

George Ranch Historical Park

WEAPONS POLICY 2021

The George Ranch Historical Park lays out the following weapon guidelines to ensure a safe and secure environment for re-enactors and visitors. We ask that each participating re-enactor sign this document as acknowledgement that you have read, understand and agree to abide by the following safety regulations. **Each Company will appoint a designated Safety Officer to ensure general and weapons safety.**

Camp Safety:

- Firearms must remain unloaded and secured at all times while in camp.
- No weapons are to be discharged within camp boundaries with the exception of weapons inspection under supervision of the unit safety officer or commanding officer and approved demonstrations in designated safe zones.
- Re-enactors should not allow visitors to handle their weapons without direct supervision. Re-enactors should strive to keep one guiding hand on the weapon at all times if they choose to let a guest hold their weapon for a short period of time. Guests should NEVER be allowed to fire a weapon.
- If the firearm is not in direct possession of a re-enactor it must be safeguarded with measures such as locked in a lock box, under guard in camp or rendered inoperable.
- Firearms will be inspected at the start of the day and must be in a clean, safe and serviceable manner.
- Mounted personnel are not authorized to travel through the camps. If, for some reason, this cannot be avoided, the mounted soldier should dismount and lead his mount until clear of the camp.
- NO black powder weapons of any kind will be carried or fired by any participant less than 16 years of age. Participants 16-18 years old must have parental supervision.

Weapons Safety:

- No live ammunition will be allowed at reenactment sites.
- Black powder is the only acceptable cartridge item and all cartridges will be checked to ensure that other items are not present. The following restrictions apply to ALL cartridges:
 - The amount of powder used in a cartridge may not exceed the prescribed load for that caliber of weapon. (For example: .45-.50 caliber – 70 grains; .54-.62 caliber – 80 grains; .69-.75 caliber – 120 grains, slightly more may be added for flint-lock priming. All cartridges are subject to inspection.
 - Only FFg or FFFg black powder will be used - NO Pyrodex. NOFFFFg (4F) powder will be used except for priming.
 - Cartridges must be made with period construction materials. No penny wrappers, staples, wads, or tape may be used in cartridge construction.
 - All cartridges should be made up prior to the event. In the case of a prolonged event or unexpected firing activities, cartridges may be made at a designated safety area only, not in camp or near exposed flames or visitor's cigarettes. No staples will be used in any cartridge. Nails, vent picks, etc. should be kept out of the cartridge box to avoid accidentally dropping any of these objects into a muzzle.

- Powder will only be carried in the form of cartridges.
- Ramrods are drawn only in camp for weapons inspection and weapon cleaning.
- NO black powder weapons of any kind will be carried or fired by any participant less than 16 years of age. Participants 16-18 years old must have parental supervision. Children under age 13 are not permitted on the field during the reenactments.
- NO non-period weapons.
- NO non-combatant weapons.
- Side arms are to be carried ONLY by officers and cavalry (mounted or dismounted) in civil war reenactments. Different rules may apply for other historical time periods.
- Cartridges will not be carried anywhere on the person except in a hard cartridge box unless they are securely wrapped in tin foil and carried in a secure location.

Battle Safety:

- Unit formations will be held prior to each battle, where weapons, accessories and cartridges will be inspected. Those failing this inspection will not be allowed to carry the failing firearms onto the field.
- A full safety inspection should be held by each unit commander prior to the event.
- Each unit commander is responsible for the conduct of his men (this includes women and children). The commander is responsible to make sure that his personnel and those assigned to him are aware of the safety rules and that they understand and abide by them.
- Bayonets are not to be fixed on the field unless given prior approval by the Site Contact. Scabbards must have appropriate tips.
- NO edged weapon or tomahawk should be carried onto the field without an edge guard or scabbard. Edged weapons are not to be drawn on the field unless given prior approval from the safety officer and the site manager.
- No weapons are to be discharged within 25 yards of the “enemy”; remember to always elevate when firing.
- No tampions taken to the field. Ramrods can be carried but are not to be drawn on the field and used under any circumstance. If ramrods are drawn, you will be asked to give up your weapon.

Horses:

- ALL equestrian issues will fall under the purview of the appropriate Commanders and their Cavalry commander to include Cavalry, Staff, Mounted Artillery and Civilian.
- ALL horses brought to the site are required to have a current Coggins certificate.
- Horses should be trained to gunfire and battle BEFORE THE EVENT. Do not bring untrained horses to the event.
- Horses WILL NOT be ridden or led through the infantry camps, artillery camps, and sutler areas or in spectator areas.
- All horses will be dismounted prior to entering any authorized camp area and led to the designated picket area. With the exception of designated combat areas, absolutely no mounted individual will allow a horse to enter a camp area above the gait of a controlled walk.
- No person under the age of 16 will mount a horse as a combatant or serve in a mounted capacity. Determination of a qualified rider will be made by the respective Cavalry Commander or Site Contact.

- Horses will be ridden on event grounds only by troopers or staff. Spectators, children, and visitors will absolutely not be allowed to mount any horse.
- Period civilians wishing to portray a mounted impression will apply to the appropriate Cavalry Commander who will then determine the qualifications of the rider(s) and will also determine when and where they may ride. Mounted cavalry escort may be required at the discretion of the Cavalry Commander. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Violators will be expelled from the event.
- Stallions will not be permitted on the event site.

Additional Guidelines:

- NO PETS will be allowed at this event under any circumstances.
- All re-enactors must meet accepted standards for authenticity. In case of dispute, all decisions will be made by the respective commanders in coordination with the appropriate GRHP Park Representative.

Please sign below as acknowledgement that you have read and agree to abide by the following policy.

Print Name (as legally signed)

Signature

Printed Guardian Name

Guardian Signature

Date

Company/Regiment

Coggins Number

Date Blood Drawn