

43rd Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment

Civilian General Guidelines

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
Psalms 119:105

The 43rd Georgia is a group of ladies and gentlemen who will be presenting an accurate portrayal of rural Southern citizens during the War Between the States Era (1850-1865). **The 43rd is a non-denominational Christian-based, family oriented organization.** Our primary focus is providing a "living" history which allows us to interact with and educate spectators, as well as participate in an occasional immersion event for our own enjoyment and reflection. One of the main goals of the 43rd Georgia events should always be **fun!** However, we will also strive to educate the public as to what life was like during the mid-1800's as they stroll through our camp and endeavor to authentically recreate the experiences of Southern citizens during the period. At the same time, we act as a living memorial to all of those who were affected in any way by the War Between the States.

Directions to events and a basic idea of what is planned for each event will be supplied as soon as we obtain the information. All members are welcome and encouraged to share information by submitting articles for our monthly newsletter or to share with group members. Each member is encouraged to keep in touch with the other members regarding research, reading materials, or just FUN stuff.

Please try to remember at all times, **that YOUR actions and YOUR words not only reflect on yourself, but also on ALL of the other members of the 43rd Georgia, as well as the re-enacting community in general.** At any given time, there will be women and children in our camp (both as members and spectators). Please let your words and actions remain respectful at all times. **Vulgarity will not be tolerated.** We strive to have guidelines that **everyone** can reach, but at the same time are authentic enough to allow us to do a quality living history impression. Many of these suggestions are requested not only by members of the 43rd, but also by the event hosts themselves. **Guidelines will be enforced.**

Women as well as men of this time period had very little time which was not used productively. If they weren't working to provide for their own families they were working to help their neighbors provide for their families. In many cases, the women and men were working to provide some sort of comfort to the troops such as making/mending shirts, knitting socks, making tools, etc. **Please try to look busy when spectators are present.**

Children are never to be left unattended. Encourage and instruct them in the games, etiquette, and activities of the period. **Please be aware of the dangers present at the campsites: fires, weapons, horses and crowds of strangers.**

Remember, your safety and enjoyment of the hobby is very important to all of us.

If you routinely take medications, **PLEASE** take them as needed. If you have allergies please remember, you will be exposed to all sorts of allergens during the weekend. Sunscreen can prevent a nasty sunburn. **However, please keep all such items out of view.**

If you have **ANY health conditions** that we should be aware of **PLEASE** let someone in the camp know!!!! Also, please tell them where your medication is kept and how it is to be administered should you need it.

CAMPSITE GUIDELINES

During “spectator hours” our campsites should look as if one just stepped into the 1850-1865 period. **Any items which came into being after April 1865 should not be visible.** Your camp gear can be as simple or as plentiful and complex as you desire – provided it is correct. Also, **PLEASE** finish dressing before leaving your tent.

At many events, the 43rd Georgia members will be expected to have their own gear and to plan and prepare their own meals unless otherwise notified prior to an event. However, for those events where a **group** meal is planned, the expense, work of preparation as well as clean up **will be shared by all who are participating.** We do not anticipate having a “company cook and bottle-washer”.

Please note – anything brought to an event is subject to be broken, damaged or lost. Please remember this **before** bringing your expensive, irreplaceable genuine articles or antiques from the safety of your home.

Cigarettes were not invented prior to the 1850's. Tobacco would have been partaken of either by chewing, dipping or smoking a pipe or cigar. This goes for men AND women. **If you must smoke cigarettes please do so where the public and fellow participants cannot observe during “spectators hours”.**

Especially during the warmer months, PLEASE be aware of the danger of heat exhaustion and drink plenty of fluids. One gallon per person per day is generally recommended. The quality and proximity of water at some events is questionable, so you might consider bringing your own. Antibiotic baby wipes make clean-ups quick and easy in the privacy of your tent. A basin of water and bar of lye soap are authentic for outdoors.

BE CAREFUL - During the mid-1800's, women routinely died from getting their long skirts caught in the fire while cooking. **PLEASE** use extreme caution and **keep a bucket of water around the campfire AT ALL TIMES** in case of accidents. **Please do not allow children to play near the fire.**

During “spectator hours”, food and drinks must always be in period containers. Period containers might include bottles with stoppers, a patent 1858 Mason jar, drawstring bags, wooden boxes, tins, etc. Plastic bottles, cans, plastic bags, non-period foods such as potato chips, hot dogs, etc. should **NEVER** be in view of spectators. If you have modern items, please keep them properly hidden. It helps if foods and drinks are put into period containers **at home** before being brought to camp. Please **DO NOT** let modern items protrude from underneath your tent or out from their hiding places.

Remember: period foods don't have to be hidden from view. Food items such as nuts, fruit, vegetables, cheese, popcorn, and boiled eggs are excellent choices.

Spectators **DO** look inside tents, baskets, or whatever else is in plain view in your campsite. **It is common courtesy among fellow living historians (and most spectators) that if your tent flap is TIED DOWN, your door is closed. In other words, the inside of your tent is OFF LIMITS. However, this is not written in stone. Be advised.**

MISCELLANEOUS GUIDELINES

Sutlers often sell inauthentic items - just because a sutler sells it, doesn't mean it is "period correct". As you begin your pursuit, you will be eager to acquire the proper clothing and other accessories. **PLEASE** ask a veteran living historian prior to spending your hard earned money for something you are not absolutely sure of as being correct. Make good purchases and add to your wardrobe and camp gear slowly.

Once again, please note – anything brought to an event is subject to be broken, damaged or lost. Please remember this **before** bringing your expensive, irreplaceable genuine articles or antiques from the safety of your home.

Please do not use enamelware. Enamelware is controversial and many event hosts ask that it not be used. Stainless steel should also be avoided.

Dishes: plain white, blue and white, spatterware, spongeware or tin are excellent choices. Although pewter had been surpassed during this period, many households may have still been using the pewter they had. **Tinware:** Tin works really well because it doesn't break and readily lends itself to an outdoor setting. However, many drinks tend to have a foul taste when in a tin cup. Tin was used for all sorts of items such as plates, cups, bowls, trays, coffee pots, tea pots and canisters. Bowls, cups, and spoons made of **wood** work very nicely.

Cookware: Plain iron skillet, a spider oven (with legs) with a rim on the lid to hold coals, a tin coffee pot, bucket or dish pan etc. Tin boilers, baking pans, and saucepans were common. **Muckets** and **canteens** would be used by the military and not likely accessible to civilians.

Crockery: Crockery in the form of cups, tumblers, jugs, bowls, etc. is excellent for use in camp. It should be thick, heavy earthenware or stoneware. Please avoid bright colors, modern patterns, and excessive shine or glaze. Jugs should be rounded at the top and not funnel-shaped. **Please remember - crockery is breakable!**

Chairs: Ladder back chairs, small rockers, a wooden & canvas folding stool or chair, or a small bench would be appropriate for camp. **Beware of chairs sold by sutlers!**

Silverware: Forks generally had 3 tines and often had wooden or bone handles. Forks/spoons/knives did not come in sets as we know today. Also fiddleback silver is appropriate. Spoons carved from wood or horn, are acceptable. Knives were generally wide bladed and sometimes had wooden or bone handles.

Towels: Cotton, woven towels (no terry cloth). Please choose colors as natural as possible.

Storage: Wicker baskets, vine baskets, trunks, wooden boxes, carpet bags, barrels, kegs, drawstring bags, bottles with stoppers, patent 1858 Mason jars etc. are acceptable.

Lighting: A candle lantern or pierced tin lantern will work well and produce an amazing amount of light. Candles should be used with extreme caution, especially around hay, to avoid fires. **Participants MUST observe rules of no open flames when in a historic structure.**

Tents: Any period correct tent. **No grommets and no modern tents.** Shebangs and lean-to's are also acceptable. **PLEASE** finish dressing before leaving your tent.

Miscellaneous: For those sensitive to hay, grass, and other allergens, a ground cloth or painted floor cloth may be used as an allergy barrier to dirt and grass as well as a moisture barrier. You may put two or more together to make a lean-to or shelter if needed. Absolutely **NO** plastic or modern tarps are to be used outside. Bedding should be something appropriate to the period (period blankets, quilts of period pattern and fabric, cotton or wool coverlets, etc.).