

*Minimum Authenticity Standards For
The Army Of The Rappahannock*

Adopted June 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Army Of The Rappahannock is a mainstream, family oriented, Civil War Reenactment Organization dedicated to preserving the memory, history and lives of the soldiers and civilians who fought and served the Union cause in the American Civil War. We seek to educate the public through Civil War battle reenactments, living histories and encampments. As Civil War living historians, each individual member of the ARRA shall attempt to portray, as accurately as possible, the life of the Union soldier in camp and on the field of battle or the Civilian that lent so much support to the Union cause and its' ultimate victory.

In order to best accomplish our goal of historically correct impressions, we hereby adopt these Minimum Authenticity Standards and the enforcement provisions set forth herein. These standards have been developed through years of research and experience of the ARRA staff, Company Commanders and Civilian Reenactors.

We emphasize our goal to establish "Minimum" Standards. We want to embrace in a general sense the experience, worldview and technology of the 19th Century. Each ARRA Regiment, Company or Unit is authorized to adopt a more stringent set of rules if so desired.

We have purposely refrained from adopting Uniform or Accoutrement guidelines. These guidelines will vary from event to event based on the date of battle and from Unit to Unit keeping with their historical accuracy of the Regiment portrayed. We therefore have left these issues to be resolved on a Company or Unit level upon approval of the Regimental Commander.

The ARRA is committed to continuing its research on 19th Century Military and Civilian impressions. So, these Minimum Standards therefore shall be reviewed, updated and/or amended from time to time, as necessary.

NOTE: No aspect of these Authenticity Standards should be interpreted in a manner that conflicts with the ARRA Standard Safety Operating Procedures (SOP). Implementation of these Authenticity Standards shall in no way jeopardize the Health And Safety of Reenactment Participants, Horses and Spectators who come to support our reenacting experiences.

ESTABLISHING THE ARRA CAMP PERIMETER

The Federal Headquarters for the event shall designate the camp areas for the ARRA. We as the ARRA Staff should set and mark off the ARRA designated Company Streets, Mess and Officer lines for our camp prior to the arrival of the abundance of troops. When at all possible, this layout should be done one day prior to the arrival of any Staff, Units or Companies.

At a start time to be designated by Federal Headquarters and until the time an event ends, as communicated through the chain of command, the areas inside the perimeter of the camp will be restricted to 19th Century Impressions and these Minimum Authenticity Standards shall then be applicable and enforced.

EVENT SET UP AND BREAK DOWN

- 1) The arrival and set-up of camp by individual members and/or Units is to be conducted in a manner that is safe and efficient. Vehicles and all trailers should be unloaded as quickly as possible and then taken to the appropriate and designated parking areas. Vehicles and trailers left in the camp areas for even short lengths of time cause congestion and anachronistic intrusions. At a time designated by Federal Headquarters to coincide with the event start time, all vehicles and trailers must be outside of the camp areas and parked in designated areas.**

- 2) **Federal Headquarters shall establish a time when vehicles and trailers will be allowed back into the camp areas at the conclusion of the event. A lull in event activity should not be interpreted as an opportunity to bring a vehicle into camp to pack up for a rapid departure. Upon the designated time, break down and departure from camps should be done in a Timely, Safe and Orderly manner.**
- 3) **Individuals who need to depart the camp early and prior to the conclusion of the event, need to notify their Company Commander, who will in turn notify the Regimental Commander, so that arrangements can be made to break the lone camp down in a manner that will not introduce any anachronisms or vehicles into the camp areas. Plans should be implemented to detail a party of soldiers to hand carry the individual's supplies, tentage and equipment out of camp.**
- 4) **An individual who has an emergency or other unforeseen event and needs to leave camp prior to the end of the event should seek permission from their Company Commander and Regimental Commander. Only in these extreme circumstances should a vehicle be introduced into the camp areas and only with the knowledge of the Regimental Commander. Or if Brigaded with other Regiments the knowledge of both the Regimental and Brigade Commanders.**
- 5) **There will be no ordered assignments to guard the gates of the event or entry points to control the flow of traffic into the camps, etc. At some events, Federal Headquarters requires participants to do these tasks. We will not!! This will only be done if the individual(s) volunteer their time to do so.**
- 6) **At some point during the event, there may be a need for Artillery to use modern vehicles to either tow or drive to the designated areas of the battlefield to set guns. They will do their best not to park in an intrusive area around our camp perimeter and to be hidden as much as possible when reporting to HQ, etc. This is a necessary evil and we will deal with it in an orderly and professional manner. In other words, look the other way until it is gone.**

CAMP LIFE

- 1) **Company Commanders are free to determine whether they wish to set up a campaign style street or garrison style Street. If it is decided by us collectively as a regiment to do a campaign style event and camp, Regimental HQ will request in advance of the event, to have Federal headquarters designate an area for our particular camp. At all other events we will set up garrison style military/civilian camps. Combination garrison/campaign camping streets will be allowed at any event we attend at the discretion of the Company Commanders.**
- 2) **All civilians must be in period dress while camped within the ARRA camp area and must abide by these same Minimum Authenticity Standards at all times. Modern camping may or may not be available at the event's discretion.**
- 3) **Generally, dog tents, she-bangs and bedrolls should be on the extreme outer edges of the company streets. A-tents should be placed closer to the interior of the streets. Wall tents and flies are allowed on the Company Commander and Regimental Staff lines only. No flies on the Company Streets. Mess tents, flies and supply tents are to be set up on the Mess Lines only. Sibley tents are permitted.**
- 4) **Company Streets are to be kept clean, unobstructed and free of all anachronisms at all times.**
- 5) **All non-period items in or out of tentage must be covered by gum blankets, canvas, etc. Tentage that has non-period items not covered, will have the tent flaps closed and tied shut. The best way around this is to bring period items or bring a period box to hide them in. Tentage should be maintained in a military manner and will be subject to daily inspections by the Regimental Command.**
- 6) **Mess areas shall have NO modern food or drink containers within view. Put your liquids or food items on period plates or in period cups. No plastic bottles or containers are allowed outside of supply tentage.**

- 7) Mess cooks should strive to prepare meals of the time period. Liquids and/or drinks will be poured from non-period containers into period containers inside the tentage.
- 8) Modern trash bags should be hidden behind bunks, under gum blankets or in a barrel or burlap bag.
- 9) Camp furniture should be restricted to period styles. Camp stools are easily assembled and packed away. Any modern variety of camp furniture should be modified to reach authenticity standards. Research before you buy!
- 10) Cigarettes were expensive and rare. They did not have filters. Pipes and cigars were most commonly smoked.
- 11) NO wrist watches allowed. If you need a timepiece, buy a chain watch.
- 12) Cell phones and electronic devices are not to be seen or used outside of your tent at any time. If you need to make a call outside of your tent, make it outside of the camp area. Period style lanterns or candles will be used inside and outside of your tent. Modern flashlights and lighting equipment give off an unnatural glow that will make your tent look very farby in an authentic camp. Cell Phones and/or flashlights are to be used in emergency situations only.
- 13) Flags and guidons will be of period looking materials and authentic to the unit being portrayed.
- 14) Non-period ice shuttles or HQ shuttles will remain on the outskirts of our camp at all times. They should never be allowed to enter our camp with the exception of an emergency.

MILITARY ETIQUETTE

- 1) All Officers and soldiers will be in appropriate uniform from Reveille to taps. Corps badges should conform to the battles being portrayed. Ultimate responsibility to maintain and enforce these rules lies with the Regimental Staff.
- 2) Women are permitted to fall in as soldiers as long as it is permitted in the individual Company. All efforts must be made by the female soldier to be unrecognizable at 20 feet away and to impersonate a 19th century male at all times. Company Commanders have the final determination as to whether a female impersonating a male soldier is accurate.
- 3) Commands given by Officers and NCO's shall be consistent with those used in period Union Army manuals. Modern variations or fabrications are not allowed.
- 4) An individual portraying a military impression will be soldierly in dress, soldierly in carriage and soldierly in courtesies. On all occasions of duty, except fatigue, and when out of quarters, the coat will be buttoned or hooked at the collar. An appropriate hat, cap or kepi will be worn at all times out of quarters.
- 5) All Officers are to be saluted by subordinate soldiers. Either by right hand salute with palm out or if under arms the correct rifle salute as set down in regulations.
- 6) Salutes are not rendered at the double quick or at a trot or gallop if mounted.
- 7) Officers, NCO's and Soldiers should render the same salutations to Officers of other branches or regiments.
- 8) All of our Officers are required to return a salute that has been rendered to them by another Officer, NCO or soldier.

ENFORCEMENT

- 1) Each individual member of the ARRA is ultimately responsible for the quality of their impression and the preservation of the heritage and sacrifices of our forbearers.
- 2) Company First Sergeants will inspect their company streets each morning at roll call and any subsequent formations within their company area. They will identify and order the removal of any non-period item in the company area. This to include any non-period item(s) on the soldiers themselves.
- 3) Company Commanders will do a walk through of their company streets and inspection of the troops under his command, routinely on a daily basis. This is in anticipation of a Regimental Staff Inspection.
- 4) Each morning a camp inspection will be done by Regimental staff. A Camp Condition report will be submitted by the Adjutant, along with a consolidated morning report, to Brigade Headquarters.
- 5) Marked or persistent violations of these Minimum Authenticity Standards will result in the violator having to do extra duty as prescribed by the Company Commander, i.e. Guard Duty, Mess Duty or Fatigue Duty of another nature.