

Destrehan Plantation
13034 River Road (LA48)
Destrehan, LA 70047
Heritage Weekend (May 1 – 3, 2020)
Re-enactor Guidelines

Introduction: Destrehan Plantation welcomes Civil War re-enactors to its Heritage Weekend on May 1 – 3, 2020. This three-day event will include an encampment, battle re-enactments, period appropriate music and dancing and many other exhibits and demonstrations related to 19th century life in south Louisiana.

REGISTRATION AND EVENT BASICS. This event is being conducted on an open basis; however, the event will comply with the established guidelines of the North/South Alliance. All units wishing to participate must complete and submit the pre-registration form to **Keith Bauer at Kgb51@aol.com or 5217 Janice Ave, Kenner, LA 70065**. Participants are expected to adhere to all safety guidelines and organizational guidelines published in this packet. WALK-ONS will be permitted at this event but should contact one of the attending established organizations and be accepted by them for the duration of the event. All participants must register and fall in with an attending recognized unit to participate in battle.

Camp sites will be open for setup at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2020.

There is no registration fee for participants.

NOTICE TO ALL CONFEDERATE PARTICIPANTS

All Confederate units will be expected to galvanize as Federal when necessary in order to depict the appropriate force ratios for each scenario as determined by the overall event military commander. If you do not have a Federal impression, then be prepared to borrow coats from pards. If you are unwilling to adhere to this policy or have left an event early in order to avoid galvanizing, do not register for this event.

HOTEL/MOTEL/MODERN CAMPING ACCOMMODATIONS. Although no modern camping areas will be provided during this event, there are numerous motels close to event site in St. Charles Parish.

Motor homes, modern tents, and trailers will be placed in the participant parking areas. NO amenities will be provided for such campers. You will be on historically significant ground. Please treat it with respect.

GENERAL RULES:

AGE LIMIT. For participation on the field or carrying a weapon (in all branches of service) participants must be at least 16 years of age. The only exceptions are functioning musicians, who must be at least 12 years old. All participants under the age of 18 must be under the supervision of a parent/legal guardian, or other responsible adult unit commander, who in permitting them within their ranks, accepts this responsibility de-facto.

UNIFORMS AND ACCOUTREMENTS. Uniforms and equipage will be appropriate mid to late war attire. At a minimum, uniforms and accouterments will be constructed of materials and of designs accurate for the period being portrayed.

FIREARMS.

Infantry – Military issue three-band black powder muskets using percussion caps. Ramrods will be carried on the battlefield but never drawn. NCO's are responsible for insuring that troops under their command do not draw rammers. Fouled pieces will be passed to a file closer, who will be allowed to draw rammer, from the file closer position, in order to clear the piece. Only officers and NCO's are permitted to carry pistols and only officers are permitted to load and fire them.

Cavalry – Carbines are encouraged. Three-band muskets, as used by infantry, are acceptable. Hawkins carbines will not be permitted. All pistols must be in appropriate holsters.

Dismounted Cavalry – Cavalry carbines are preferred, with 3-band muskets accepted. No shotguns or "hunting" rifles.

All firearms must be in good working order. All small arms must have a functioning half-cock and a hammer screw. Small arms inspection will be conducted each day by the respective military branch in accordance with General Orders. Military inspectors and commanders shall have the obligation to exclude all questionable weapons from the field if such are found to be operationally unsafe or out of compliance with the above standards.

The various branches should consider the relative fire power and range of their respective weapons relative to that of the opposition.

Bayonets, swords and sabers carried by participants will be of proper period design and safely secured in an appropriate sheath. With a serviceable metal tip. Bayonets should be carried by enlisted infantrymen but fixed only by order of a commanding officer. At all other times they shall be secured in a proper scabbard. Knives are discouraged and are not to be drawn in any event while on the field.

Cartridges – All musket cartridges must be properly constructed of only soft paper and no more than a maximum of 80 grains of FFg or FFFg black powder. Caps and cartridges must be carried in authentic cap pouches and cartridges boxes with proper tins. Pistol cylinders for officers are to be sealed with an appropriate agent that will not turn into any type of a projectile upon firing.

Artillery – Only original or reproduction full-scale field pieces, including mountain howitzers will be permitted. Inspection of all field pieces will be conducted by those appointed by the overall military commander and the proper reports will be submitted prior to battle each day.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL PROJECTILES OF ANY KIND BE ALLOWED ON SITE FOR ANY WEAPON OF ANY SIZE. No excuses. No exceptions. Law enforcement officers will expel violators from the event. CHECK YOUR GEAR BEFORE YOU ARRIVE ONSITE.

All weapons shall be inspected at assembly prior to units moving into position for battle with the appropriate reports signed by unit commanders and inspectors and submitted to the overall military commander. Any unit, individual and weapon missing inspection will be required to sit out battle until the next inspection.

SPECIALITY IMPRESSIONS. Military specialists must coordinate in advance and be willing to comply with event guidelines and conform to the respective military commanders. Unless cleared by the overall military commander, specialty impressions are not to be on the field nor will they be permitted to be armed. The same is true for civilian impressions. This is to help prevent uninspected arms at the event.

CAMPS. Campsites of all impressions will be in relatively close quarters due to the very nature of the grounds and facilities at Destrehan Plantation. Therefore, it is expected that each camp shall respect the units camped around it and honor the very site in such fashion so as not to distract any from the military historical setting. All camps will be open to the public between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

PERSONAL CONDUCT. Illegal substances will not be tolerated in accordance with state and local laws. Offenders will be turned over to local law enforcement officials for arrest and prosecution. Law enforcement officers will expel any participant attempting to engage in field activities under the influence of ANY intoxicant. Anyone found tampering with any weapon or munitions other than their own will be expelled from the event. Violators of this and any other safety provision may be barred from attending future events at Destrehan Plantation. Safety is the paramount concern for the well being of all concerned.

AMMENITIES. Water will be available at the Azby Administration Building. Firewood will be available at a central location near the camp site. A Saturday evening meal is to be provided to all reenactors in period dress and volunteers working the event.

HORSES & MULES. All bringing such animals should provide for their feeding and care. Water will be accessible as previously described. Coggins (EIA) tests are required, as per state laws, and are to be presented to an event official to be designated by Destrehan Plantation.

FLAGS. Period correct unit flags may be flown in camp. The overall military commander will approve all flags to be carried into battle.

ANACHRONISMS. Modern items of any kind are to be kept well out of sight at all times. Modern electronic devices and propane/butane fueled items are prohibited. Smoking of cigarettes is discouraged and should be restricted from view as they were just making their way into the ladies' fashion scene in places like New York and were considered effeminate and unmanly at that time. If it is imperative that pagers or cell phones must be carried, they are to be handled in a discrete manner so as to go unnoticed by all others.

WOMEN IN THE RANKS: CONSISTENT WITH NSA POLICY, FEMALE TROOPS SHALL BE ALLOWED IN THE RANKS ONLY IF SAID PARTICIPANTS CAN SUCCESSFULLY MAINTAIN THE APPEARANCE OF A MALE SOLDIER AT ALL TIMES DURING THE EVENT WEEKEND. IF A SOLDIER IS DISCOVERED TO BE FEMALE, SHE WILL BE DISCHARGED FROM SERVICE, AS WAS THE STANDARD PRACTICE DURING THE PERIOD. EACH UNIT COMMANDER WILL BE EXPECTED TO ADMINISTER THIS POLICY UPON REPORT OF SUCH AN OCCURENCE.

VEHICLES. All modern vehicles are to be in camp only the minimum amount of time required to unload essential items upon arrival Thursday evening or early Friday morning prior to 9 AM. NO VEHICLES are permitted in camp after 9:00 AM Friday morning until after battle Sunday afternoon.

TRASH. Please remember that all pre-event setup and post-event clean up is performed by volunteers, many of whom are fellow reenactors. As a courtesy befitting the period, all trash that you do not transport away from the site should be placed in the trash containers spotted about the site. All assistance in cleaning up the site after Sunday's battle will be greatly appreciated and may enable the usual volunteer clean-up party to depart for home by nightfall.

CLEANUP AT CLOSE: Each unit is expected to stack leftover firewood in their camp. Trash is to be placed into trash bags provided and left in camp. Please help us keep this site CLEAN!

CAMP RULES. All rules in effect as stated previously are in effect for civilians, families and military alike.

On the battlefield, the word of the overall commander and the host unit, the 7th Louisiana Infantry, IS THE LAW! In camps, the 7th Louisiana Infantry and representatives of Destrehan Plantation ARE THE LAW! We are interested only in having a safe and fun event for all.....reenactors and spectators.