



Dade Battlefield Society, Inc.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR DADE BATTLE REENACTORS – January 2019

The Dade Battlefield Society continues to develop a multi-year program to improve the authenticity of our annual event and significantly increase the number of quality participants, period sutlers and attending public.

The time period for this event is December 1835. Your dress, manners, camp and behavior must reflect this time period without exception during the public hours of the event. Eyewear must be 19th century- no modern eyeglasses. No modern jewelry or watches. No cigarettes are permitted during public hours- period pipes or hand rolled cigars only.

SOLDIER AND SEMINOLE CAMPS—Tents and shelters should be period correct for the time and place. All non-1830s items must be kept out of sight of the public—this includes food packaging, coolers, drink containers, modern bedding, etc. Limited "modern" camping is available to event participants on a first come first serve space available basis. *Fires need to be kept to a minimum and fire bricks used in the modern camping and sutler areas are to prevent scarring of the grounds within the park's day use area. **Park staff will place initial firewood at each camp area – If any further firewood is needed, please let any of the park staff know***

SETUP AND PARKING--Those who wish may set up as early as Friday afternoon. Vehicles should be moved as soon as tent, goods and gear are unloaded. Those setting up on Saturday morning must arrive early enough to drop off gear, get their vehicles out of camp and any non-period items out of sight before 8:30 am. All vehicles must be kept in the designated parking area at night and during public hours. No vehicles will be permitted to park within site of the public. **Park Entrance Gate** – *Open until 8:00 am Saturday then closed to vehicular traffic until 5:00 pm and will open until 8:00 am on Sunday then closed to vehicular traffic until 5:00 pm. All arrivals after 8:00 am Saturday and Sunday, need to use the back park gate on CR 650, which is located off of US 301.*

REGISTRATION – *In efforts to be able to plan for the number of participants, **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU PRE-REGISTER FOR THE EVENT BY NOVEMBER 1st**. This gives us a chance to coordinate with the caterer on meals to be provided, as well as have an approximate number of battle participants for the preparation of rolled cartridges.*

ONSITE CHECK-IN--*All participants are required to check-in at registration which will be held in the Lodge. In order to receive gunpowder, participants must: 1. Display an official check-in card; 2. Read the Scenario for Major Dade's Battle and sign the statement attesting to such; and 3. Pass the weapons safety check. We must have a volunteer form on file for all battle participants, demonstrators and volunteer support staff for participants to be covered by Worker's Compensation for volunteers. If you have had an address change, a new volunteer form has to be completed. All persons under 18 years of age must have a guardian's signature on the volunteer application.*

Registration Hrs: *Friday: 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm Saturday: 7:00 am to 12:30 pm. Sunday: 7:00 am to 9:00 am.*

Participants with horses need to have their current Coggins Test to be show to the park manager or designee upon request. Participants with horses are responsible for their feed; bedding straw will be provided UPON ADVANCE REQUEST MADE AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

Reenactors who participate in the battle only on Sunday must arrive before 9:00 am so registration and appropriate Safety Checks can be made prior to the battle at 2:00 pm – Those arriving on Sunday will be directed to a Safety Officer for a weapons safety check, powder issuance and medallion issuance.

FIREARM SAFETY--**It is mandatory for all soldiers to have flash guards on their pans** .(since they fire in close order). **It is mandatory for all soldiers and Seminole reenactors to have frizzen guards (hammer stalls) for their frizzens.** All arms must be loaded with PRE-ROLLED CARTRIDGES ONLY. **Loading from flasks or powder horns is not permitted at any time. Only EMPTY flasks and powder horns will be permitted on the reenactment field. No excessive charges will be allowed.** All battle participants are required to attend the **mandatory** safety meeting held on Saturday at 9:30 am. Weapons as well as cartridge boxes, and pouches will be inspected before the battle each day. Pre-rolled cartridges will be issued at the time of inspection.

AMENITIES--Food rations, powder rations, commemorative souvenirs, and firewood will be provided for those participating in the reenactment. Battle participants & historic demonstrators may purchase \$25.00 meal tickets for immediate family members. These meal tickets cover 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches.

We would like as many as possible to share the entire weekend from Friday afternoon until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. We will disseminate as much information and orientation materials as possible before the public arrives on Saturday morning, so that everyone can be familiar with the park, the event, and the weekend schedule. **The orientation/safety meeting for battle participants is mandatory and all are expected to attend, regardless of whether a participant will be carrying a weapon.**

***USE OF PARK FACILITIES** - We request that you refrain from using restrooms, when the closed for cleaning sign is across the day restroom entrance and signs are posted on lodge restroom doors. If the facilities start to back up or you experience problems, please notify park personnel so these problems can be addressed and fixed.*

***Day Use Restrooms** will be opened from 6:00 pm to 7:00 am each day of the event*

Lodge** will remain opened for the use of restroom facilities and for a gathering place for participants to socialize and work on period clothing – **Quiet time is midnight to 6:00 am.

***Pets** – Are allowed if on a 6 foot leash and must be tended to at all times-Owners will be responsible for picking up after their animals*

***Lodging** - For those needing other accommodations for the weekend*

In Bushnell – located on State Road 48

Bushnell Inn – 352-793-5010

Microtel Inn and Suites – 352-568-2111

Blueberry Hill RV Park – 352-793-4112

Red Barn – 352-793-6065

The Oaks Campground – 352-793-7117

Near Bushnell

Cypress House Bed & Breakfast – 352-568-0909

Our Fathers Haven Bed & Breakfast – 352-793-7920

Temperatures will vary from 30's to 50's at night and 50's to 70's during the day. Rain is always a possibility. Come prepared for all eventualities and for an enjoyable 1830s holiday weekend.

Please review the Florida Park Service Safety Procedures that will be made available at onsite check-in - No black powder weapons of any kind will be carried by anyone under 16 years of age – No one under 14 years of age is allowed to participate in battle scenarios, except that functional musicians may be 11 years of age or older.

DRESS AND EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES FOR SEMINOLE WARRIORS

The purpose of this document is to convey guidelines on what forms of dress and equipment will be acceptable for Seminole warriors to be within view of the public during the Dade battle. The overall goal is to have reenactors wearing correct “typical” clothing in their impression, not known incorrect or “could have had” items. At this point, no one can give a definitive treatise on authentic Seminole clothing of the Dade Battle. We do, however, know what is *believed* to be typical Seminole clothing of the period based upon extant examples and written documentation of the period as compiled and interpreted by a number of serious scholars on behalf of the Dade Battlefield Society.

There is some leniency herein to permit reenactors to wear items of a “not quite correct but acceptable appearance” as they work towards a more authentic wardrobe. For that reason, each listed type of item has three subcategories--the goal for authentic reenactor portrayals, acceptable alternatives that can be used while working towards the goal and unacceptable items.

Those participants who have unacceptable items may be permitted to participate in the battle but will be required to remain at the rear of the battlefield out of clear sight of the public at all times. Participants are also asked to refrain from interacting with the public outside of the battle if they are wearing unacceptable dress items.

HEADCOVERINGS- GOAL: 1830s Seminole style turban or, for the daring, dark hair which is cut in a southeastern native style (short to medium length, bangs, no side braids; preferably trimmed or worn so that the ears show and there is jaw length hair in front of the ears). Natural dark or white ostrich feathers and a silver turban band may be used. ACCEPTABLE: Other documented Creek headdress styles. UNACCEPTABLE: Visible modern haircut or light colored hair, cheap Halloween wigs, late 1800s/modern Seminole turban, extra-long feathers placed in an upright position which make it harder for the warrior to enter the battlefield unnoticed and stay hidden before the battle, and Plains or Woodlands style headdresses.

FACIAL HAIR- GOAL: Clean-shaven. ACCEPTABLE: Many Seminoles did have a thin mustache so this is OK. UNACCEPTABLE- Beard, mutton chop sideburns, “walrus” or “Manchu” mustache.

UPPER BODY CLOTHING- GOAL: 1830s style Plain Shirt or trade shirt- loose pullover shirts made of vintage solid, calico, striped or paisley cotton prints plus, if desired, an 1830s pattern Seminole Long Shirt. ACCEPTABLE: Long hunter style wrap-around hunting shirt/ coat, 1830s civilian vest or coat, bare chest (if tanned- no lily white skin please). UNACCEPTABLE- fringed leather garment of a Plains or mountain man appearance, Colonial or Civil War style clothing.

LOWER BODY CLOTHING- GOAL: Tapered truncated point or triangular breechcloth, wool front-seam Seminole leggings with taped edging or natural “brain tanned” leather leggings with side seam flaps. ACCEPTABLE: Bare legs. UNACCEPTABLE- fringed Plains style leggings, leather mountain man trousers, dark colored leather.

FOOTWEAR- GOAL: Seminole “swamp moccasins” or bare feet. ACCEPTABLE: Woodlands center-seam moccasins in natural colored leather with the flaps turned up, tied around the ankles and covered by Seminole style leggings. UNACCEPTABLE- Plains moccasins, Apache boots, modern footwear.

ACCOUTREMENTS AND OTHER- GOAL AND ACCEPTABLE: For formal occasions, Seminoles of the period regularly wore some of the following- silver pendant earrings, silver armbands and wrist bands, 1 to 4 silver crescent gorgets, silk or cotton neck scarves in period prints, finger woven sashes and leg ties- in diamond or chevron patterns and especially with interwoven white beads, decorated Seminole bandoleer bags or “primitive” hunting bags and powder horns. Beadwork on bags, breechcloths or leggings should be of a documented Seminole or Creek style. Documentation also exists for trade rings (no stones), decorative brooches and nose rings. Smokers should use trade pipes. UNACCEPTABLE: Plains beadwork, cigarettes, mountain man “fur” pouches, modern jewelry, watches.

FIREARMS- GOAL: Flintlock long rifles or muskets are correct for the period. ACCEPTABLE: Carbine-length flintlocks, percussion long rifles. UNACCEPTABLE- Any post 1830s pattern such as modern hunting style black powder rifles, Civil War muskets and pistol-carbines, double barrel shotguns.

OTHER ARMS- GOAL: If desired, Eastern style tomahawks and period knives in Southeastern style sheaths were used. UNACCEPTABLE- Tomahawks or knives decorated in a Plains style, Bowie knives.

DRESS AND EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES FOR SOLDIERS

UNIFORMS--The regular soldiers should be equipped with: M1825 or M1833 forage caps. The M1833 cap is preferred. Wearing no hat is acceptable. The M1839 cap is **not acceptable**. Uniforms should include gray or sky blue greatcoats (greatcoats need to be in evidence regardless of the weather), shell jackets (artillery yellow trim is preferred), sky blue trousers and fatigue jackets (**no summer whites**) and military brogans. Officers will wear the 1832 dark blue coat or the 1835 dark blue frock coat with shoulder straps with dark blue center & gold trim for artillery (shoulder strap centers did not vary in color to designated branch of service until later).

ACCOUTREMENTS--White buff cross belts, black leather cartridge boxes and bayonet scabbards are the needed accoutrements.

WEAPONS--Flintlock military muskets or rifles. Since some 50 soldiers were killed or wounded in the first volley and due to weather conditions during the battle, those interested reenactors having only appropriate trouser, shirts, greatcoats, and military shoes can participate by pretending to hide their muskets beneath their greatcoats.