



## 2025-2026 Florida State Merit Award

F.S.C.A.R. recognizes accomplishments, activities, and hard work of the Most Outstanding Societies and members. ALL Gold, Blue, Red, and Honorable Mention Societies are honored for their achievements. All societies entering will receive a Certificate of Participation. Awards are based upon the responses received on this form. **Affirmative answers will be verified.** Documentation of activities and programs must accompany this entry and will be considered in judging. Sufficient information **MUST** be provided in order to allow the judges to evaluate your entry properly. No photo albums or videos allowed. Entries are limited to 50 pages (double-sides sheets count as two pages) excluding newsletters, yearbook, and copy of Treasurer's Report. Use an Activities Report with photos to document all meetings and activities. **Societies should complete and return this form with required attachments covering the period March 1, 2025 to February 1, 2026.**

### **GOLD MERIT AWARD**

All questions must be answered "Yes"

### **BLUE MERIT AWARD**

Questions A, B, and C must be answered "Yes" All but one of the remaining questions must be answered "Yes"

### **RED MERIT AWARD**

Questions A,B, and C must be answered "Yes" All but two of the remaining questions must be answered "Yes"

### **HONORABLE MENTION**

Sections A and F must be answered "Yes"

### **Certificate of Participation**

All entries will receive a certificate of participation

Deadline: This report with all attachments must be emailed or postmarked on or before **February 1, 2026**. State and Senior State Chairmen addresses and email addresses are listed in the State Directory.

Mail to: **State Merit Award Chairmen**  
Sarah and Phelan VanNederynen

and **Senior State Merit Award Chairman**  
Rae Lyn Bland

Name of Society \_\_\_\_\_

A. **PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS** – ALL questions must be answered "Yes" Provide Details on separate sheet(s)

Did your society:

1. **Attach a list** of all C.A.R. events held by your society. \_\_\_\_\_

**Provide details on separate page(s), Tip –Maintain records throughout the year** including dates, events, description of activities, and number of participants - members, prospective members, seniors, and others. Include at least one photo, preferably a group photo of all members attending, for each event.

2. Hold at least **six** local society business meetings (virtual or in person) following C.A.R. ritual? These should be included in your Activities Report. May count virtual state conference or National Convention as one of your meetings.

3. Have at least one program on the state theme "**Hooves of Freedom**"? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Recognize someone that serves in your community through C.A.R. C.A.R.E.S. (Come And Recognize Everyone Serving). Make sure to submit a photo and narrative of who and why you honored them. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Present a program or have a project on at least six of these state committees from the 2025-2026 State Program Packet? Submit a photo or some proof from the program/project. \_\_\_\_\_

|                                    |                             |                                  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ____ American Heritage             | ____ Conservation           | ____ Mountain Schools            |
| ____ American History              | ____ Government Studies     | ____ Patriotic Education Program |
| ____ Indigenous History            | ____ Kids Helping Kids      | ____ Public Relations            |
| ____ C.A.R./DAR/DAR/S.R. Relations | ____ Leadership Development | ____ Supporting Our Troops       |
| ____ C.A.R. Magazine & Newsletter  | ____ Membership             | ____ Veterans                    |

6. Invite a state officer or national officer, other than members of your society to attend a meeting? Include a copy of the invitation. \_\_\_\_\_

B. **MEMBERSHIP** Both parts must be answered "Yes"

1. Local societies with 11 or more families must submit dues for at least 90% of their member families along with Senior Society President's fee by January 1, 2026. Local societies with 10 families or less must submit dues for all but one family, plus the Senior Society President fee by January 1, 2026. Include the number of families and the number of families paid by the deadline.

Total number of members \_\_\_\_\_ Number of families \_\_\_\_\_ Number of families paid \_\_\_\_\_

2. Did your society have at least two new members accepted OR have a net gain? \_\_\_\_\_

List names and national numbers of new members on a separate sheet. Transfers in or out, aged out, and pending members do not count for or against net gain.

Member Totals as of 3/1/2025 \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Transfers in \_\_\_\_\_ Dropped \_\_\_\_\_

Aged out \_\_\_\_\_ as of 2/28/2026 \_\_\_\_\_ Resigned \_\_\_\_\_ Transfers out \_\_\_\_\_ Pending \_\_\_\_\_

*A list of new members can be found on eC.A.R.*

- Log in to nscar.org
- Scroll over eC.A.R. icon on the right side of the window.
- From the drop-down menu, click on "Membership Reports"
- Choose "New Members from the gray drop-down menu
- Set "Date Admitted On or After" to March 1, 2025
- Click green "Find" button

*Member totals can be found on eC.A.R.*

- Log in to nscar.org
- Scroll over eC.A.R. icon on the right side of the window
- From the drop-down menu, click on "Society Information"
- Choose "Society Profile Search (National Merit Numbers)" from the gray drop-down menu
- Type society name in the next box next to "Society Name Contains"
- Click green "Find" button
- Click on blue society name to view full information
- NOTE: Double check these numbers against your own records, as differences may occur.

### C. **C.A.R. MAGAZINE**

1. Did at least 75% of your society's members families receive the *C.A.R. Magazine*? Include subscriptions, National and Life Promoters, and seniors who receive the magazine in the families. What percent of your society's member families received the *C.A.R. Magazine*? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Did your society submit at least one article to the *C.A.R. Magazine*? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Did your society have a magazine minute at two meetings, reading an article from the *C.A.R. Magazine*? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What percent of your society's member families received the *C.A.R. Magazine*? Be sure to include a copy of your Treasurer's Report as submitted to National with your dues. The Treasurer's Report is available on eC.A.R. under Membership Reports. \_\_\_\_\_

D. **LIFE MEMBERSHIP** One part must be answered "Yes". **ATTACH LIST**

1. Did your society obtain one new member as a Life Member or did two current members become Life Members (two years minimum each)? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Did life membership make up at least 10% of your current membership? \_\_\_\_\_

E. **SOCIETY NEWSLETTERS** Submit a copy of each newsletter with this entry.

Did your society fulfill all the requirements of the C.A.R. Magazine and Newsletter Contest? \_\_\_\_\_

F. **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Did your society:

1. Promote the State Project, "**Hooves of Freedom**" to your parent DAR, SAR, and S.R. Chapters. Invite them to attend your meetings and events or visit one of their chapter meetings to bring greetings and tell them about the state and national projects. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Use [www.nscar.org](http://www.nscar.org), local society website and/or other social media websites to promote C.A.R.? Be sure to follow the "Social Media Policy," which can be found at [nscar.org](http://nscar.org) >Resources >Bylaws, Handbook, and Policies. Include details and/or screenshots. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Participate in community events and attempt to publicize this participation? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Has your society made plans for, and promoted the C.A.R. Day of Service on or around April 5 of each year? \_\_\_\_\_

G. **CONTESTS**

Did your society participate in at least SIX of the state contests following directions in the **2025-2026 Hooves of Freedom** State Program Packet? Enter the State President's Project and at least five (5) committees. Include contests which are judged according to C.A.R. State records. Include a copy of your contest entry form with your Merit entry, but please do NOT include all the proof documents submitted for each individual contest.

|                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ____ State President (required)      | ____ Kids Helping Kids           |
| ____ American Heritage               | ____ Leadership Development      |
| ____ American History                | ____ Membership                  |
| ____ Indigenous History              | ____ Mountain Schools            |
| ____ C.A.R./DAR Relations            | ____ Patriotic Education Program |
| ____ C.A.R./SAR/S.R. Relations       | ____ Public Relations            |
| ____ C.A.R. Magazine and Newsletters | ____ Supporting our Troops       |
| ____ Conservation                    | ____ Veterans                    |
| ____ Government Studies              |                                  |

H. **MOUNTAIN AND AMERICAN INDIAN SCHOOLS** Send donations directly to the schools.

Did your society donate to at least one mountain or American Indian school? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School

Clothing (lbs) gifts and other aid

Money

|       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

I. **DONATIONS** All donations must be received at C.A.R. Headquarters on or before 2/1/2026.

1. Did your society make a donation to at least ten of the following (including **Star Supporter** donations)??

|                                   |                                |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| \$____ Archival Preservation Fund | \$____ Mountain Schools Fund   | \$____ Operating Fund             |
| \$____ Candidate Endowment Fund   | \$____ Museum Fund             | \$____ Pouch Legacy Fund          |
| \$____ Equipment Fund             | \$____ National Endowment Fund | \$____ Utz Member Activities Fund |

|                           |                                    |                      |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| \$____ Library Fund       | \$____ National Program (required) | \$____ Veterans Fund |
| \$____ Life Promoter Fund | \$____ National Project            | \$____ Voyager Fund  |
| \$____ Magazine Fund      | \$____ Niebell Endowment Fund      |                      |

Include a copy of the form OR a copy of the Society Donations report, which can be found on eC.A.R., with your Merit entry. All donations will be verified.

- Log in to [www.nscar.org](http://www.nscar.org)
- Scroll over eC.A.R. icon on the right side of the window.
- From the drop-down menu, click on "Society Annual Reports"
- Choose "Society Donations" from the drop-down menu next to "Select a query"
- Set dates for "Transaction Date Between" to March 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026.
- Click on the arrow next to your society name to open the full report to view your donations.
- Click on "Export" to the right about Society name to view options for exporting/downloading the report and choose "Word or Excel".

2. Did your society receive credit for at least \$100 donations for any combination of the following? **Attach list.**

|                                          |                                                  |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| \$____ National Promoters (\$25 each)    | \$____ Life Promoter (\$100)                     |
| \$____ Endowment Fund Pin (\$100)        | \$____ Magazine Fund Pin (\$100)                 |
| \$____ Mountain Schools Pins (\$25 each) | \$____ Voyager Fund Pins (\$50 each)             |
| \$____ Library Fund Pin (\$100)          | \$____ Museum Major Benefactor (\$1,000)         |
| \$____ Apple Slice Pins (\$50 each)      | {Red Apple Pin and Plaque}                       |
| {Museum Fund and The Children's Room}    | \$____ Niebell Fund Pins (\$50 each)             |
| \$____ Star Supporter (\$100)            | \$____ 125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pin (\$125) |

*Instructions for downloading Society Donations report.*

- Log in to [www.nscar.org](http://www.nscar.org)
- Scroll over eC.A.R. icon on the right side of the window.
- From the drop-down menu, click on "Society Annual Reports"
- Choose "Pin Donations" from the drop-down menu next to "Select a Query"
- Click on "Export" to the right above Society name to view options for exporting/downloading the report and choose "Word or Excel"

### ***Society Information and Signatures:***

Please include all the information requested in this section. The Senior State Chairman will use this information to acknowledge receipt of your entry. It may also be used to contact you should a question arise during the judging process. Handwritten information should be printed legibly. Please remember that all questions regarding the State Merit Award should be directed to the Senior State Merit Award Chairman. Contact information is listed on this form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Society President's Name (printed) and Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Senior Society President's Name (printed) and Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip+4®Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip+4®Code

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E-mail address and/or telephone number

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E-mail address and/or telephone number