ELIGIBILITY

The following is membership eligibility criteria for SAL:

All male descendants, adopted sons and step-sons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Gulf War/War on Terrorism, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the "Sons of The American Legion."

There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership.

Since the age eligibility begins from date of birth, activities and programs of any squadron should be determined by: (1) age groupings of those eligible; (2) needs of those eligibles; (3) needs of the community for the programs and activities which could be provided by the SAL; and (4) capabilities of those serving as leaders and advisers.

Just as each Legion post determines the extent of its services to the community, state and nation, each squadron is permitted flexibility in planning programs and activities to meet the needs of its own age groups.

Sons of The American Legion

Preamble to the National Constitution

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.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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A guide for starting a squadron in your community

A New Squadron

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

HOW TO USE THIS BROCHURE

This brochure is intended to assist those wishing to start a new squadron. It is designed so it may be carried in your pocket and used as a quick reference. It can also be given to prospective members so they may see what is involved in the formation of a new SAL squadron.

HOW TO GET STARTED

The key to organizing a new squadron is finding the people who will assume the initial responsibility. One enthusiastic, capable Sons of The American Legion member can get the job done, if he makes the commitment.

SQUADRON ACTIVITIES

- Assist American Legion posts with fundraisers
- Visit veterans in VA hospitals and nursing homes
- Assist The American Legion posts with children and youth programs
- Promote Americanism
- Donate cash and items to VA hospitals and VA homes in support of veterans

POTENTIAL MEMBERS

- Members of immediate family and other relatives
- Neighbors, friends, acquaintances
- Students
- Community leaders
- Boy and Cub Scouts, Explorers, Law Cadets, Sea Cadets, 4-H, Key Club, DeMolay
- Student councils, National Honor Society
- Baseball, soccer and other sports teams, YMCA
- Church youth councils
- National Guard and Reserve
- Boys State
- Fire and police departments

Process for chartering a Sons of The American Legion Squadron

The formation of a new SAL squadron relies first and foremost on keeping a positive attitude. Remember, you'll be rendering a service to the community and its veterans. These steps can serve as a guide:

1. The post commander (with the approval of the members) should appoint a committee of at least three members to organize a squadron within the post.
2. Survey the post membership to ascertain the number of sons, grandsons, stepsons or adopted sons eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion. (There is no age limit for the sons organization.)
3. The committee should obtain information from the district or department SAL chairman or your department headquarters.
4. The post should call a meeting to discuss the possibility of forming a squadron. Invite a speaker, have someone who is involved in the Sons of The American Legion, discuss the organization and its activities. It might be a good idea to invite the district adviser and/or commander to talk to the young men.
5. The organizing committee should ask the post to name a permanent chairman and at least two other interested members to head up the squadron.
6. The committee should develop a program covering at least six months, and establish a regular meeting day and time. The SAL should meet in the post home, and all meetings must be conducted by the guidelines in the SAL handbook.
7. At the first meeting of the SAL squadron, the committee should select a temporary staff of officers that will serve for a three-month period, after which a regular election can be scheduled.
8. The charter application should be completed and sent to department headquarters with national per capita of $2 plus the applicable department per capita for each member. Be sure all four copies of the application are completed and signed.
9. The charter application (without monies) will be forwarded by the department headquarters to National Headquarters for preparation of the charter. Upon receipt of the charter at department headquarters, the charter members' membership cards will be made out and both the charter and membership cards will be sent to the post commander.
10. An initiation of the members and installation of the squadron officers should be conducted by the post officers or by some American Legion ceremonial group. The ranking Legion officer in your area should take part in the program and charge the post with its responsibility in conducting the squadron.
11. The post committee and the squadron officers should plan meetings and squadron programs for at least the next year.
12. The post committee should prepare a report for each post meeting outlining the accomplishments and goals of the squadron.
13. The post committee should be expanded until there is at least one adviser or more for each squadron.
14. Encourage squadron members to participate in all district SAL functions and in areas where there is no county or district organization, try to organize one.
15. The post should notify the squadron of all upcoming events such as parades, memorial services and other functions in which they could take part. The squadron should make itself useful in assisting the post.