JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

In recognition of the fact that the interest in ancestry and the Society's purposes can begin at any age, and as a means of building membership, provision was made in the Society's Constitution for a Junior Membership category. Each State Society has the right to determine their own procedures for this membership, or to decline to offer it if they so choose.

As far as the General Society is concerned, however, the following language in the ***CONSTITUTION*, Section XI**, makes provision for the acceptance of Junior members:

> *Any male person above the age of eighteen years, of good character, and a descendant of one* …[full description of criteria for qualifying ancestor is given at this point]… *shall be eligible to membership in the Society.*
>
> *Any male person under the age of eligibility for full membership but otherwise qualified shall nevertheless be eligible for junior membership in the Society.*

The individual State Societies <u>shall</u> determine how they handle Junior memberships, the rights and privileges accorded to them, applicable fees, etc. Here are examples of how some have handled the matter:

Sons of the Revolution in the State of California
---from By-Laws, As Amended through January 1994.
Article II – Membership [only applicable sections are shown]
Section 1. The membership of the Society consists of Annual, Junior, Life and Emeritus Members.
Section 1. B. Junior Members are those individuals of good moral character who would otherwise qualify as Annual Members, but who have not yet attained the age of eighteen (18) years. Dues for Junior Membership will be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time. Junior Members enjoy all the privileges of Annual Members except that they may not vote nor hold Office.

New York State Society:
---from "Rules of the Board of Managers" of the Society, as amended 18 Dec. 1972
Junior List

The names of minor sons of members, and of other minors, who will become eligible for membership upon attaining majority, and who shall be approved by the Board Of Managers, shall be enrolled upon a list to be known as the Junior List of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, and such list shall be suitably maintained by the Secretary of the Society, provided, however, that such minors shall be proposed and seconded and shall pass through the same procedure by the Membership Committee as in the case of applicants for membership.

The annual dues of Junior Members shall be $5.00 per year. The payment at one time of $500.00 shall henceforth exempt the Junior Member from the payment of annual dues in the Society.

Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution
---from Bylaws of the Society, as amended through 31 December 1988.
Section VII – Junior Membership.

Any male person who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years may, through any member of the Society in good standing, apply for junior membership in the Society. The

application shall be accompanied by payment to the Treasurer of the Society of such amount as, at the time of application, shall be deemed by the Board of Managers to be sufficient, if placed at interest and compounded annually, to produce on the person's eighteenth (18th) birthday the lump sum payment required for life membership. When the person attains the age of eighteen (18), he shall become a life member of the Society. If said person dies before attaining the age of eighteen (18), the moneys held by the Treasurer of this Society in his behalf together with the interest thereon accumulated shall be retained by the Society. Every application for membership filed under this Section must comply with all the requirements as set forth in Section III of these Bylaws.

General / Special Considerations

- Some state societies set 21 as the age for matriculation from Junior to Senior membership. This appears to be in line with the older version of the General Society Constitution, from when the category was first created. It was later changed to 18 years and most state societies have gradually revised their governing documents to be in accord with this.

- In some states, youth who qualify may choose to join the Children of the American Revolution instead of becoming Junior members of Sons of the Revolution. Generally, those who have qualified for C.A.R. membership are automatically accepted into senior membership in most state societies once they reach the appropriate age.

- Some State Societies use the Short Form Application for Junior members who join based upon the membership of a current Senior member who is a near enough blood relative. Not all State Societies accept the Short Form Application, however. The Short Form is an official, approved application form available from the General Society, but its use is left up the individual State Societies.

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Here is how it works today in GSSR:

Upon reaching the age of 18, the State Society sends the Junior members' application to the Headquarters with the appropriate application fee, the member is then issued a General Society # and becomes a member of the General Society