

TENNESSEE SOCIETY

Daughters of the Revolution of 1776

LIBERTY COURT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION GUIDE

Thank you for your interest in the Liberty Court of the Tennessee Society Daughters of the Revolution of 1776. The Liberty Court provides girls under the age of eighteen an opportunity to honor their Revolutionary War Patriot ancestors while developing an appreciation for American history, patriotism, service, leadership, and the heritage and principles of the Society.

Lineage applications can look intimidating at first. This guide walks the adult completing the application through the process step by step, explains what belongs in the reference boxes, identifies the portions that should be left blank, and outlines the supporting material needed for review.

The child is the applicant. Because Liberty Court applicants are minors, the application, affidavit, and attestation are completed and signed on her behalf by an authorized adult as indicated on the application.

PLEASE ASK FOR HELP.

You do not need to be a professional genealogist to complete a Liberty Court application. If you are missing information, have conflicting records, or are unsure what belongs in a field, please contact the Tennessee Society for assistance.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- The applicant's full legal name, date of birth, and current contact information.
- The name and contact information of the adult completing the application on her behalf.
- The name of the Revolutionary War Patriot through whom she is applying.
- Birth, marriage, and death information for each generation connecting the applicant to her Patriot.
- Documentation supporting each parent-to-child connection in her lineage.
- Documentation establishing her Patriot ancestor's qualifying Revolutionary War service.
- Copies of previously approved lineage-society applications or record copies, if applicable.
- A copy of the applicant's unamended, certified birth certificate.

IF THE APPLICANT'S LINEAGE HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY VERIFIED

If the applicant's lineage has previously been established through an approved application or record copy from another recognized lineage society, a copy may be included as supporting documentation. An approved application through the applicant's parent, grandparent, or other relative may also be helpful when it documents the same direct ancestral line.

Previously approved lineage-society records are valuable supporting documentation, but every Liberty Court application submitted to the Tennessee Society is independently reviewed and must meet the Society's genealogical requirements. Supporting proof documents must be submitted so that the Tennessee Society Registrar can examine the evidence upon which the lineage and qualifying service are based.

Please submit only records and documentation that you are authorized to provide.

PAGE 1: LIBERTY COURT APPLICANT INFORMATION

Complete the section titled Application for Liberty Court Membership of and provide the applicant's full legal name, date of birth, mailing address, email address, telephone number, school/grade if applicable, and the name of her Patriot ancestor in the Descendant of field.

Complete the adult contact information requested on the application, including the name of the adult completing the application and that person's relationship to the applicant.

Do not select a Liberty Court division. The Tennessee Society will determine the applicant's appropriate division based upon her age.

- Blossom Belles: birth through age 10.
- Liberty Belles: ages 11 through 13.
- Debutante Belles: ages 14 through 17.

Leave State Society Number, GSSR Number, recommendation to the Board of Managers, Secretary and Registrar approval information, Board election information, and Society signatures blank for Society use.

PAGE 2: PATRIOT ANCESTOR

Page 2 identifies the Revolutionary War Patriot upon whose service the applicant's eligibility is based. Complete the requested information for the Patriot, including name, birth information, residence during service, death information, and qualifying Revolutionary War service.

For military service, provide as much detail as is known, including rank, company, regiment, state, commanding officers, dates of service, and military actions during the Patriot's period of service. The form identifies qualifying service between April 19, 1775 and April 19, 1783.

In Proof of Service, cite the records or authorities supporting that service as specifically as possible, including titles, volumes, pages, record numbers, files, or certified copies where applicable.

PAGE 3: ADULT DECLARATION AND SOCIETY REVIEW

Read the declaration carefully. The adult completing the application on behalf of the applicant should provide their printed name, relationship to the applicant, date the application, and sign where indicated.

The proposer and seconder fields may be completed during Tennessee Society review. If the applicant does not yet have a proposer or seconder, leave those areas blank. The Tennessee Society will assist with completion of these fields during the application review process.

The Application Review, Verifying Genealogist, Admissions Committee, and committee signature areas are for Society use and should be left blank.

The initial Liberty Court application establishes eligibility through one qualifying Patriot. Additional Patriot ancestors may later be submitted on separate Supplemental Applications.

PAGES 4-7: THE APPLICANT'S DIRECT LINEAGE

These pages establish the direct bloodline connecting the applicant to her Patriot ancestor. Begin with the applicant and work backward one generation at a time. Do not skip generations.

- Generation 1: The Liberty Court applicant.
- Generation 2: Her parents.
- Generation 3 and beyond: Continue backward through each parent-to-child connection until reaching the Patriot ancestor named on Page 2.
- Include names, birth dates and places, death dates and places, and marriage dates and locations when known.

If an exact date or place has not been established, do not guess. Provide what can be documented and ask for assistance if needed.

WHAT BELONGS IN THE REFERENCE BOXES?

The Reference boxes identify the evidence supporting the genealogical facts entered for that generation. The goal is to document the parent-to-child connection from one generation to the next.

- Birth and death certificates.
- Marriage records.
- Bible records.
- Probate records and wills.

- Deeds.
- Church and cemetery records.
- Census records.
- Military or pension records.
- Previously verified lineage-society records.
- Other reliable genealogical evidence.

Not every generation will require the same kind of documentation. If a record supports more than one fact, identify it clearly enough for the reviewing genealogist to understand what it proves.

PAGE 7: PATRIOT GENERATION AND AFFIDAVIT

Identify the generation in which the Patriot named on Page 2 appears. Be certain that this is the same individual whose qualifying Revolutionary War service is described earlier in the application.

The affidavit affirms, to the best of the deponent's knowledge and belief, the accuracy of the applicant's lineage, the Patriot's honorable record, and the representations stated in the affidavit.

Notarization is required.

The adult making the affidavit on behalf of the applicant must provide their printed name and relationship to the applicant and sign the affidavit in the presence of a notary.

Do not sign the affidavit before appearing before the notary.

PAGE 8: ADDITIONAL FACTS

Page 8 is optional. It may be used for information concerning the applicant's life, family history, ancestry, schools, activities, honors, patriotic or community service, siblings, family traditions, or other details that may be valuable to Society historians or to the applicant's posterity.

PAGES 9-10: ADDENDUM

Use the Addendum whenever additional space is needed for longer source citations, additional generations, Patriot service details, explanations of conflicting information, or other material necessary to understand or document the applicant's lineage.

For citations of proof, clearly identify the generation and individual the citation supports.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Submit supporting evidence with the application and arrange it in genealogical order whenever possible, beginning with the applicant and working backward toward the Patriot. Labeling documents by generation can make review much easier.

The Registrar must be able to examine the proof documents supporting the lineage and qualifying service.

Citations alone do not replace submission of the underlying evidence used to establish the applicant's eligibility.

Please submit copies rather than irreplaceable original records.

A copy of the Liberty Court applicant's unamended, certified birth certificate must be submitted.

Supporting proof documents are used for genealogical review and are not retained by the Tennessee Society following completion of the review process. The approved application becomes part of the Society's permanent genealogical record.

PAGE 11: LIBERTY COURT APPLICANT ATTESTATION

Complete the Liberty Court Applicant Attestation included at the end of the application. The attestation is completed by an adult authorized to submit the application on behalf of the child. It addresses the applicant's eligibility, the truthfulness and completeness of the application and supporting materials, the Society's authority to request additional documentation or clarification, the consequences of material misrepresentation or

materially defective evidence, and the adult's authorization and consent for the child's participation in Liberty Court.

Complete all requested information, including the applicant's full legal name, the adult's printed name, relationship to the applicant, date, and signature.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

One completed Liberty Court application, together with the required supporting documentation, is sufficient.

Completed applications and supporting documentation may be submitted electronically to:
applications@tndor1776.org

Applications submitted by mail should be sent to:

Tennessee Society Daughters of the Revolution of 1776
216 Mingo Way
Loudon, TN 37774

Please retain a complete copy of the application and supporting documentation for your own records.

LIBERTY COURT APPLICATION AND INITIAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Liberty Court application and membership fee is a one-time fee based upon the applicant's age and Liberty Court division at the time of application:

- Blossom Belles, birth through age 10: \$35
- Liberty Belles, ages 11 through 13: \$65
- Debutante Belles, ages 14 through 17: \$125

The applicant's Liberty Court division will be determined by the Tennessee Society based upon her age. Upon attaining the age for the succeeding division, a Liberty Court member will advance naturally to that division without being required to submit additional proof of lineage.

FINAL CHECKLIST

- Completed the applicant's information on Page 1.
- Provided the adult contact information requested on Page 1.
- Identified the Patriot ancestor through whom the applicant is applying.
- Completed the Patriot information and qualifying service on Page 2.
- Provided references and proof supporting the Patriot's service.
- Read and signed the adult declaration on Page 3.
- Completed every generation of the applicant's direct lineage from the applicant to her Patriot.
- Provided references and supporting evidence for each generation.
- Identified the generation in which the Patriot appears.
- Signed the Page 7 affidavit in the presence of a notary and had it notarized.
- Used the Addendum pages when additional space was needed.
- Completed and signed the Liberty Court Applicant Attestation.
- Included supporting genealogical documentation and applicable previously approved lineage-society records.
- Included a copy of the applicant's unamended, certified birth certificate.
- Kept a copy of the completed application and supporting documentation for your own records.