

EVENT GUIDELINES

Purpose

The primary purpose of the reenactment is to recreate, on a small scale, the events of a typical Civil War campaign for the education and entertainment of the participants and the event's visitors. We should attempt to portray these events as accurately as possible, consistent with the available space, personnel, historic information and other resources. Compromises in authenticity may be made to ensure the preservation of the health and safety of those involved. We recognize that no reenactment unit can achieve 100% authenticity in their interpretation, but we believe that striving for ever-higher standards will be an achievable goal of this event. A unit's choice to participate reflects their acceptance of the standards of the event.

Standards

Completing and returning the registration form indicates your intention to comply with the standards for this event. All units should expect to have an authenticity camp inspection on Saturday. Failure to comply with the standards set may result in expulsion from the event.

Military Organization

All details of military organization will be handled by the military command structure. All military reenactors will serve in battalions, squadrons, or batteries organized by the event host. No operation of independent units or individuals will be accepted.

Camps (General)

Camps will be classified by impression: **Military, Military Dependents, Living History, Modern and Summer Fair.**

Camp furniture should be of period style and be kept to a minimum. Blankets, quilts and other bedding should be of period nature, in general use by the common person in mid-war. Modern conveniences will be kept out of the sight of other participants and the general public. Visible food containers and utensils should be of the proper type common to general period usage.

Please restrict lighting devices to candles and period appropriate oil lamps. Smoking during public hours is limited to pipes, cigars, and period cigarettes.

Vehicles will be permitted to enter camps to load and unload. As a suggestion, you may wish to limit camping equipment to what you can carry. Vehicles must be out of camp and parked in designated parking areas after equipment is unloaded. Vehicles should not be in camp when the event is open to the public. Paths have been cut for vehicle traffic and loading/unloading areas are designated. **Do not drive on maintained lawns.**

For the safety of your pets, we ask that you not bring them to the event.

★ **Military Camp** - Camping areas will be provided for traditional company/battalion streets. Campaign

style camping is encouraged. Fire pits should be restricted to company/battery kitchen areas and battalion headquarters areas. **No civilians.**

- ★ **Military Dependents Camp** – For military personnel who wish to camp authentically with their friends and family, this camp will be available. It will be next to, but separate from the military camp.
- ★ **Living History Camp** – This camp is **exclusively** for the portrayal of local citizens or those displaced by military campaign.
- ★ **Modern Camp** - Everything else. A **limited number** of hook-ups for electricity are available. Please indicate your needs on the registration form.
- ★ **Summer Fair** – This is a juried part of the event. Please read the Summer Fair guidelines carefully to find out more about how to participate.

Age Limit / Proficiency Requirements

For participation on the field or carrying of a weapon (in all service branches) participants must be: 1. At least 14 years of age; and 2. Be proficient in the School of the Soldier and the School of the Company, as determined by the respective Overall Commander. The only exception is for musicians, who must be at least 12 years old. Participants serving as active members of artillery crews, i.e., those serving positions 1 through 4, must be at least 18 years of age.

All participants under the age of 18 must be under the supervision of a parent/legal guardian, or other responsible adult who will sign a consent form acknowledging said responsibility upon registration. In the absence of said consent form, the affected unit commander must accept this responsibility.

Uniforms & Equipage

Uniforms and equipage will be appropriate mid-war attire. At a minimum, uniforms and accouterments will be constructed of materials and of designs accurate for the period being portrayed.

Weaponry (General)

For your safety and the safety of visitors and guests to the event, please note the following: All firearms must be in working order. All small arms must have a functioning half-cock and a hammer screw. Small arms inspections will be conducted each day by the respective military organizations. This includes revolvers. Military inspectors and commanders shall have the obligation to exclude weapons from the field if such are found to be operationally unsafe or inappropriate for the scenario.

- ★ **Infantry** - Military issue two- or three-band black powder muskets. This does NOT include Hawken/ Trade or Zouave rifles. Ramrods will be carried on the battlefield but never drawn. NCO's are responsible for insuring that the troops under their command do not draw rammers. Fouled pieces will be passed to a file closer who will be allowed to draw rammer; from the file closer position, in order to clear the piece.
- ★ **Cavalry** - Carbines are encouraged (see cavalry rules).
- ★ **Revolvers** - Officers, NCO's and Cavalry are the ONLY participants permitted to carry revolvers as appropriate during the mid-war period. No WunderWads or similar hard materials shall be used in revolvers. Cream of Wheat or cornstarch is encouraged.
- ★ **Edged Weapons** - Knives carried by participants will be of proper design and safely secured in an appropriate sheath. At NO TIME will knives be drawn on the field. Bayonets should be carried by enlisted men but ONLY fixed by order of a commanding officer. At all other times they shall be secured in a proper scabbard. The scabbard must have a metal tip.
- ★ **Cartridges** - Loose powder may NOT be carried on the field or kept in the bivouac areas. All small arms

cartridges should be pre-rolled off-site, and should be properly constructed. Penny wrappers, heavy bond paper, plastic, staples, or tapes may not be used in construction of small arms cartridges. Percussion caps and cartridges for ready use **MUST** be carried in authentic cap boxes and cartridge pouches. Additional suitably wrapped ammunition may be carried in field packs or haversacks.

★ **Firing** - Discharge of weapons is only allowed in specified areas.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL SMALL ARMS PROJECTILES OF ANY
KIND BE ALLOWED ON SITE

Fires

Fire pits should be placed in designated mess areas to ensure a sufficient distance for tents, and must be sufficiently deep to prevent flames from spreading. Fires must be well banked and watched. All fire pits must be thoroughly doused and filled in smoothly with the sod replaced at the event's conclusion. Ample firewood will be provided.

Forest preserve rules PROHIBIT the cutting of standing timber.

Tents and Shelters

Tentage of proper period design will be acceptable. Please indicate types and sizes, other than shelter halves, of tents on the registration form to facilitate camp area planning.

Anachronisms

Modern containers, items or foods are to be kept well out of sight at all times. Television sets, portable radios, cassette or CD players, Boom-boxes and propane powered lanterns are prohibited.

It has been observed that cell phones/pagers have been conspicuous at recent events. If you must maintain your electronic link to the modern day, please do so in a discrete manner. Use of cell phones should be restricted to tents. At the least, walk away from the immediate bivouac areas.

Personal Conduct

Illegal substances will not be tolerated in accordance with state and local laws and regulations. Offenders will be turned over to local law enforcement officials for arrest and prosecution. Participants attempting to engage in field activities under the influence of ANY intoxicant **will be expelled** from the event.

CAVALRY

Health Records

A current EIA (Coggins) test is required for all horses, and a current health certificate is required for all out-of-state horses. Current Flu, Rhino, and Tetanus vaccinations are highly recommended, as well. **Paperwork will be checked upon participant registration.** A limited amount of bounty is available to help defer costs of obtaining paperwork. Register early!

Conduct

As safety is of prime importance, unruly or uncontrollable horses, or those whose riders exhibit poor horsemanship or cruelty to animals **WILL** be removed from the battlefield. All scheduled drills are mandatory for field participation.

Tack

All tack should be authentic and appropriate to the mid-war impression. **NO MODERN SADDLERY.** Tack will be inspected for safety.

Miscellaneous

Hay will be provided for all horses. Water troughs will be situated near all cavalry encampments. Trailers will have

designated parking sites.

Uniforms and Accouterments

Appropriate mid-war kepis, bummers, or slouch hats are expected. Appropriate brogans or boots will be worn, with standard leather accouterments. Cavalry patterns are preferred but infantry patterns are acceptable.

Weapons

Cavalry carbines are preferred, with 2- and 3-band rifle muskets accepted (if you can document its use in the Civil War, however, you can use it.). One revolver per trooper is preferred, but two will be allowed. Dismounted cavalry NCO's and troopers WILL NOT carry sabers on the field.

ARTILLERY

Gun Crews

A gun crew shall consist of a minimum of four men, including the gunner. Positions one through four must be at least 18 years of age. All artillerists must be properly trained in safe and correct artillery procedures. The Chief of the Piece shall be responsible for the discipline of his gun crew, the safe operation of his ordnance, and the carrying out of orders from his battery officers. The Battery Commander (NOT gun commander) will be responsible to the Chief of Artillery for movement of the piece during and between battles.

Limbers with proper ammunition chests are highly recommended. At a minimum, each gun must have a lockable ammunition chest for the storage of rounds.

Safety and Inspection

The Chief of Artillery will be responsible for inspection of all ordnance prior to the event to insure that safety regulations are followed. Tubes and carriages will be inspected and determined usable on an individual basis.

The Chief of Artillery will be responsible for inspection and approval of each detachment's drill and safety procedures.

No member of a guns crew shall be allowed to serve his ordnance while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, illegal or otherwise. Violations of this rule will result in expulsion of the entire crew from the event.

There shall be no firing of the cannon in camp. All firing other than battle scripted firing shall take place on an established firing line and only with the approval of the Chief of Artillery.

A 50 Yard minimum safe firing distance from any forces shall be maintained AT ALL TIMES.

All powder shall be kept in the chest at all times, save when an individual round is being transported to the piece for firing.

When not in battle or being inspected, all ammunition chests shall be locked.

Mounted Artillery

The aforementioned guidelines for Mounted Cavalry and Artillery pieces and gun crews shall apply to mounted artillery. In addition, when in movement mounted artillery shall not travel at a rate greater than a trot.