Missouri Guardian Program-Rules and Guidelines

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1. PURPOSE: The Missouri Division Sons of Confederate Veterans has instituted The Missouri Guardian Program to honor the memory of 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.
2. ELIGIBILITY FOR GAURDIAN RECOGNITION:

A) Any SCV member, Missouri Division UDC or Missouri Society MOSB in good standing, who has demonstrated his willingness to serve in this special capacity, and who is at least fourteen years of age or older and has tended a Confederate soldier's grave for two years (see below for responsibilities) is eligible for this award.

B) At the start of participation of the Guardian Program a candidate is required to send a $10.00 non-refundable payment to:

Wes Franklin

12161 Norway Road

Neosho Mo 64850

Make the check payable to the “Missouri Division SCV”. Please note on the check that it is for the Guardian Program.

C) After completion of the tasks of the Guardian Program, the Missouri Division will issue the applicant the Guardian Pin and Certificate. If the applicant chooses, he can then apply for the National Guardian Pin. He will then submit his Guardian Certificate, or approved application, with a check to cover the National Guardian Pin and Certificate fee to the National Committee.

3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

A) The member shall care for and protect the GRAVE (not a 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. He will perform these duties for a period of two years.

B) The member shall be responsible, for ensuring the grave has an appropriate marker designating it as the resting place of a Confederate Veteran i.e.: a family stone with the reference to Confederate service, and/or a government issued veteran's stone, and/or a Southern Cross of Honor. He shall also be responsible for replacing or repairing any marker that is destroyed, damaged or badly worn.

C) The member shall personally visit the grave a minimum of three times a year. These visits shall include Confederate Memorial Day, or 2 weeks prior. On Confederate Memorial Day the member shall place a wreath and/or a small Confederate Flag, on the grave.

4. APPLICATION:

A) The applicant must let their Camp Commander know their intention to earn the Guardian Pin. The applicant must fill out the application properly and keep documentation of duties completed.

B) At the end of the two-year program, the applicant will submit their completed application, map showing the location of the grave site, and driving instructions to the cemetery. Applicant must also submit photographs of the grave site before and after cleaning, any other work that is done, and photographs of the marker indicating proof of Confederate service. The grave may or may not be that of the applicant's Confederate Ancestor. The packet must be submitted to the Committee Chair for approval.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A) When cleaning a headstone use approved methods. D2 solution works best and is the least evasive cleaner on the market. Do not use a power washer, acid or bleach as these will destroy the stone. Use a soft brush.

B) If a stone needs repair, find out if there are any relatives in the area and ask their permission and/or find the caretaker and see what the rules are for repairing a stone. When repairing a stone use a lime-based mortar. Do not use cement.

C) If the cemetery is on private property seek out the landowner's permission to cross his/her property to get to the cemetery. Your consideration on their behalf may net you some cooperation and maybe even some help. Remember, if gates are closed close them behind you. Leave the property as you found it.

D) Even though the stone looks small they are still HEAVY.