



Living History & Participant Guidelines for Bennett Place State Historic Site

Event Location

Living history programs are held on the original ground, which General Joseph E. Johnston and General William T. Sherman met in April 1865. Along with these significant men, were their personal escorts and aides totaling some 300 soldiers, blue and gray. The structures and monuments that stand today are memorials to their sacrifice and dedication to reaching an agreement of peace, which ended four years of conflict that resulted in the death of more than 670,000 Americans. ***This is hallowed ground.*** We ask that you respect the structures, the monuments, and these grounds during your stay.

The Program

1. Participants are invited to camp on the grounds prior to and during the event. Participants may arrive as early as Friday morning after 10am (Park site opens at 9 am) and into Friday evening. All participants must leave the site property at the conclusion of the living history event. This typically is on Sunday afternoon, no later than 6:00 p.m. However, arrangements to stay Sunday night and departing Monday are permitted. Please contact the site staff to request additional arrangements.
2. Participants are requested to commit for the entire event unless unforeseen circumstances arise and they must leave the event early. This request is due to the fact that we budget resources for programs, schedule staff and volunteers, and advertise and promote each event, which typically attracts several hundred local and out of town visitors.

Registration

1. Each participant must complete a Volunteer Event Registration Form, which will be provided by the Bennett Place staff upon arrival.

Portrayals

Generally, we try to emphasize the events of the Surrender, which occurred here in April 1865. However, there are times we will portray the early war in Piedmont North Carolina or conduct various Civil War era military demonstrations to facilitate our program mission for that particular event.

When the April 1865 Surrender Commemoration is held, we expect all participants to create a persona of someone who would have served in the Union Army under General William T. Sherman or the Confederate Army under General Joseph E. Johnston. Historically there was crossover from Grant's army to Sherman's army and from Lee's army to Johnston's army. Personal study of the armies is

encouraged, as this creates a better context in which visitors can understand who was in this area and at what time..

When portraying other events outside the Surrender, participants should create a persona of someone who would have lived in Piedmont North Carolina during the time of the Civil War if we are conducting an early war program or a Western Federal impression if we are conducting a program on the end and post war Union Occupation.

Please consult the site staff as to the “theme” or portrayal for the scheduled program.

1. Men will portray the typical male role of the 19th century/Civil War era to include soldier (Infantry and Cavalry), farmer, blacksmith, carpenter, doctor, minister, or teacher.
2. Women will portray the typical role of a female civilian of the 19th century/Civil War era to include seamstress, homemaker, teacher, or farmer.
3. Various "specialty impressions" (i.e. Robert E. Lee, U.S. Grant, Jefferson Davis, or Abraham Lincoln) are not permitted unless they are part of a special scheduled event approved by the historic site manager. Individuals with such impressions that are not approved through the site manager will be asked to change to the authorized impressions or leave the event site.
4. Military structures (rank and leadership) are pre-established and approved by the site manager. All participants are expected to work within those structures and cooperate with one another. Remember, we are here on this site to educate and share the history with visitors.

Clothing and Equipment

When taking part in a living history event at Bennett Place, ALL participants are expected to wear and use clothing and equipment authentic to the time period. No anachronisms, such as wrist watches, modern glasses and modern cigarettes are permitted. These items detract from your portrayal and the educational experience for the visitor. Other modern accessories, which detract from your impression should not be worn during the event.

1. Modern wristwatches may NOT be worn during living history programs. There are alternative ways of determining the time such as pocket watches or keeping your modern watch in your pocket.
2. Modern glasses are NOT permitted. Participants should make every effort to acquire 19th century/Civil War era glasses or modern contacts.
3. Cell phones are NOT permitted in the event area until after the event. These are the biggest distractions to fellow participants and the overall event. Please be respectful of the time and effort others have put in to the event by refraining from using cell phones.

4. All shoes must be authentic reproductions of the 19th century/Civil War era period being portrayed. Modern military shoes, black athletic shoes, or any other stand-ins for authentic reproductions are NOT ACCEPTABLE.
5. All clothing must be authentic reproductions of the 19th century/Civil War era period being portrayed, and should be of period correct materials and construction. NO zippers, Velcro, or other modern day fasteners.
6. Smoking is permitted on-site, but with caution, especially during dry times of the year. Cigars or period pipes are the only type of smoking devices permitted. If you need to smoke a modern cigarette, please be considerate of other fellow participants and the event by leaving the living history area for your break.

NOTE: Bennett Place has some clothing and equipment, which may be borrowed by participants if they are available. A Loan-out form must be completed along with two forms of I.D. provided to the staff.

Suggested Vendor and Sutler List

Bennett Place typically uses the following sutlers and vendors for its interpretative programming because they have proven to be reliable, historically accurate, and reputable companies. Bennett Place is open to additional recommendations for other clothing and equipment vendors.

1. Charlie Childs/County Cloth (Clothing)
2. C&D Jarnigan (Clothing, Equipment, Weapons)
3. Carter & Jasper Mercantile (Joe Blunt Clothier) (Clothing and personal items)
4. Ben Tart (Clothing)
5. Regimental Quartermaster (Clothing, Equipment, Weapons)
6. Richmond Depot (Clothing)
7. Robert Land (Shoes)
8. Missouri Boot & Shoe (Shoes)
9. Village Tinsmith (Tinware, canteens, plates, eating utensils)
10. Haversack Depot (Haversacks, tentage)
11. Dirty Billy (Hats & Clothing)
12. Clearwater Hats (Hats)
13. Greg Starbuck (Hats)
14. TP&H Trading Company (Hats)
15. L.D. Haning (Leatherworks)
16. Lady in White (Women's Clothing)
17. Dressmaker Shop (Women's Clothing)
18. Past Reflections Reproductions (Women's Clothing)

Black Powder, Weapons Safety, and Fireworks (READ CLOSELY)

1. In accordance with the State of North Carolina, all blackpowder weapons must be inspected by a certified North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources employee. In addition, all blackpowder firing demonstrations must have a North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources employee present.
2. Bennett Place is a surrender site, NOT a battlefield. Reenactments of skirmishes, battles, or tacticals are not permitted unless prepared and scheduled by the site manager. Reenactment units or individuals engaged in such activity will be removed from the event and the site immediately, and may be subject to expulsion for future events at Bennett Place State Historic Site.
3. Weapons will be discharged only in designated areas while under the supervision of the unit commanders and a Bennett Place staff employee. Weapons shall not be discharged in camp or sutler's row.
4. **Visitors are NOT permitted to load or fire any weapon during the event.** Participants may not allow visitors to handle any weapon unless they maintain at least one hand on the weapon while the visitor is handling the weapon to feel the weight and scope of the weapon. Any participant reprimanded for allowing a visitor to handle and/or fire a loaded weapon will be dismissed from the site property, and possibly expelled from all future living history/reenactment events at Bennett Place.
5. **The minimum age to participate with a weapon (musket, rifle, pistol, cannon, sword, or knife) is 16 years old.** Children younger than 16 may participate as musicians, hospital stewards or typical civilian roles of children in the 19th Century/Civil War era.

NOTE: The Color bearer was one of the most coveted and honorable positions in the regiment. Children shall not represent this position of honor.

6. Cartridges for rifled muskets should not exceed 60 grains of powder.
7. Ramrods ARE permitted for firing demonstrations. Safety is emphasized.
8. Fireworks and other pyrotechnics are not permitted at any time on the site property.

Sutlers and Vendors

1. Sutler/Vendor registration is by **INVITATION ONLY**. Upon receipt and **APPROVAL** of sutler/vendor registration, you will receive a permit, which you must present upon arrival before being allowed to set up.
2. If sutlers plan to sell items at the event, they must submit a list of merchandise inventory prior to the event for registration approval. This is to prevent conflicting sales in our Visitor Center gift shop as well as selling merchandise not related to our educational mission.

3. If sutlers plan to sell items at the event, they must submit a business license, and authorization to sell items in the state of North Carolina.
4. **North Carolina General Statutes strictly forbids sale of bulk black powder on state property.**

Animals

1. All participants bringing horses and/or mules to the event will be required to present upon arrival a valid **Coggins Test** (within 1 year). Papers must be verified only through inspectors designated by the site manager. Horses and/or mules arriving without proper paperwork will not be permitted on the site property. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
2. Horses are NOT permitted to ride through the camping area or the immediate Bennett Farmyard area unless it has been designated for a particular scenario or photo shoot. Riders are requested to be particularly careful riding around the visitors.

Tentage and Camping

1. All participants are responsible for maintaining an authentic appearance throughout the entire event if planning to camp in the authentic camping area. Coolers, sleeping bags, cots, and other modern camping equipment are strongly discouraged. However, if used in camp, they **MUST BE CONCEALED AT ALL TIMES** throughout the entire event. *Please keep in mind, it's not just the general public you need to respect; it's your fellow participants who want to maintain the integrity of authenticity.*
2. The historic buildings (Bennett House, Kitchen house, Smokehouse) are typically not to be used as sleeping quarters. However, exceptions may apply when unforeseen weather occurs or civilians wish to maintain the fires and kitchens throughout the event. These structures are used in the daily interpretation of programming only.
3. "Campaign" or "bivouac" style camping is greatly encouraged in the military camps. A Frames, Shelter tents, and flies are the preferred tentage. Wall tents are permitted but not recommended due to limited space.

Code of Conduct

1. Conduct unbecoming such as profanity, obscene gestures, or fighting will result in the removal of any participant from Bennett Place property and possible expulsion from future events at Bennett Place and other North Carolina State Historic Site properties.
2. Abuse or destruction of North Carolina State Department of Cultural Resources site property is not allowed. Such conduct will result in dismissal from the event and damage fees will be assessed to the individual(s) involved.

3. Bennett Place is a public historic site, which provides educational opportunities and enjoyment for everyone. Personal political, religious, or racial demonstrations, which may potentially infringe on other's rights are not permitted on the property grounds.

Alcohol and Illegal Drug Use

1. Consumption of illegal drugs will result in immediate dismissal from the Bennett Place site property. Individuals in violation of this regulation will be turned over to the Durham Police Department.
2. Consumption of alcoholic beverages during business operating hours is prohibited.

General Rules and Regulations

1. *North Carolina General Statute G.S. 124-4 states that a person may not disobey an order of the historic site manager when that order is related to the preservation of historical material, the protection of historic sites property, the safety and well-being of the visiting public, or the equality of access of all citizens to the resources of the site.*
2. *North Carolina General Statutes 70-12(3), 70-15, 70-16, 70-17 prohibit digging, excavating, disturbing the ground, or the collection of artifacts on State property, including Bennett Place State Historic Site. Violations may result in: (1) criminal penalties involving fines of up to \$2,000, or up to six months imprisonment, or both; (2) civil fines of up to \$5,000 and, (3) the forfeiture of vehicles and equipment (including metal detectors) used in connection with the violation of these laws.*

Bennett Place State Historic Site reserves the right to remove any person or organization from the event at any time for violation of previous and above-listed regulations, glaring safety infractions, or authenticity violations. As noted in GS 124-4, failure to comply with the Historic Site Manager may result in the eviction from the property.

Thank you for your support of North Carolina State Historic Sites. We hope you enjoy your living history experience with us.