

# Sons of The American Legion – New Member Mentoring Program and Guide

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## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this mentoring program is to welcome, educate, and engage new members of the Sons of The American Legion (SAL), helping them understand the mission, structure, and traditions of the organization while encouraging lifelong involvement and leadership.

## 2. Objectives

- Strengthen member retention and participation.
- Foster personal growth and leadership within the organization.
- Build continuity and preserve the traditions and values of the SAL.

## 3. The Role of a Mentor

A mentor is an experienced member of the SAL who provides guidance, information, and support to a new member. Mentors embody the values of Pride, Heritage, and Service.

- Welcome the new member personally at a meeting or event.
- Introduce the new member to officers, committee chairs, and other members.
- Provide an overview of the squadron's activities, history, and mission.
- Ensure the new member understands the relationship between the SAL, The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Riders.
- Encourage participation in community service, veterans support, and youth programs.
- Maintain contact during the first six months of membership.

## 4. IMMEDIATE SQUADRON ACTION PLAN FOR NEW MEMBER

### ENGAGEMENT

#### FIRST 7 DAYS – INITIAL INVOLVEMENT

- Issue personalized welcome from Commander, Adjutant, or Membership Officer.
- Provide New Member Orientation Packet immediately.
- Assign a trained mentor within 72 hours.
- Add new member to all Squadron communication channels.
- Invite them to the first event: fundraising dinner, ceremony, community service, etc.

## **FIRST 30 DAYS – ORIENTATION & CONNECTION**

- Conduct formal Orientation Briefing.
- Explain mission, structure, programs, and opportunities.
- Introduce new member at the next Squadron meeting.
- Complete the New Member Intake Form with the member.
- Help them join a Squadron committee or project.
- Mentor attends event or meeting alongside new member.

## **5. Suggested Mentor Qualifications**

- Minimum one year of active membership.
- Demonstrated understanding of SAL programs and values.
- Willingness to dedicate time and attention to new members.
- Positive communication skills and enthusiasm for the organization.

## **6. Evaluation & Recognition**

Each squadron should review the success of the mentoring program annually. Recognition may include a 'Mentor of the Year' , Member of the Year" award, Detachment recognition, or highlights in newsletters.

## **7. Recommended New Member Orientation Packet**

- Welcome Letter from the Squadron Commander
- SAL Membership Card and explanation
- Brochure: 'Why We Belong'"
- Detachment and Squadron Contact List
- Calendar of Events and meeting schedule
- Volunteer Opportunities form
- Squadron Handbook

## **8. Resources**

- SAL National Headquarters: <https://www.legion.org/sons>
- American Legion Basic Training: <https://register.legion.org/alei>
- American Legion Publications: <https://www.legion.org/publications>
- Training Tuesday: [www.legion.org/information-center/training/training-tuesdays](http://www.legion.org/information-center/training/training-tuesdays)

## **9. Program Contact**

Contact:

Email:

(Adjust with local contact information)

## New Member Onboarding Checklist

Task	Completed	Date	Initials
Welcome packet delivered	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Orientation completed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Introduced at squadron meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Attended first squadron event	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Added to squadron communications list	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Reviewed SAL history and mission	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Discussed volunteer opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paired with committee or project	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6-month follow-up completed	<input type="checkbox"/>		

# NEW MEMBER INTAKE FORM

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Full Name:

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Telephone Number:

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Email Address:

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Home Address:

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City / State / ZIP:

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Emergency Contact Name:

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Emergency Contact Phone:

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Relationship to Emergency Contact:

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Occupation / Type of Work You Do:

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Hobbies:

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Interests:

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# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FORM

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Member Name:

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## Areas Where I Would Like to Volunteer

- Veterans Support (VA visits, Buddy Checks, veteran outreach)
- Children & Youth Programs (Boys State/Nation, scouting, scholarships)
- Community Service (clean-ups, food drives, public assistance)
- Americanism Activities (flag ceremonies, parades, patriotic events)
- Fundraising (events, dinners, raffles, sales)
- Post/Squadron Events (dinners, ceremonies, holiday events)
- Honor Guard / Ceremonial Unit
- Public Relations / Social Media
- Administration / Clerical Assistance
- Building & Grounds Maintenance
- Photography / Videography
- Other Skills or Talents You Can Offer:

## Availability

Days of the Week Available:

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Times Available:

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Are you willing to be contacted for short-notice volunteer needs?

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# SQUADRON COMMANDER WELCOME LETTER-SAMPLE

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[Squadron Letterhead or Contact Information Here]

[Date]

Dear [New Member Name],

On behalf of the officers and members of Sons of The American Legion Squadron [Number], I want to personally welcome you to our organization. Your decision to join the SAL is both an honor and a testament to the pride you hold for your veteran family member and their service to our nation.

The Sons of The American Legion exists to preserve the memory and legacy of those who served. By joining, you have taken an important step in carrying that legacy forward. We are proud to have you as part of our Squadron and the greater American Legion Family.

As a new member, you will find many opportunities to serve:

- Supporting veterans and their families
- Volunteering at community and Post events
- Helping with fundraising efforts
- Promoting Americanism, patriotism, and respect for our nation's flag
- Participating in children and youth programs
- Developing leadership skills

Within the next few days, one of our trained mentors will contact you to help guide you through your first 90 days as a member. They will help you understand our mission, get involved in upcoming activities, and find areas where your skills can make the biggest impact.

We encourage you to attend our next Squadron meeting:

[Date / Time / Location]

Enclosed/Attached is your New Member Orientation Packet, which includes:

- Squadron contacts
- SAL mission and history
- Volunteer opportunities
- Calendar of events
- Intake and interest forms
- Training and committee information

We are here to support you and help you become an active, valued member of our Squadron. Your participation strengthens not only our organization, but also the memory of your veteran loved one whose service inspired your membership.

Once again, welcome to the Sons of The American Legion. We are honored to have you with us.

Yours in Service,

[Commander Name]

Squadron Commander

Sons of The American Legion Squadron [Number]

[Contact Information]

# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

## MISSION & HISTORY

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### **MISSION OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

The mission of the Sons of The American Legion (SAL) is to:

- Preserve the legacy of our veterans by honoring their service and sacrifice.
- Support The American Legion and its Four Pillars through volunteerism and community involvement.
- Serve veterans, active-duty military, military families, youth, and local communities.
- Promote Americanism and patriotism through respect for the flag and civic responsibility.
- Develop future leaders through mentorship, training, and involvement within the Legion Family.

***In simple terms: We honor our veteran ancestors by serving others.***

### **HISTORY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) was founded in 1932 as a program of The American Legion, created for male descendants of United States wartime veterans to continue the legacy of service.

The SAL is an integral part of The American Legion Family. It was established to support Legion programs, strengthen volunteerism, foster patriotism, and provide younger generations with opportunities to serve.

Since 1932, the SAL has grown into a national program with thousands of Squadrons across the country, organized under Posts, Districts, and Detachments with National leadership and representation.

Membership includes sons, grandsons, great-grandsons, stepsons, and adopted descendants of veterans who served honorably during federally designated wartime periods.

For over nine decades, the SAL has supported American Legion programs, contributed millions in fundraising, volunteered countless hours, advanced youth programs, promoted Americanism, and strengthened local communities.