

So, You Want to Join a Lineage Society – What Next?

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What are lineage societies?

Lineage societies and first family programs were established to honor sets of people that are significant in the history of our country and the individual state and territories as our country grew.

Many of the first societies were based on military service. After the centennial celebration in 1876, more people were eager to prove their patriotism and societies such as the National Daughters of the American Revolution and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants were formed.

Today there are over 300 of these types of societies ready for you to explore and join if you qualify.

Largest societies

Society	Website	Eligibility	Costs
Mayflower Society	https://themayflowersociety.org/ Founded in 1897 Silver Books available for reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18 years old• Proof of lineal descent from one of the passengers on Mayflower in 1620	Varies
Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR)	https://www.dar.org/national-society/genealogy Founded in 1890	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18 years old• Female• Any race, religion, or ethnicity• Prove biological lineage to Patriot	\$75 app fee \$80-100 annual dues

Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)	https://sarpatriots.sar.org/ Founded in 1889	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male • 18 years old • Any race, religion, or ethnicity • Prove biological lineage to Patriot 	\$100 per application Dues vary
Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.)	https://www.nscar.org/Default.aspx Founded in 1895	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 21 • Instill patriotism & service in youth 	\$15 per Application \$2/year dues
Colonial Dames	https://nscda.org/ Founded in 1891	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women of bloodline descent • Service before 5 Jul 1776 	Not listed
Huguenot Society of America	https://www.huguenotsocietyofamerica.org/ Founded in 1883	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 years old • Anyone who descends from a Qualified Huguenot Ancestor 	\$150 per application Dues vary from \$50-\$125

There are also certificate programs that are run by state or local historical societies where an individual can honor an early Pioneer settler to a certain location. The application process is very similar to the larger lineage societies however there is no further involvement once approved other than having your ancestor on their records.

First Family or Certificate Programs

State/City	Website	Eligibility	Costs
First Families of MISSOURI	https://mosga.org/cpage.php?pt=9 Run by the Missouri State Genealogical Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TERRITORIAL-- Ancestors proven to have resided in Missouri on or before statehood, 10 Aug 1821 	\$20 per application

	Several categories including - -Territorial, Pioneer, War of 1812, and Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIONEER--Ancestors proven to have resided in Missouri between and including 11 Aug 1821 and 31 Dec 1860 	
First Families of OHIO	https://www.ogs.org/about/lineage/ffo/ Managed by the Ohio Genealogical Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of OGS • Direct descendant of someone who settled Ohio territory before the end of 1820 	\$40 per application
First Families of Western PENNSYLVANIA	https://wpgs.org/first-families-of-western-pennsylvania/ Run by the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of WPGS • Direct descendant of someone who lived in the 26 western counties of PA • Must have lived there prior to 31 Dec 1810 	\$40 per application \$10 per supplemental
KANSAS Forgotten Settlers	Kansas Forgotten Settlers Offers 3 certificates— Territorial, Pioneer, and Early Settler Managed by the Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial - ancestor who lived in Kansas prior to 29 Jan 1861 • Pioneer- ancestor who lived in Kansas between 29 Jan 1861 and 31 Dec 1880 • Early Settler - ancestor who lived in Kansas between 1 Jan 1881 and 31 Dec 1900 	\$13 per application

General Guidelines for Application Process

STEP 1 – Create a family tree at least 6 generations on paper or in software program

STEP 2 – Gather copies of vital documents (birth and death certificates, marriage records, census records, baptisms, wills, bible records)

STEP 3 – Complete application form following guidelines

STEP 4 – Redline and cite documents to assist the reviewer

STEP 5 – Scan copy of EVERYTHING for your records

STEP 6 – Enclose payment and mail to address provided (some offer online submissions and digital payment)

STEP 7 – Share your acceptance with other family and friends after approval

Additional Resources

A website that lists over 300 hereditary organizations:

<https://www.hereditary.us/directory-alphabetical>

Cyndi's List – a comprehensive list of lineage societies:

<https://www.cyndislist.com/societies/lineage/military/>

The FamilySearch wiki that lists valuable information:

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United States Military Veterans and Lineage Society Records](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Military_Veterans_and_Lineage_Society_Records)