

U.S. Colored Troops and U.S. Engineer Camp Protocols and Expectations

For our unit to maintain safety, clarity, efficiency, and order, we need to have some mandatory practices in place at events.

1. Those needing **LOANER GEAR** must *arrive* at the campsite, *check in* with the commanding officer, be issued clothing, *and change* into uniform **BEFORE 8:30 AM** on Saturday. It is strongly encouraged that you arrive Friday evening when there is plenty of time to issue clothing items, accoutrements, and muskets in a relaxed manner rather than a mad rush on a Saturday morning. All items borrowed from the commanding officer, or any enlisted man in the regiment, will be listed on the appropriate form and signed by the commanding officer or his designee (acting quartermaster) and then signed by the borrower and lender.
2. **MORNING MUSTER** is at 9 AM on Saturday and all male persons portraying soldiers **MUST** participate, regardless of age. At the morning muster, the acting sergeant and/or commanding officer takes a roll call attendance and submits a **MORNING REPORT** to the commanding officer and turns it in to the Brigade Headquarters adjutant.
3. All male persons (over 16) portraying soldiers **MUST** participate in **MORNING DRILL** at **9 AM**. Armed or unarmed, participating in the battles or not. This is to ensure that we are all proficient in military drill such as facings and marching. The basics. (Unless on the sick list)
4. A **WEAPONS INSPECTION** will take place each morning during morning drill and a *Weapons Inspection Report* will be filled out and signed by the commanding officer and the acting sergeant. Only the muskets passing inspection will be authorized to be used in any battle or skirmish. Cartridge boxes (and cartridges) will also be inspected.
5. All male persons (over 16) portraying soldiers (unless on the sick list) **MUST** participate in the **BATTALION PARADE ASSEMBLY** held typically around **10:30 AM** on Saturday. Those with muskets will bring them, those without, will carry a shovel, axe or pickaxe as engineers. At the end of brigade inspection, only those wanting to, and authorized to do so, may participate in the skirmishes or battles, those not wanting to participate will march back, in good order, to camp.
6. **No one is required to participate in any battle or skirmish.** Everyone is welcome to spend the day just hanging around camp, sitting, visiting and relaxing. We need people portraying soldiers, and civilians, to be in camp all event long to chat with visitors and just sit there and look awesome.
7. For liability reasons, **only those persons 18 or older may participate in skirmishes and battles.** If you are under 18 years old and other reenacting regiments at the event say that it is okay to "fall in" with them and participate in battles/skirmishes, it is not.

8. No one is permitted to participate in any battle or skirmish unless they have passed the required annual **SAFETY TEST**, paid their unit membership **DUES**, signed the event **LIABILITY FORM**, paid registration **FEES**, and met the requirements of items 1-7.
9. The camp must be kept free of trash and **ANACHRONISTIC** (non-1860's) items must NOT be visible (such as Gatorade plastic bottles etc.). Canteens and tin cups are the only acceptable drinking vessels. **No trash**. Trash goes into trash cans located at the event site. The commanding officer should not spend the day picking up other people's trash.
10. During events, any enlisted man wishing to leave camp must first obtain permission from the commanding officer and receive a written **U.S. ARMY PASS** and return to camp before the expiration of the pass.
11. Before leaving the event site, those with loaner gear **MUST return the borrowed items** promptly to the commanding officer or his designee (acting quartermaster) and have the returned item(s) marked as such by the signature of the commanding officer or his designee (acting quartermaster). All items loaned out must be returned in the same condition in which they were loaned out. **The borrower is financially responsible for the loss or damage of borrowed items.**
12. All participating adult **MALE** persons should have at least a **rudimentary knowledge of U.S. Colored Troops** during the American Civil War and, specifically, the service record of the 97th U.S.C.T. Just four or five basic facts is plenty to start with. The public expects the uniformed living historian to have at least a basic knowledge of the soldier he is representing. Google "USCT" if you need, or visit <https://97thusct.weebly.com/>
13. All participating adult **FEMALE** persons should have at least a rudimentary knowledge of either the U.S. Sanitary Commission (USSC), Contraband Camps, and/or Women's Camps. For an overview of the USSC visit <https://www.nps.gov/frla/learn/historyculture/womenswork.htm> Information about contraband camps and the women's camps can be found at <https://97thusct.weebly.com/97th-usct.html> under the titles, *Camp Parapet, April 17, 1863 Incident, Interactive Map, and Starke's Landing.*
14. At events, all participants in camp **MUST maintain POLITE BEHAVIOR**. We are a "family friendly" camp that interacts with the public. Foul language, rudeness, offensive behaviors, and unsafe practices will not be tolerated. Offenders, depending upon the severity of the behavior, may be asked to leave and must depart the event site.
15. Canteens **MUST** have **WATER** in them. No empty canteens.
16. Any unsafe practices **MUST** be **IMMEDIATELY REPORTED** to the commanding officer or, in his absence, the senior NCO or enlisted man.
17. All commands of the commanding officer or the senior Non-commissioned officer must be **OBeyed** promptly.