



Historic Black Powder Weapons Safety and Authenticity Regulations

The Commemoration of the Concord Conflict: Saturday, April 19, 2008 8:00 – 9:45

This event will involve an extensive amount of historic weapons firing demonstrations featuring 18th century small arms. All firing demonstrations will be done according to National Park Service black powder safety regulations, under the direct supervision of certified NPS Black Powder Safety Officers (BPSO's) who will have the final say on the conduct of all historic weapons firing demonstrations.

Before a unit can participate in this event, each unit commander must sign a Historic Weapons Firing Permit (included in this document). The permit must be signed by the unit commander and returned to the event Black Powder Safety Officer by mail or fax two weeks prior to the event. In signing the permit, the unit commander indicates that he/she has read and understands the regulations, has communicated the same to his/her troops and will comply with them fully.

Event Schedule

- **7:00 a.m.** Hartwell and Smith House Ammunition Depots open. *Units taking part in Battle Road and North Bridge must drop off their ammunition (for Battle Road) at this time. NPS will provide rounds for North Bridge event.*
- **7:30 a.m.** Units bound for North Bridge board buses at Lincoln North parking lot.
- **8:00 a.m.** Inspection and ammunition distribution for North Bridge event at Monument St. parking lot.
- **8:30 a.m.** Units deploy for North Bridge scenario
- **9:00 a.m.** North Bridge scenario begins
- **9:30 a.m.** Secure weapons and ammo – re-board busses and return to Hartwell/Smith house area.

Event Parking

Participant parking will be in Sergeant's Field (on the far side of the Old Manse)

Ammunition

- NPS will provide ammunition for this event. **Participants may not bring their own ammunition.**
- Ammunition brought on site by participants must be returned to their vehicle or confiscated.
- Participants under age 16 may not handle powder.

Acceptable Weapon Types

Only reproduction firearms may be used at this event.

Reproduction small arms that will be allowed for this event are:

- Early to mid-18th century flintlock muskets, fusils, or fowling pieces.
- British Long Land Pattern
- British Short Land Pattern
- French Charleville

Reproduction small arms that will **not be allowed** for this event are:

- Pistols
- Blunderbusses
- Rifles
- Percussion-cap weapons
- “Belgian Bombs”

Prohibited weapons brought on site will be returned to the owner’s vehicle.

Weapon Safety and the Public

To ensure the safety of participants and the many thousands of visitors who attend the CCC, a high degree of weapon discipline is expected of each and every participant.

- All weapons will remain under physical control of its owner at all times.
- No weapon is to be left unattended.
- Visitors are not allowed to handle or touch a loaded weapon.
- **DO NOT HAND YOUR WEAPON TO VISITORS.**
- Visitors may touch an unloaded weapon so long as the owner maintains physical control of it.
- Participants under the age of 16 may not handle weapons (firearms or edged weapons).
- **NEVER** point your weapon (firearm or edged weapon) at anyone at anytime.

Small Arms Inspections: 8:00 a.m. Monument St. parking lot

- All small arms used in firing demonstrations will be inspected by a BPSO to ensure serviceability of the weapon, and immediately after every firing demonstration to ensure the weapon is clear.
- Weapons must meet the following standards to pass inspection
 - 1. secured flashguard and hammer stall**
 - 2. no cracks or splits in the stock**
 - 3. furniture and barrel fit securely to stock**
 - 4. no missing stock pins or screws**
 - 5. lock works smoothly**
 - 6. half-cock position works properly**
 - 7. flint is secured by leather or lead**
 - 8. steel and spring are in good condition**
 - 9. barrel free from visible dents or cracks**
 - 10. no excessive rust or corrosion on the barrel, lock and touch hole**
 - 11. no fouling in the barrel or on the lock***

Weapons that fail inspection may not be carried on the field. The owner must return the weapon to his/her vehicle or it will be secured by the NPS and returned at the end of the event.

** A fouled weapon indicates a poorly maintained weapon and an irresponsible owner. Both are undesirable at this event. Make sure your weapon is clean and in good working order before you arrive.*

Firing Procedures

- All firing demonstrations taking place on park property may only be done under the direct supervision of a Certified BPSO. Firing will commence or cease at the discretion of the supervising BPSO.

- Ramrods may not be drawn on the field during firing demonstrations. Loading will be accomplished by pouring the powder down the barrel and securing the paper – as in a reenactment.
- For protection from flash burns, all demonstrators firing black powder firearms will wear natural fiber, long-sleeved outer garments or full uniforms as appropriate to their historical impression.
- Range safety standards will be observed at all times.

Edged Weapons

- Edged weapons may be drawn and brandished in a safe and prudent manner, when the bearer and the weapon are behind a barrier in a secure area out of the reach of visitors, i.e. officers carrying swords during the tactical demonstration, or infantrymen in a bayonet demonstration).
- At no time may participants engage in simulated combat with edged weapons or simulated edged weapons.
- When not behind a barrier, out amongst visitors, swords, knives, bayonets and the like may not be fully drawn. They may be partially drawn enough to expose some of the blade for visual inspection for interpretive purposes, but no visitor may touch the blade.
- Soldiers on sentry duty may fix bayonets but must keep the musket in a vertical position and the bearer must maintain control of the weapon.
- At no time may muskets be fired with the bayonet fixed.

Authenticity, General Protocol

- No anachronisms such as: cameras, cell phones, cigarettes, plastic items, wrist watches, modern jewelry, sleeping bags, coolers, non-period glasses or sunglasses, etc., will be used in sight of any visitor during hours of operation. (Because of the expense of period glasses, modern glasses will be accepted if not too obvious [wire frames only]).
- For safety and authenticity purposes clothing should be of natural fiber such as wool, linen or cotton. **Polyester, nylon, Velcro, fringe or other synthetic fabric presents a safety hazard and may not be worn.**
- Any modern accoutrements such as company pins, logos, nameplates or any other paraphernalia not authentic to the period may not be worn.

Authenticity, Clothing

- **An appropriate sleeved outer garment is required for military impressions (Colonial and British).** Those doing military impressions may not “turn out” in just their waistcoats and shirt sleeves. Companies may not field with matching coats unless portraying the British regular army. *Leather coats and frontier/rifle/hunting shirts (the garment with the cape and the fringe) are not acceptable.*
- **Stockings:** over the knee, wool, cotton or linen, white or colors, held up with leather or cloth tape garters. **Striped stockings or athletic socks are not allowed.**
- **Shoes:** period-style leather shoes with buckles or 2 hole lace up, black or brown (appropriate modern leather shoes may be worn if covered with gaiters)
- **Gaiters:** Optional with period-style shoes. Civilian-style half gaiters preferred to full or half military gaiters. Gaiters must fit properly (meaning tightly)!

