

Guidelines for 2023 Living History at Eisenhower NHS

The following are guidelines for conducting living history demonstrations at Eisenhower National Historic Site, including our WWII Weekend Event on September 15-17. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in dismissal from park events. We appreciate your cooperation in presenting safe and enriching living history programming at Eisenhower National Historic Site.

Personal Behavior and Code of Conduct

1. As a living history participant at the Eisenhower National Historic Site you represent the National Park Service as an interpretive volunteer. All participants will sign volunteer agreements with the park. You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional and courteous manner when dealing with the public, park staff, and other living history volunteers. Discriminatory or harassing behavior towards staff, other volunteers, or visitors will not be tolerated.
 - a. As volunteers for the National Park Service, all participants must adhere to the National Park Service Anti-Harassment Policy laid out in Directors Orders #16E. A copy of the order can be found here: https://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DO_16E_2018rev.htm. Anyone found exhibiting harassing behaviors will be asked to leave the event and participation in future events will be restricted.
2. Courtesy to the public is required. Use of colorful language (no matter how authentic) will not be tolerated. The general public includes children. Be sensitive to proper etiquette with different age groups.
3. Living history volunteers are not permitted to sell any items to the public or other living historians while at the historic site. World War II items, including books, must only be sold through our site bookstore. It is National Park Service policy that only NPS authorized vendors may make sales.
4. Use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on National Park Service property. Those in violation will be asked to leave and will not be allowed to participate in future events.
5. Park staff and volunteers will follow current Covid-19 safety guidance and regulations that are in place at the time of the event to ensure a safe environment for staff, volunteers, and visitors alike.

WWII Weekend Registration and Check In

1. Registration for participating groups and individuals will open May 15, 2023, and close Aug 1, 2023. All participating groups must be approved and invited by the NPS and must meet authenticity guidelines and safety requirements.
2. Check in for the event will open at 10 a.m. and close at 9:00 p.m. on Friday, September 15. Check-in will resume at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 16 and conclude at 9:00 a.m. If you cannot check in during these times, contact the park or your group leader in advance.

3. Participants should arrive with a volunteer agreement signed and filled out at check-in. Volunteer forms will be sent out to participants as part of event registration.
4. All participants must have a volunteer agreement signed and filled out prior to the camp opening to the public at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Authenticity Guidelines

1. As interpretive volunteers representing the National Park Service, living history participants are expected to present well researched impressions and displays. Groups are expected to know their material well. Living history participants are expected to interact with the public in an engaging and respectful way.
2. All living history impressions and displays will align with the theme and goals of the event and be coordinated with NPS staff. Participating groups and individuals must apply and be vetted and approved by the NPS to participate in living history events at Eisenhower NHS.
 - a. Wherever possible, displays should link to Eisenhower or Gettysburg to center the interpretive experience with relevance for Eisenhower National Historic Site.
3. Event themes and goals will be laid out by the NPS staff at Eisenhower NHS, in consultation with a living history committee, made up of invited volunteers with a track record of excellent living history demonstrations and displays.
4. For 2023 WWII Weekend, living history impressions and displays will interpret the year 1943. Groups may have displays interpreting the following:
 - a. U.S. Army
 - b. U.S. Marines
 - c. U.S. Navy
 - d. U.S. Army Air Forces
 - e. Commonwealth and Allied troops
 - f. Homefront experience in the U.S.
 - g. Areas of focus within these areas include stateside recruiting and training, preparations for and actions in the ETO and the Pacific, and a variety of Homefront impressions interpreting the impact of the war in the United States.
5. Groups that have acceptable authenticity standards but lack 1943 impressions may still participate in the event, so long as their impressions or displays can interpret storylines relevant to the event's theme.

Weapons Safety

To ensure the safety of participants, visitors, and park staff, the following rules will be followed. Failure to follow these will result in dismissal from the event.

1. All National Park Service historic weapons safety rules in NPS RM 6 will be followed and enforced. Failure to follow these rules will result in dismissal from the event.
2. NPS historic weapons supervisors will inspect all weapons for safety issues and to ensure they are unloaded upon the arrival on-site, and again at the start of each day of the event.
3. Never point your weapon (firearm or edged weapon) at anyone at any time. All weapons will remain unloaded but will be treated as though they are loaded.
4. Participants under the age of 16 may not handle weapons (firearms or edged weapons).
5. All weapons are to remain under physical control of its owner at all times during demonstrations or on display. It is to be handled in a military manner, secured in the volunteer's hands, or slung.
6. Visitors may touch an unloaded weapon so long as the owner maintains physical control of it and it has been cleared and is unloaded.
7. The public is prohibited from handling edged weapons.
 - a. Sharp edged or pointed weapons, such as bayonets, knives, and swords, must be kept sheathed except for demonstration purposes. Even then, they must be kept in a scabbard unless there is at least a seven-foot safety zone between the living historian, other re-enactors, and the audience.
8. When off-duty, the weapon should be secured with the participant in the participant's tent or a central secure place such as a locked vehicle. Weapons may not be left unattended. Never lean any weapon in a vertical position against any object, unless you are using a rifle rack. Rifles with stacking swivels are permitted to be stacked in a military manner. If not stacked, weapons should be stored flat. All weapons (including dummies) used in displays must be located in a central area with a guard posted during hours of public visitation.
9. Do not dry fire weapons.
10. No ammunition of any sort (live or blanks) is allowed on-site at any time. Those found to have ammunition will be asked to lock it in their vehicles or remove it from the site.

WWII Weekend Camp Sites

1. The camp sites will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.
2. Do not begin breaking down camp and leaving before the event concludes on Sunday. Those wishing to break down camp before the event is over must coordinate with the NPS.
3. Due to limited space in camp, when putting up tents please place tents as close as possible to each other. Cross rope tie-down lines to maximize use of available space.
4. All tracks and vehicles that are 2 ½ ton or larger need a ground guide at all times in the encampment.
5. All vehicles need a ground guide with a safety vest and flashlight/chem-light during hours of darkness.
6. Do not place tents, rope ties, tent stakes, or vehicles in roadway lanes.
7. Please keep camp sites free from distracting modern intrusions such as modern coolers and food containers.
8. Trash will be contained in the individual camps in appropriate garbage containers/bags.
 - a. Trash Pick Up Times: Saturday and Sunday – 8:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.
 - b. Please set out garbage bags along Nevins Lane (on the east side of the fence) for quick pick up by NPS Maintenance staff.
9. Quiet hours in camp are between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Vehicles

1. Only pre-approved World War II-era military vehicles will be allowed in the camp and display areas during visitation hours. Camp passes for approved vehicles will be distributed at event check-in. A parking area for modern vehicles will be provided nearby. Any person wishing to break camp during visitation hours will need to walk their gear back to their vehicles or request a historic vehicle to haul their gear to participant parking.
2. All vehicles are to be driven in a safe manner by licensed drivers. No excessive speeds are allowed and posted speed limits must be followed. In camp speed limit is 5 mph. Speed limit on all other roads is 10 mph. Traffic safety rules will be enforced by NPS staff.
3. Vehicle use in the camp should be kept to an absolute minimum during event hours. Unnecessary vehicle traffic jeopardizes the safety of staff, participants, and visitors.
4. Vehicles should only carry the number of passengers they were designed to carry.

5. Please use marked roads and camp roads while driving around the site. Do not drive across lawns, grass areas, and pedestrian bridges.

Fires

1. All cooking must be done on a stove, and all cooking stoves must be attended while in operation. No ground or pit fires are allowed.

Medical Emergency Guidelines

1. **In case of a medical emergency, call 911. Do not wait for a NPS Park Ranger with a radio. NPS staff will hear the emergency dispatch over the radio.**
2. National Park Service staff will be equipped with radios and will be on duty each day from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
3. For emergencies or issues that require immediate assistance, please call 911 or the non-emergency line for Adams County Dispatch: (717) 334-8101.