

Our theme for 2023 is "The Palmetto State". We'll have the specific eligibility rules posted later, but the general idea is anything associated with the State of South Carolina. There is a whole lot of latitude here:

**Military:** South Carolina has a long history of their association with the Armed Forces of the United States, including active duty, reserve, and National Guard units.

Military personalities include Elliott White Springs (USAS; WWI), Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton (USAF; Vietnam/USAF Thunderbirds), Jones E. Bolt (USAAF/USAF; WWII ETO, Korea, Vietnam, USAF Thunderbirds), John F. Bolt (USN; Korean Conflict), Johnson Hagood (US Army; WWI), James P. Hamilton (USAF; Vietnam War), Joe Hooper (US Army, Medal of Honor; Vietnam), Rudolf Anderson, Jr. (USAF; Vietnam War, Cold War), Dolph Overton (USAF; Korean Conflict), George "Jet" Jernigan III (USAF, SCANG; Iraq), and Horace E. "Sally" Crouch (USAAF; Doolittle Raider).

**Civil Aviation:** Major carriers, past and present, that serve South Carolina include Delta Air Lines, American Airlines, Piedmont Airlines, Southern Airlines, Air South, Eastern Airlines, Independence Air, United Airlines, and USAirways.

**Space:** South Carolina is home to astronauts Charles Duke (Apollo 16), Ron McNair (STS-41-B, STS-51-L), Charles Bolden (STS-61-C, STS-31, STS-45, and STS-60), Frank L. Culbertson (STS-38, STS-51, ISS Expedition 3), Catherine "Cady" Coleman (STS-73, STS-93, ISS Expedition 26/27) and Randolph Bresnik (STS-159, ISS Expedition 52/53).

**Automotive:** Cale Yarborough and Bud Moore both ran NASCAR shops in the upstate. Darlington Raceway was NASCAR's first "superspeedway", and still hosts races today--winning at Darlington is on every driver's "To-Do" list.

Personalities include Cotton Owens, James Hylton, Buck Baker, Buddy Baker, Sam Ard, Cale Yarborough, David Pearson, Jeremy Clements, NASCAR Crew Chief Louis Clements, and NASCAR team owner Bud Moore.

Also, let us not forget that BMW manufactures vehicles in Greenville and Mercedes-Benz builds Sprinter vans in Charleston.