

AUTHENTICITY AND SAFETY STANDARDS for the Civil War Encampment at Washburn Norlands Living History Center

Adapted from the 2005 Authenticity Standards of the Third Maine Regiment Volunteer Infantry and the Safety Regulations. Please also see the Mason Dixon Proclamation and the Musket Safety Inspection Procedure posted on www.norlands.org.

AUTHENTICITY GUIDELINES

TENTS

- Wedge or dog tents or shelter halves should be used on company streets in military camps. Wall tents and tent flies will not be allowed on company streets, except for officers. Those wishing to set up wall tents and/or wedge tents with flies must do so in another area, and should contact the event coordinator in advance to insure that there is sufficient room.
- Civilians may camp in adjacent, but separate areas from the military streets. Civilians may camp on military streets but may not be on the streets when the camps are open to the public.
- When camps are open to the public, interiors of tents should present a period appearance. All non-period items should be hidden or disguised.

CAMPS

- No modern (or period) trash should be seen at anytime during the encampment. Wrappers, bottles, containers, etc. should be disposed of immediately after use. No trash of any kind should be put into fire pits.
- Fire pits will always be carefully turned in at the conclusion of the encampment.
- Fire extinguishers will be hidden near the fire pits.
- Modern beverages are allowed in camps, but must be drunk from period cups or dippers. Pouring drinks into the period cups should be done out of sight of the public.
- During public hours, no modern food should be prepared and/or consumed in the camps.
- Camp stools and furniture should be of period design. Canvas stools or period style chairs and tables are acceptable.
- Flash lights are permitted in camps, but should be used only sparingly. Period candle holders and lanterns should be the lighting of choice.

- Children must be supervised at all times and must be dressed in age-appropriate period civilian attire.
- Smoking of any kind is prohibited within 300 feet of any of the buildings at the living history center, including barns and outbuildings. If you must smoke cigarettes, you should do so well outside the living history area. Period tobacco use (cigars, pipes, chewing) is permissible in public if appropriate to your impression.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND IMPRESSIONS

- Participants are expected to be in period attire for the entire duration of the encampment, even during non-public hours, starting at the opening time of the encampment on Saturday morning through the closing on Sunday afternoon.
- Period eyewear (or contact lenses) is required except for during non-public hours.
- No wristwatches, modern makeup, obviously modern footwear or modern jewelry are permitted.
- Military impressions should be aware of the nature of the living history display (late war vs. early war, etc.) and make their best effort to appear correct for the encampment portrayal.
- Infantry should use only period gun cleaning equipment and supplies during public hours.
- Participants should strive to portray actions and attitudes consistent with their impressions during public hours. Military participants should respect military protocols and the chain of command within the context of portraying volunteer soldiers. Civilian members are expected to exhibit behavior and attitudes prevalent in the Victorian era.

SAFETY REGULATIONS: GENERAL

A. All participants must be 16 years of age or older to carry any weapon.

B. Participants between the ages of 11 and 16 may serve as musicians and, where permitted by event sponsors, assist hospital stewards, run messages, etc. **THEY MAY NOT BE COMBATANTS!**

C. Military participants will be expected to adopt a buddy system when going out for tactical and public battles. **NO ONE SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE IN THE FIELD!**

D. All participants should carry drinking water when leaving the camp areas. Military participants are expected to carry full canteens when leaving the camp areas.

SAFETY REGULATIONS: WEAPONS SAFETY

1. Weapons will be inspected for safety by EACH COMPANY COMMANDER AND/OR COMPANY ORDNANCE/SAFETY OFFICER/NCO prior to each firing demonstration or battle scenario.
2. Infantry rifles will be 3 banded percussion Springfields or Enfields ONLY. (Exception: units that carried breechloaders historically.)
3. Sidearm are to be carried by officers only. Units that document the issue of pistols to enlisted personnel may carry such. HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT BE LOADED.
4. NO LIVE AMMUNITION IS PERMITTED ON SITE! Cartridges must be of lightweight paper, in period style. NO penny wrappers, staples, wonder wads, etc. as these become projectiles if loaded!!
5. During battle scenarios cartridge papers will not be loaded and rammers will not be drawn. ONLY the file closer/safety NCO may draw a ramrod to check a firearm on the field.
6. FIREARMS WILL NEVER BE AIMED DIRECTLY AT ANY PERSON OR ANIMAL!
7. Firearms will not be discharged at a range inside 25 yards. Inside 40 yards, ALL FIRINGS WILL BE ELEVATED so as not to endanger any combatant or animal. Use "Rule of Thumb" to establish range.
8. NO gunfire in camps unless on orders of authorized officers.
9. Fouled muskets will be taken 20 paces to the rear of the line of file closers with the unit sergeant/safety NCO to clear.
10. NO sheath knives will be worn or carried into battle.
11. Bayonets will not be fixed except for drill demonstrations or stacking of arms.
12. FIREWORKS, of any type are prohibited.
13. At the conclusion of each firing demonstration and battle scenario, firearms will be primed and discharged on command to insure that no unburned powder remains in firing chambers.
14. No close or hand to hand combat will be included in the battle scenarios.