

TN Division Guardian Program - Rules and Guidelines

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1. **PURPOSE:** Sons of Confederate Veterans TN Division has instituted this program to honor the memory of the Confederate Soldiers and to help ensure the preservation of their final resting places. All compatriots are encouraged to participate in this program to honor our ancestors and protect their final resting places.

2. **ELIGIBILITY:**

A) Any TN Division SCV member in good standing, who has demonstrated his willingness to serve in this special capacity and has tended a Confederate soldier's grave for two years prior, may become a GUARDIAN.

B) Proof must be provided of the care of this veterans grave. This could include dated photos, newspaper clippings, camp newsletters, etc.

3. **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

A) He shall care for and protect the GRAVE or Memorial Stone of a Confederate Veteran, ensuring that the site is kept clean and well maintained year round. He shall perform these duties personally, unless physically prevented from doing so by reason of health problems.

B) He shall personally visit the grave a minimum of three times a year, to include Confederate Memorial Day, or at least one month prior, when he shall place either a wreath or small Confederate Flag, or both, on the grave.

C) He shall perform these duties for two (2) years before he can be approved as a guardian. Proof will be required that this has been done for two years or more.

4. APPLICATION:

A) Individuals who wish to become a GUARDIAN must complete the Guardian Application form, have it signed by his camp commander and then submit it to the Chairman of the Guardian Review Committee of the division. That committee will then approve or disapprove the application.

B) **The application must be accompanied with a map showing the location of the grave site, along with written driving instructions to the cemetery with the latitude and longitude, photographs of the grave site before and after cleaning and any other work that is done, and proof of individuals Confederate service. The grave may or may not be that of the applicant's Confederate Ancestor.**

C) *There will be an application fee of \$15.00 at the time of the application.* This will cover the cost of the GUARDIAN pin and certificate, which will be awarded upon approval of the application. **This fee is non refundable, regardless if the candidate is approved or not.** There will be a fee of \$7.50 for each additional application thereafter for multi-guardian status. Only one lapel pin will be given to a member.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS:

A) The TN Division Guardian Committee will review and approve all applications. The committee will consist of three members (one from West, Middle, and East TN) all with Guardian status. A Chairman will be selected from the three members of the committee. The Division Commander will appoint the committee members and shall also serve as an ex officio member.

B) If approved, the applicant will be given the title "Tennessee Division Guardian".

C) Only one lapel pin will be given to a TN Division member, even if you care for multiple graves.

7) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A) 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 may be authorized to signify the care of multiple veterans' graves. Normally no more than 25 grave sites will be awarded per compatriot. More than 25 may be authorized on a case by case basis with approval of the Guardian Committee.

B) Retirement of GUARDIAN Position: A Guardian must notify the Guardian Review Committee when he is no longer able to carry out his duties for reasons of health or relocation. Under such circumstances, his Guardian position will be honorably retired, unless passed on under the provisions of section "C" below.

C) Bequeathing of GUARDIAN Position: In lieu of retiring his Guardian position, a Guardian may bequeath his position and pass on his responsibilities to another SCV Member in good standing. All such transfers must be reviewed and approved by the Guardian Review Committee.

D) Revocation of GUARDIAN Status: The Guardian Review Committee may revoke a GUARDIAN'S status if he fails to carry out his duties and responsibilities or he becomes delinquent in his SCV National, Division and Camp dues. 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.