

# KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



## HANDBOOK

**[kansasalr.com](http://kansasalr.com)**

**As approved by the Department Executive Committee February 2, 2013**

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## **Prayer for Members of the Armed Forces**

O God Almighty, the Creator and Ruler of the Universe, we ask that You will strengthen and protect the members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America. In the day of battle may they be courageous and strong, resourceful and capable, resolute and victorious. In the time of peace may they serve with dignity and honor, as effective emissaries of good will for this Nation. May their devotion and loyalty to You and to their homeland inspire them in moments of challenge, and comfort them in tribulation and long separation from loved ones. And finally, we ask that they may return safely to serve You and our Country in the days and years to come. Amen.

## **INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE**

The Kansas American Legion Riders is a program sponsored by The American Legion Department of Kansas. Its purpose is to participate in and promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion Department of Kansas including but not limited to the programs of The American Legion. The Kansas American Legion Riders shall be known as the Kansas Chapter and local Chapters sponsored by an American Legion Post shall be known by the name and number of its sponsoring Post.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 9, Sub-section A of the American Legion Department of Kansas Bylaws the Department Commander will appoint members and nominate the Chairman to the Department American Legion Riders Committee as necessary, subject to approval of the Department Executive Committee.

### **As a motorcycle association the Kansas American Legion Riders shall:**

- I.** Promote motorcycle safety while providing a social atmosphere for members of The American Legion family who share common interests in serving veterans, their communities and motorcycling.
- II.** Promote, support and participate in the programs and ceremonies of The American Legion including calling for a full accounting of all prisoners of war and those missing in action; and honoring our nation's fallen soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, and to support their families.
- III.** As ambassadors of The American Legion family, Riders will always represent the organization in a manner in keeping with the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion; *"For God and Country , we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of American; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to Prosperity the principles of justice. Freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."*

## **KANSAS CHAPTERS**

A complete list of current sponsoring Posts and chartered American Legion Rider Chapters can be found at [kansasalr.com](http://kansasalr.com).

## **MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

**As per Article II, Sections a, b, and c members of the Department of Kansas American Legion Riders Bylaws members must:**

- a.** First be a member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion whose annual dues are current in their respective organization or program, and whose application for membership in the American Legion Riders has been approved by the sponsoring Post.
- b.** Must own and be licensed to operate a motorcycle of at least 250cc or be the spouse of a licensed owner who is a current member of The American Legion Riders.
- c.** Membership in The American Legion Riders may be retained and continued if after one year:
  - i** A member becomes disabled to an extent which prevents them from physically operating a motorcycle safely; or be the surviving spouse of a member who was the owner and operator as defined in Section B above, or the spouse of a disabled member who meets the requirements in this Sub-section;
  - ii** Is approved for continued membership by a majority vote of the Chapter's general membership.

## **CHAIN OF COMMAND**

**The Chain of Command for all members of the Kansas American Legion Riders is:** Member to their ALR Chapter Director, to the Commander of the sponsoring Post, to the Area Director, to the Department ALR Committee, to the Department Adjutant, to the Department Commander and the Department Executive Committee.

## **DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND AREA DIRECTORS**

Current members of the Department Committee and the Area Directors may be found at **[kansasalr.com](http://kansasalr.com)**.

## **AMERICAN LEGION, SONS, AND AUXILIARY EMBLEMS**

The reproduction of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion emblems, trademarks, service marks, trade names and service names **require permission** of the National Adjutant. Forms for obtaining permission for their reproduction are available from Department Headquarters. All requests must be signed by the sponsoring Post Commander or Adjutant before submittal to the Department Adjutant for his signature and forwarding to the National Adjutant. Questions regarding the reproduction and usage of the name(s) or emblem(s) of The American Legion including the American Legion Rider program should be directed to the Department Adjutant.

## **OFFICIAL KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS BACK PATCH**

### **As per Article V of the Department of Kansas American Legion Riders Bylaws:**

The “Official Kansas American Legion Rider Back Patch” is to be a single three line patch containing the National American Legion Rider emblem ordered through Department Headquarters and purchased from National Emblem Sales. Department Headquarters will provide Posts a form which can be downloaded from **kansasalr.com** that must be completed and returned for the Department Adjutant’s signature and forwarding to National Emblem Sales. The 8.5 by 12 inch three line oval back patch may have a black or gold border as provided by National Emblem Sales; add-on borders or other alterations to back patches is prohibited. Line 1 shall display the city/town of the sponsoring Post; Line two shall include the word Post followed by the sponsoring Post’s number; Line three shall be Kansas Chapter.

- a.** Only official American Legion Rider Back Patches may be worn on a vest or jacket at Department sponsored American Legion Rider events.
- b.** No rockers are allowed to be worn with the “Official Kansas American Legion Rider Back Patch”.
- c.** Previously purchased one line back patches with a rocker above the National American Legion Rider back patch are “Grandfathered” and may be worn by those individual members who are the original owners of the back patch and who were American Legion Rider members prior to September 15, 2007. Those members may continue to wear their one line back patch with the sponsoring Post rocker above the American Legion Rider emblem until their original back patch or vest is worn out or the member transfers to another ALR Chapter. Under no circumstances may a Grandfathered back patch and rocker be transferred to another vest or article of clothing or banner.
- d.** The proper display of all American Legion family related patches on articles of clothing including vests, banners, motorcycles, and other vehicles shall be prescribed in the Kansas American Legion Riders Handbook as an addendum to these Bylaws.
  - i.** The American Legion and its programs are to project a positive image at all times therefore under no circumstances may any obscene or offensive patch, pin, or other device which conveys a negative message be displayed on an American Legion Riders vest or other article of clothing, or motorcycle when the emblem of The American Legion or any of its programs is also displayed. The final authority of what constitutes obscene, offensive or negative message shall be the Department ALR Chairman. Appeals may be made to the Department Executive Committee provided the offending item is removed until such time as the Executive Committee renders its decision.
  - ii.** No other motorcycle club, group, or organization name or emblem may be displayed on the same article of clothing with The American Legion Riders name or emblem.
    - 1.** Exception: Motorcycle brand or model owner association patches are permitted.

***See illustrations on page 8 for proper patch placement.***

## **VESTS AND JACKET FRONTS**

### **As per Article VI of the Department of Kansas American Legion Riders Bylaws:**

Vests and jackets displaying the American Legion Rider Back Patch must display the following patches.

- a.** A United States Flag patch on the upper left breast area of the garment.
  - i.** Nothing may be displayed above the US Flag.
- b.** The American Legion Family affiliation patch the member belongs (American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion) on the left breast of the garment below the United States Flag.
  - i.** Members may include small rockers with their affiliation patch designating their individual Post, Unit, or Squadron number and city.

**See illustrations on page 8 for proper patch placement.**

## **FLAG DISPLAY ORDER OF PRECEDENCE FOR**

### **The order of precedence for flags is National, State, Military, and Other.**

According to the Department of Defense Directive 1005.8, the prescribed precedence of military flags is determined by service birthdays. The appropriate order is given below:

Army Birthday --14 June 1775

Marine Corps Birthday – 10 November 1775

Navy Birthday – 13 Oct 1775-Abolished Feb 1781-Reinstated 7 Sep 1781

Air Force Birthday – 18 September 1947

\*Coast Guard Birthday – 4 August 1790

\*According to the Institute of Heraldry and in keeping with the order in which troops are listed in Department of Defense Directive 1005.8, during peacetime the Coast Guard falls under the Department of Homeland Security. During wartime, if the Coast Guard comes under the control of the Department of Defense, then the Coast Guard flag would come before the Air Force flag in order of precedence.

Organization flags such as The American Legion and POW/MIA are displayed following the military flags.

## **FLAGS IN A PARADE OR PROCESSION**

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line. It is recommended to fly only one 3X5 flag on a motorcycle so as to not disrespect any other flags in the procession. It is also a safety concern. Following is the order in which the flags are flown:

- United States Flag
- Kansas Flag
- Army Flag
- Marine Flag
- Navy Flag
- Air Force Flag
- Coast Guard Flag
- POW/MIA flag
- Any Service Unit flags
- Veterans Organization Flags
- All other flags
- 

## **WHY I'M AN AMERICAN LEGION RIDER?**

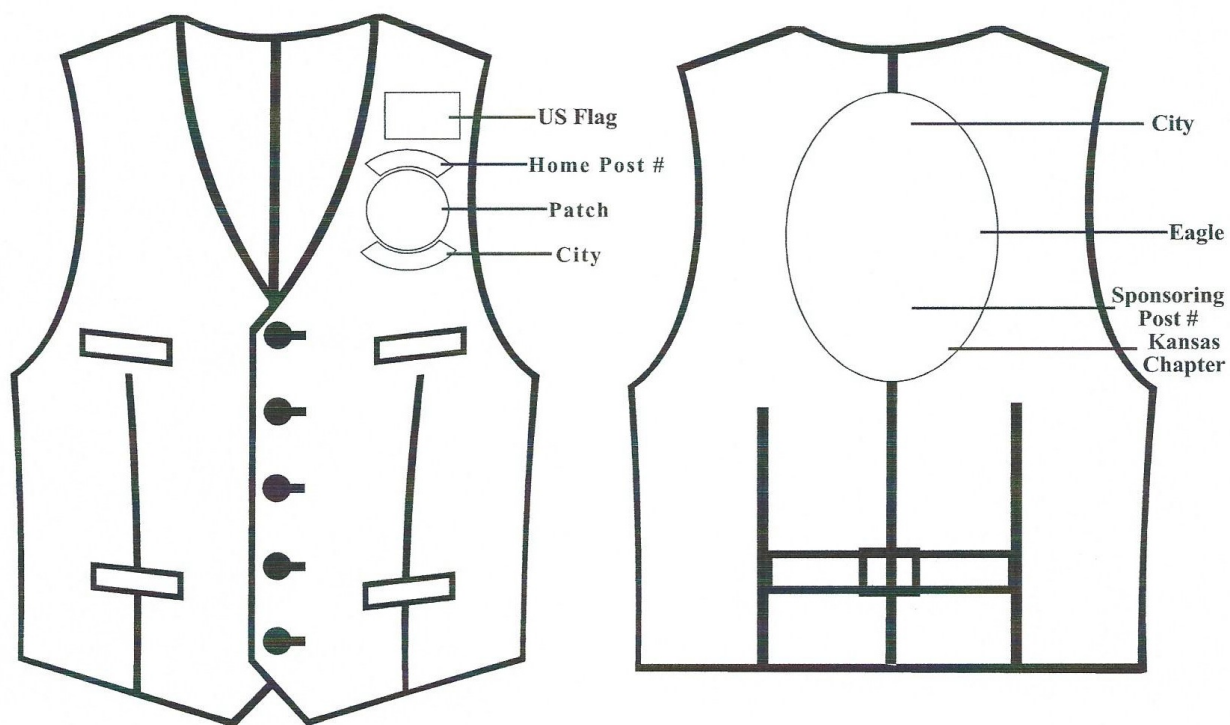
While searching for more ways to entice more members into being more active, I decided to list why I had become An American Legion Rider. I had already been involved with the American Legion as both a Legion and S.A.L member in charity golf and bowling tournaments. I rarely ever walked into my Post; now I walk into several Posts and I'm known on site.

I was already a member of the Patriot Guard, but I saw something while attending missions and homecomings that drew me into it. I saw something I had not seen since my active duty service most particularly during my time in Viet Nam. The camaraderie from that time period I saw between Legion Riders. What was most amazing, it was not only shared between Viet Nam Vets, it was shared between everyone in the Riders, SAL and Auxiliary alike. I had never seen this ever before and I was drawn to it and wanted to be a part of it.

Being An American Legion Rider is very special to me and everyday becomes more so. It has shown me programs within the Legion I didn't have a clue existed. Those programs must continue and being first and foremost a Legionnaire it will take my generation and the following generations to do it. Another thing the Legion Riders has been able to do, is to bridge the generation gap and bring several generations together to work together. We have something very special in the Kansas American Legion Riders, other States haven't seen as yet. I hope that it will continue to blossom.

Don "Bulldog" Behrens

## CORRECT PATCH LOCATION



The above illustration shows the required arrangement for the standard “three line” back patch required of all Kansas ALR members on a vest or jacket at Department sponsored American Legion Rider events. The only rockers permitted are the small Home Post and City displayed on the left front above and below the members’ affiliation patch. Additional optional patches are permitted provided they conform to Article V, Section D, sub-sections i and ii of the Kansas American Legion Bylaws. See page 5 of this Handbook.

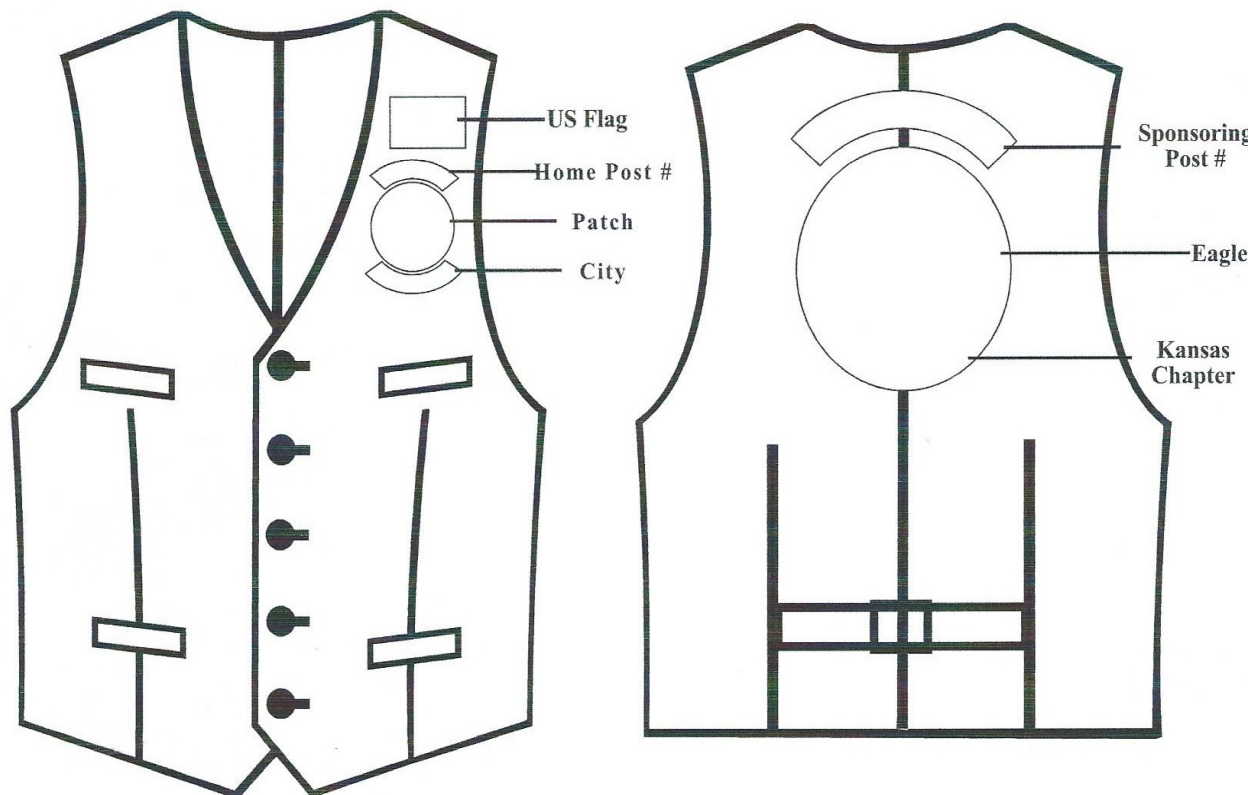


## CORRECT PATCH LOCATION

### Grandfathered Back Patch

Only those who were ALR members prior to September 15, 2007 are permitted to wear their original grandfathered back patch arrangement on their original vest. The grandfathered back patch may not be transferred to another vest.

If a member transfers to another chapter or breaks their continuous years of ALR membership, that member must retire their grandfathered back patch and display the new three line patch.








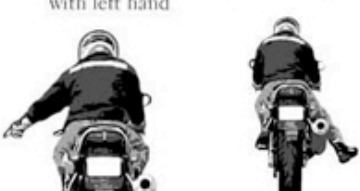








**The only rockers permitted are the sponsoring Post on the back and the small Home Post and City displayed on the left front above and below the members' affiliation patch. Additional optional patches are permitted provided they conform to Article V, Section D, sub-sections i and ii of the Kansas American Legion Bylaws. See page 5 of this Handbook.**

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## HAND SIGNALS

<p><b>Stop</b> - arm extended straight down, palm facing back</p> 	<p><b>Single File</b> - arm and index finger extended straight up</p> 	<p><b>Turn Signal On</b> - open and close hand with fingers and thumb extended</p> 
<p><b>Slow Down</b> - arm extended straight out, palm facing down</p> 	<p><b>Double File</b> - arm with index and middle finger extended straight up</p> 	<p><b>Fuel</b> - arm out to side pointing to tank with finger extended</p> 
<p><b>Speed Up</b> - arm extended straight out, palm facing up</p> 	<p><b>Hazard in Roadway</b> - on the right, point with right foot; on the left, point with left hand</p> 	<p><b>Refreshment Stop</b> - fingers closed, thumb to mouth</p> 
<p><b>You Lead/Come</b> - arm extended upward 45 degrees, palm forward pointing with index finger, swing in arc from back to front</p> 	<p><b>Highbeam</b> - tap on top of helmet with open palm down</p> 	<p><b>Comfort Stop</b> - forearm extended, fist clenched with short up and down motion</p> 
<p><b>Follow Me</b> - arm extended straight up from shoulder, palm forward</p> 	<p><b>Pull Off</b> - arm positioned as for right turn, forearm swung toward shoulder</p> 	

**Reprinted courtesy of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation**

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## **LOCAL CHAPTER INFORMATION**

