington Society)*

1. To earn the National Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard, a Color Guardsman must serve at least five years after the date his application for the Silver Color Guard Medal was approved, and he must participate in at least twenty-five (25) National and/or District Color Guard events. The five years' service does not have to be continuous. Color Guardsmen may take longer than five years to participate in twenty-five (25) qualifying events, but may not be awarded the National Von Steuben Medal earlier than five years after the date his application for the Silver Color Guard Medal was approved.

2. The same events that count toward earning the Silver Color Guard Medal shall also count toward earning the National Von Steuben Medal. (See National Color Guard Events under [MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION](#) at the back of the Color Guard Handbook.)

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

Retroactive Effectiveness: SAR Color Guardsmen who were active at the time this Medal was approved by the NSSAR Color Guard Committee (July 2011), and who had previously been awarded the Silver Color Guard Medal, may count the points earned from attending any qualifying National or District Color Guard event if using the points system, or the actual number of events if using the events system, in which they participated during the two (2) year period prior to the NSSAR Color Guard Committee approval, or from the date they were awarded the Silver Color Guard Medal, whichever is more recent, toward earning the National Von Steuben Medal.

Below data extracted from SAR Color Guard Handbook dtd 12 Sep 2020

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

National Color Guard Events. The National Events listed below count toward earning the SAR Silver Color Guard Medal and National Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement (See the *NSSAR Color Guard Medals* section). Dates published below are of the actual battle / commemoration date or the approximate meeting date. Guardsmen should confirm the actual date of the event listed below with published event invitations on the National Society SAR website or with the host state society.

Date	Event	Location			
Jan 17	Battle of Cowpens	Chesnee, SC	May 16	Armed Forces Day	various
Feb 1	Battle of Cowan's Ford	Huntersville, NC	May 17	Battle of Thomas Creek	Jacksonville, FL
Feb 14	Battle of Kettle Creek	Washington, GA	May 25	Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous	Vincennes, IN
Feb 14	Crossing of the Dan	South Boston, VA	May 25	Memorial Day *	various
Feb 22	Washington's Birthday Parade	Laredo, TX	May 25	National Memorial Day Parade	Washington DC
Feb 27	Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge	Currie, NC	May 26	Battle of Fort San Carlos	St Louis, MO
Mar 10	Last Naval Battle of the Revolution	Cape Canaveral, FL	May 29	Buford's Massacre	Lancaster, SC
Mar 15	Battle of Guilford Courthouse	Greensboro, NC	Jun 11	Action at Machias	Machias, ME
Apr 12	Halifax Resolves	Halifax, NC	Jun 17	Battle of Bunker Hill	Charlestown, MA
Apr 18	Battles of Lexington & Concord	Concord, MA	Jun 20	Battle of Ramseur's Mill	Lincolnton, NC
Apr 18	Patriots Day	various	Jun 28	Battle of Monmouth	Monmouth, NJ
May 8	Battle of Pensacola	Pensacola, FL	Jul 4	Independence Day *	various
May 11	Raid on Martin's Station	Ewing, VA	Jul 4	Let Freedom Ring	various
			Aug 2	Siege at Fort Laurens	Bolivar, OH

Aug 19	Battle of Blue Licks	Carlisle, KY	Oct 7	Battle of Kings Mountain	Blacksburg, SC
Aug 27	Battle of Brooklyn/Maryland 400	Brooklyn, NY	Oct 17	Battle of Saratoga	Stillwater, NY
Sep 6	Battle of Groton Heights	Groton, CT	Oct 19	Yorktown Days	Yorktown, VA
Sep 8	Battle of Eutaw Springs	Eutawville, SC	Oct 22	Battle of Red Bank	Fort Mercer, NJ
Sep 17	Vigil at Washington's Tomb	Mt Vernon, VA	Nov 11	Veterans Day *	various
Sep 25	Gathering at Sycamore Shoals	Elizabethton, TN	Dec 9	Battle of Great Bridge	Norfolk, VA
Oct 4-6	Point Pleasant Battle Days	Point Pleasant, WV	Dec 15	Wreaths Across America	various
Oct 6	Battle of Chestnut Neck	Little Egg Harbor, NJ	Dec 26	Ten Crucial Days	Princeton/Trenton, NJ

*A local event celebrating **Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day** may be counted as a National Color Guard event for the purposes of applying for a Color Guard Medal. Only a single event on each day may be counted. Multiple events on the same day cannot be counted multiple times. If the event is on a weekend nearest the actual holiday, that can be counted with respect to the single event limitation. For example, if a Veterans Day Parade occurs on a Saturday such as the 8th, then an event on the 11th does not count.

The following 11 events are currently National events for the State of WA and can occur at any location:

1. Massing of Colors (AKA Patriot's Day)
2. Memorial Day
3. Veteran's Day
4. Honor Flight
5. Independence Day
6. George Washington' Birthday (AKA President's Day)
7. Wreaths Across America
8. Liberty Tree Planting/Dedication
9. Fields of Honor/Healing Field
10. Armed Forces Day
11. Pacific District Meeting
12. Flag Day (14 Jun)
13. Any event attended by the SAR President general

The following National Meetings are considered National events by Color Guard Policy due to the attendance of the President General:

- NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting
- Annual NSSAR Congress
- NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting

Note: As of the 2024 Spring SAR Leadership Meeting, a policy was adopted by both the National Color Guard and National Historic Sites & Celebrations Committees formally establishing that only the National Historic Sites & Celebrations Committee may designate National Historic Events based on that committee's established criteria. The only exception being that established Color Guard policy of recognizing President General, or his designated SAR General Officer representative, attendance at an otherwise unrecognized event will make that event a National Event.