



WEAPONS POLICY 2025

The George Ranch 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 site will appoint a designated Safety Officer to ensure general and weapons safety.

- **There will be NO LIVE AMMUNITION at The George Ranch.**
- Firearms must remain unloaded and secured at all times when not in use during re-enactments.
- No weapons of any kind will be carried or fired by any participant less than 18 years of age.
- Firearms and cartridges will be inspected at the start of each battle and must be in a clean, safe and serviceable manner. Those failing this inspection will not be allowed onto the field.
- No weapons are to be discharged within site boundaries without prior approval of the Site Coordinator with the exception of weapons under inspection by unit safety officer or commanding officer and for approved demonstrations in designated safe zones.
- Firearms are to be secured by the reenactors and under no circumstances will allow the public to handle, pick up, or use a firearm or other 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.
- All ammunition not in use will always be placed in a safe and secure area.
- A “T e s t Fire” call will be made by the senior staff member or senior officer on duty when any weapons or pyro techniques will be fired.
- There is a 20-yard rule in effect. If a person you are shooting at is closer that distance, there is a chance of injury.

Texian and Civil War Battle Safety:

- 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 people and must ensure 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 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.

- No tampions taken to the field

Black Powder Safety:

- 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. Ramrods can be carried but are not to be drawn on the field and used under any circumstance.
- NO black powder weapons of any kind will be carried or fired by any participant less than 18 years of age. Children under age 13 are not permitted on the field during the reenactments.
- 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.

World War II Battle Safety:

- Blank ammunition will not be loaded except by prior approval of the Safety Officer/Supervisor and only in the "safe zone" designated by site staff.
- At no time will pistols be loaded or drawn without the Safety Officer or Safety Supervisor's approval.
- When pistols are used, care will be taken to see that there is nobody standing within 20 feet to the side of the cylinder where injury could happen.
- When not on a firing demonstration, all pistols are to be kept in the holster with the flap or tie down in the lock position unless on display.
- Cannon black powder will be kept in a locked and guarded container. There will be no smoking in the area where the black powder is stored or used.
- Empty brass from expended blanks will be retrieved by the commander for disposal after firing demonstrations.

Artillery:

- Artillery is defined as any form of cannon, howitzer, mortar, or other firearm whose original (full-size) bore is greater than 1.5 inches.
- All artillery pieces and units must preregister with the Event Coordinator prior to the event and arrival on site. Artillery pieces must have a minimum crew of three persons to fire. When possible the larger guns should have a crew of six. The need for a larger crew will be determined jointly by the Battery Commander and the Safety Officer
- All artillery must have the required equipment on site to assure it is in a safe condition prior to firing. Improperly equipped or unsafe artillery (inspected by the Safety Officer, Event

Coordinator, and Artillery Commander) will be removed from event. Required equipment includes red flags, water buckets, and the proper loading and unloading tools for the artillery piece.

- No projectile of any kind is to be fired on site property at any time. Wadding may only be fired in weapons which require it to operate and with the express permission of the Event Coordinator.
- Charges will consist of no more than two (2) ounces of cannon powder per inch of bore. Charges will be inspected prior to each event by the Artillery Commander and the Safety Officer jointly.
- The artillery ammunition box will be placed 25 feet to the rear of the respective cannon and a minimum of 25 feet from the spectator's line. The lid hinge must be nearest the cannon and the opening will be away from the artillery piece. The artillery ammunition box is to be constantly manned whenever unlocked. When the box is not in use it is to be removed from the field and placed in a secure location. Ammunition boxes must be fitted with self-closing lids. Lids may not be fitted with any type of hold-open device nor may they be propped open by any external means, such as a stick, branch, etc. Boxes will be labeled to prevent mixing of different types of ammo.
- Artillery powder charges are to be kept in individual safety containers within the ammunition box or a designated safety area approved by the Event Coordinator. When ready to transport a charge from the ammunition box or safety area to the cannon breach each charge must be removed from the safety container and handled by only qualified crew members. The charges are then carried to the cannon and prepared for the demonstration.
- The safe placement of artillery is the joint responsibility of the Artillery Commanders, Safety Officers, and the Event Coordinator.
- Artillery batteries will place range markers at 75 feet down range and 50 feet wide, forming a safety box to mark the no-fire zone for non-artillery crew reenactors and the public. The type of range marker used may be determined by the Event Coordinator. Battery Commanders, Safety Officers, and the Event Coordinator will jointly inspect for the location of the range markers and any necessary crowd control personnel before a gun will be allowed to fire.
- Crowds should also be kept back a minimum of 50 feet behind each cannon. Artillery will not be fired towards a building unless the building is in excess of 100 feet away. All artillery should be fired at more than a 45-degree angle to historical buildings or site property. At no time will artillery be aimed at a parking lot or any other public areas where there will be people.
- There must be a minimum distance of 20 feet, hub to hub, between artillery pieces. The rate of fire for artillery pieces will not exceed one round per 3 minutes while on site at the event.
- Rope barriers should be placed at 75 feet down range and 50 feet wide on spectator sides and monitoring personnel should be used to assure crowd control as possible, if at any time ropes are not available, event staff, members of WWII ABN Command, or Law Enforcement may be used in its place. At the end of each firing demonstration the Safety Officer and Artillery Commander will inspect guns to assure that they are not loaded and in safe condition.
- The Event Coordinator may add to these restrictions of these rules at any time.

Horses:

- 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 outside of their designated site.
- All horses will be dismounted prior to entering any authorized camp area and led to the designated picket area. They will be led to re-enactment area and mounted once inside.

- No person under the age of 18 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 and Site Contact.
- No spectators, children, and visitors are allowed to mount any horse at any time.
- Stallions will not be permitted on the event site.

Additional Guidelines:

- PETS are NOT allowed at this event under any circumstances. Service animals are permitted, but must be designated by bandana or other jacket, collar or harness.
- 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 TGR Representative.

Please sign below as acknowledgement that you have read and agree to abide by the following weapons policy for The George Ranch. Failure to adhere to any or all of these rules will result in your removal from the event and site.

Print Name (as legally signed)

Signature

Printed Guardian Name

Guardian Signature

Date

Company/Regiment

Coggins Number

Date Blood Drawn