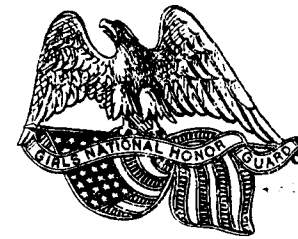


**THE**  
**GIRLS' NATIONAL HONOR GUARD**  
INCORPORATED

**Its Plan and Purpose  
together with Extracts  
from Pledge and  
C o n s t i t u t i o n**



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34 W. 28TH STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

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## THE GIRLS' NATIONAL HONOR GUARD, INC.

### FOREWORD

When this Organization was first started, individual Guards had not been considered a part of the plans. During the first year it was hoped that five hundred members would be recruited, each member being registered at the National Headquarters ready to respond to any call of local or national disaster. It was later decided to establish in each State a Manager appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Officers. The duty of this Officer was to receive the local reports of State members of their progress in individual preparedness, the State Manager in turn reporting to Headquarters. The rush of recruits was almost unbelievable. So rapidly did the Guard grow that Organization and Incorporation became an absolute necessity.

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### How to Organize

An Honor Guard should consist of not less than seven members.

No persons may organize a Guard without permission from National Headquarters or their respective State Managers.

No girl may start a Guard without giving evidence of a thorough knowledge of the Constitution, Pledge and workings of the Girls' National Honor Guard.

A State Manager is appointed by the President of the Girls' National Honor Guard, but such an appointment may be nullified by a three-fourths vote of the entire State Guard.

Local Guard Leaders are appointed by the State Managers or elected by the individual Guard members, but these appointments must be sanctioned by the State Managers or National President.

When the members wish to organize a local Guard, they must first secure a copy of the Constitution and Pledge, call a meeting of all girls and young married women under thirty interested in being of service to their country. A Leader should be elected, dues paid in to leader, and orders for pins taken. Lists should be taken of the way in which the girls wish to prepare. The order for Constitutions and Pledges should be sent into National Headquarters promptly and as soon as the Constitutions and pledges have been sent to the Leader a special meeting should be called and every girl should receive one of each, signing her full name in accordance with the rules of the Guard in the presence of her Officer. In addition each girl should sign her full name and address on the pledge slips which are sent with pledges.

These slips must without fail be sent in to the National Headquarters. This is to safeguard girls from breaking their pledges to the Guard.

In forming classes for First Aid work, social service nursing, swimming, riding, telegraphy, farming, etc., all instruction should be given voluntary and without charge to members. Instructors should be chosen with care, and with due consideration of their ability for giving examinations. In almost every town there are doctors, district nurses, expert mechanics, Western Union offices, etc. With few exceptions, all instruction will be given free of charge in appreciation of the patriotic cause. No member of the Girls' National Honor Guard receives a salary from that organization. The work is carried on through love and loyalty to America, the annual dues financing the National Honor Guard's expenses. A few classes a week should prove sufficient when taking a course.

The duration of a course, or just what it contains is left to the decision of the instructor, the leader of each Guard overseeing the work as to efficiency, etc. Cooperation with the American Red Cross is urged, as a diploma from the Government is of great service. But girls proving themselves efficient in the Girls' National Honor Guard and signing certificate with the signatures of two witnesses (which witnesses must not be in any way related to the girl signing), receive a Certificate of

Merit from the Headquarters of the Girls' National Honor Guard, proving that she is efficient in one or several stated ways of service should the occasion arise. Any girl completing an entire course, or proving herself efficient in six ways of preparedness (which can be selected from a larger list sent from headquarters), will receive a handsome diploma qualifying her for active service in the Guard.

Girls will not be required to leave home unless they are willing. The Honor Guard members are expected to respond instantly and cheerfully in times of local or National disaster and distress.

The principal line of emergency work is contained in a form, drawn up at the National Headquarters, and sent to the instructor in the form of an examination.

#### **Regulations and Finance**

At least one benefit a year should be given to keep the local treasury sufficiently replete for local expenses such as paper, stamps, etc. All printing and press notices, recruiting booths and banners should be donated.

Money raised in a certain State for needs and expenditures in that State shall not be spent or used outside of said State without a unanimous vote by the members of the State Honor Guard.

A vote for the National Officers of the Girls' National Honor Guard shall be taken annually.

The State Manager of each State is considered an official member according to the regulation of The Constitution, and is therefore expected to vote for the National Officers, representing her State with unbiased opinion.

The State Managers are expected to use their own initiative to a great extent.

The Constitution and Pledges are National. The By-laws are made by the State Guards as separate units, being first approved and passed by the Executive Officers.

Each State Manager may have as many assistants as she requires.

The Local Guard leaders are known as local chairmen. They are elected by their individual guard members and appointed by the National President or their State Manager.

In some States there may not as yet be a State Manager, and local Guard Leaders should then report direct to the National Headquarters.

The State Manager is responsible for her own assistants.

The National Headquarters takes no responsibility as to the funds raised by individual Guards unless the

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Treasurer of said Guard has been personally appointed by the Executive Officers.

The State Manager is responsible for the activities of her Guard. She should show no partiality to members nor be governed by politics.

Each State Manager is required to have an assistant capable of undertaking her work should she be ill or find it necessary to resign.

No State Guard should be governed by Local Boards of any kind. It is absolutely unnecessary to have local Boards of Directors. The National Organization is advised by the Governor of each State and a National Board of Advisors. This saves a great amount of confusion and what one might term red tape.

The National Board of Advisors are men of the highest standing, representing Organizations of National recognition, the United States' Army and Navy, and authorities on international questions.

Each State is given remarkable freedom for individual work, and if well endorsed should find it unnecessary to be locally governed. Far too many organizations are bound, figuratively, hand and foot by Boards of Advisors and Directors, well-meaning people who hamper their growth and activities at every turn.

The instructors of classes who are volunteering their services have the authority to advise and lead their classes

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of instruction as they think best, provided it meets with the approval of the State Manager. But management of the Guard other than instruction is strictly in the hands of the State manager and local Guard leaders.

No one has the authority to *order* a State Manager to any activity save through the National President. Advice may be given by local backers or the Executive of a State, but the Manager is required to follow no advice unless she feels it wise, providing she receives no orders from the National Headquarters.

A girl who has filed her certificate with the National Headquarters certifying she knows at least one thing well, is not compelled to attend meetings, but she must report to the Guard when her address is changed, or in times of disaster. She is, of course, at liberty to attend all meetings of the Guard if she so desires.

On the 12th of every month, all girls are expected to report to their respective leaders, or National Headquarters, as to their personal activities in any form of service during the month. If they have had no opportunity for service, they should so state. This is of great assistance in compiling the semi-annual and annual reports.

At the first intimation of national or local disaster all members of the Guard should report promptly to their Guard leaders or direct to Headquarters, stating if

ready for active service, if willing to leave State, and whether expenses can be met personally.

No girl is forced to leave her State.

No girl is forced to attend meetings after thoroughly preparing. Any girl may teach herself efficient preparedness in one way, providing she has reliable witnesses sign her certificate. This certificate is a form that must be filled out by each individual before she can receive her Diploma or Certificate of Merit.

Loyalty among Guard members is indispensable.

Local disputes arising among Guards not being amicably settled should receive ultimate decision by the State Manager.

Reports of all disputes and their settlement should be sent into National Headquarters.

No State Manager or Local Chairman should adopt any new plans or undertake any new phases of work without securing the approval of the President.

Reports of all Guards should be sent into National Headquarters twice a month until all courses in preparedness are completed. Once a month will be sufficient after the completion of this work for the State Managers to keep in touch with their Headquarters. It would be well for the State Managers to run their re-

ports from the fifteenth of the month to the fifteenth of the following month, so that reports from Headquarters to the Board of Advisors and State Executives may be sent promptly on the first of each month.

State Guards wishing to organize camps will communicate with Headquarters. Any girl wishing to attend one of the National Honor Guard camps must pay her own expenses to and from camp. Her expenses while in camp will be very small. All instruction will be given free.

There are two uniforms adopted by the Girls' National Honor Guard. No girl may wear these uniforms unless she is a member of the organization and is on active duty. It is not compulsory to wear uniforms, unless orders to that effect have been issued by the State Manager or National Officers. Special rates will be made for girls buying their uniforms through the organization. Officers have the privilege of wearing their uniforms when they wish.

For any information not covered in this booklet or for points that are not entirely clear to you, write the National Secretary.

#### **Dues**

Each State Manager shall pay One Dollar a year; each member twenty-five cents a year.

The cost of the Organization pin is One Dollar, the

price being lowered to seventy-five cents until January 1, 1917, when it resumes its former price.

No girl is required to buy a pin, but most of the girls wish to wear this emblem of service to their Country.

**Questions asked by those interested in the Honor Guard**

Q. When once a member how long may one remain such?

A. For life, providing the pledge and duties of membership have been faithfully observed.

Q. Are donations received?

A. They are appreciated but no especial appeal has yet been made for them.

Q. If a girl leaves America may she still remain a member?

A. Yes, providing she does not become naturalized in any foreign country.

Q. Has the Honor Guard a call or song?

A. Yes, it has a call which has not yet been printed.

Q. May any girl write in to the President on personal matters or will the letters be opened by others?

A. Every letter sent to the President marked personal is opened and read personally by her. All girls have the privilege of writing any one of their National Officers at any time.

Q. How are you supported?

A. See article under heading finance.

Q. What do you do when you are in debt?

A. We are never in debt (see finance).

Q. How are the members notified when disaster comes?

A. State Managers are telegraphed, they in turn communicate with local Guards, individual members notified from Headquarters.

Q. What are the colors of the Girls' National Honor Guard?

A. Red, white and blue.

Q. Is the Girls' National Honor Guard for the Democrats or Republicans?

A. It is for the President of the United States and the Government, regardless of politics.

Q. May a young married woman who has no time to study, as she is a miner's wife with three little children, become a member of the Honor Guard, as she knows how to cook well and sew?

A. Certainly, any young American woman knowing at least one thing well may join the Honor Guard.

Q. Why may not older women belong to the Guard?

A. This organization was created for the girls of America. Ten years from now older women will belong to the Guard, the girls of to-day will be those



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women but they will be women with the Honor Guard ideals. The Guard, its constitution, pledge, and organization have been the thoughts and workings of young girls. An organization founded by an American girl, organized by young girls, governed by young girls, and successful through girls.

Q. Do you think you are going to succeed without having older women direct and govern your actions?

A. We have succeeded and found only the advice of our National advisers necessary.

**Extracts from Constitution**

ARTICLE 2.

The Girls' National Honor Guard shall be organized for the purpose of creating a spirit of patriotism and duty among the girls of America.

ARTICLE 3.

The duties of the Girls' National Honor Guard shall be to inculcate the spirit of unity and *learning to do one thing well*, which shall prove of helpfulness and value both in durations of peace as well as times of war. Hence it shall be the duty of each girl of the Girls' National Honor Guard to maintain the honor of the country; the

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principles of the government of The United States, and the respect and honor of its flag.

ARTICLE 4.

Any young woman between the ages of fourteen and thirty years, with a knowledge of the working of her government, and a recognition of the needs of her country and an appreciation of the sacredness of her obligations, is eligible for admission. Any young woman who has once affiliated herself with this Movement may remain as such while she maintains the principles of the Institution and is amenable to its rules and regulations.

ARTICLE 12.

It shall be distinctly understood that any girl whilst having full freedom to express her views respecting any policy, action or conduct on the part of those holding Executive Office in the United States, shall yet respect the position of the same and accord that position the sustained respect and deference due it. The same shall be in effect concerning any position in the Girls' National Honor Guard.

**Extracts from Pledge of Membership**

1. I do hereby solemnly covenant on my word of honor to faithfully and earnestly comply with the principles and

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regulations of The Constitution and By-laws of the Girls' National Honor Guard. To uphold our National honor from criticism, the American Flag from desecration, and the Government of the United States and those who represent it from personal disrespect.

2. I solemnly pledge loyalty and good fellowship toward all members of the Girls' National Honor Guard regardless of their creed or station, and I will faithfully stand by each member, giving whatever aid and encouragement within my power in times of need.

**Guards Organizing for 1917**

Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, California, Florida and West Virginia.