



## **186<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dade's Battle Reenactment**

### **Reenactor Guidelines**

Saturday and Sunday  
January 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022  
Bushnell, Florida

**The Dade Battlefield Society and Dade Battlefield Historic State Park** invite you to apply as a **food vendor** for the **41st Annual Reenactment** of this Second Seminole War battle. This living history reenactment weekend will include:

- Full scale battle on Saturday and Sunday
- Historical Period Soldier, Seminole and Civilian Camps
- Sutler Trade Fair
- Historic arts and crafts demonstrations
- Early 19<sup>th</sup> century games for children
- Full scale cannon firing
- Tree cutting and barricade building

**For additional information call, email, or visit the website:**

(352) 793-4781

[reenactment@dadebattlefield.com](mailto:reenactment@dadebattlefield.com)

[www.dadebattlefield.com](http://www.dadebattlefield.com)

Dade Battlefield State Park is in  
Bushnell, Florida  
Just east of I-75, exit #314  
Approximately 50 miles west of Orlando,  
50 miles northeast of Tampa,  
and 40 miles south of Ocala

## GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR DADE BATTLE REEACTORS- JANUARY 2022

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 to may set up as early as Friday afternoon- those wishing to arrive earlier than this please contact treasurer@dadebattlefield.com. 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, move their vehicles out of camp and any non-period items out of sight before 8:30am. 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 8am Saturday then closed to vehicular traffic until 5pm. It will be open until 8am on Sunday then closed to vehicular traffic until 5pm.*** All arrivals after 8am on 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 DECEMBER 8, 2021.** This gives Dade Battlefield Society the chance to coordinate with the caterer on meals to be provide and 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 as much
3. Pass the weapons safety check

**All** battle participants, demonstrators, and volunteer support **must** have a volunteer form on file for participants to be covered by Worker's Compensation for volunteers. If you have previously filled out a volunteer form and have had an address change, a new volunteer form must be completed. **All participants under 18 years of age must have a guardian's signature on the volunteer application.**

### **Registration Hours:**

Friday: 1pm to 530pm  
Saturday: 7am to 1230pm  
Sunday: 7am to 9am

Participants with **horses** need to have their current Coggins Test to be shown 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.**

Participants who are only participating in the battle on Sunday must arrive by 9am in order for registration and appropriate Safety Checks to be made prior to the battle at 2pm. Those arriving on Sunday will be directed to a Safety Officer for a weapons safety check, and powder and medallion issuance.

## **FIREARM SAFETY**

**It is mandatory for all soldier reenactors to have flash guards on their pans** (since firing takes place 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 **ONLY PRE-ROLLED CARTRIDGES PREPARED AT DADE BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC STATE PARK.** **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 930am. Weapons, as well as cartridge boxes and pouches, will be inspected before the battle each day. Pre-rolled cartridges will be issues 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 and historic demonstrators may purchase meal tickets for immediate family members for \$25 per person. These meal tickets cover two breakfasts and two lunches. Each person is responsible for their own dinner.

We would like as many as possible to share the entire weekend from Friday afternoon until 4pm 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 the 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 open from 6pm to 7am each day of the event.

Lodge will remain open 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 6am each night.**

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 we have compiled a list of nearby locations. We have no partnership with these accommodations and this list is provided as a courtesy.

### In Bushnell

Blueberry Hill RV Park (352) 793-4112  
Rodeway Bushnell Inn (352) 793-5010  
Flying W Air Ranch (352) 793-1310  
Microtel Inn and Suites (352) 568-2111  
Red Oaks Campground (352) 793-7117

### Near Bushnell

Cypress House Bed & Breakfast (352) 568-0909

Our Father's Haven Bed & Breakfast (352) 793-7920

### **WEATHER**

Temperatures will vary from 30s to 50s at night and 50s to 70s 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 can be carried by anyone under 16 years of age. No one under 14 years of age is allowed to participate in battle scenarios, except functional musicians who 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 turbans or, for the daring, dark hair which is cut in a southeastern native style (short to medium length, 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 headdress.

### 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, or modern footwear.

## ACCOUTREMENTS AND OTHER ITEMS

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, or 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 and ACCEPTABLE: If desired, Eastern style tomahawks and period knives in Southeastern style sheaths.

UNACCEPTABLE: Tomahawks or knives decorated in a Plains style or Bowie knives.

## **DRESS AND EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES FOR SOLDIERS**

### UNIFORMS

The regular soldiers should be equipped with M1825 or M1833 forage capes. The M1833 cap is preferred. Wearing no hat is unacceptable. The M1839 cep is **not acceptable**. Uniforms should include gray or 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 and 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 cartridges boxes and bayonet scabbards are the needed accoutrements.

### WEAPONS

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

# Dade's Battle Reenactment

January 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

## REENACTOR/BLANKET TRADER/DEMONSTRATOR/VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

**PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION BY DECEMBER 8, 2021.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list all participants in your party and check as many boxes as apply.**

Name	Soldier	Seminole Warrior	Demonstrator	Blanket Trader	Volunteer

### REENACTORS:

1. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and lunches are provided for all battle participants. Additional four-part meal tickets for immediate family may be purchased @ \$25.00 per person.
2. Check is enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ extra meal tickets.
3. **If you are new to this event, submit photographs of camp and yourself in period attire.**
4. **What type of weapon will you be using? \_\_\_\_\_ What caliber? \_\_\_\_\_**

### BLANKET TRADERS:

\*\*\*Blanket traders must sign state-required contract at check-in.\*\*\*

I understand that I must be a Seminole or Soldier battle participant to register as a Blanket Trader

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_



**HISTORIC CRAFT DEMONSTRATORS:**

I will be demonstrating \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and lunches are provided for all battle participants. Additional four-part meal tickets for immediate family may be purchased @ \$25.00 per person.
2. Check is enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ extra meal tickets.
3. **If you are new to this event, submit photographs of set up, crafted goods and yourself in period attire.**

I understand that Demonstrators are pre-approved working participants who will be crafting period items on site and will commit to either demonstrating their craft to the public constantly during the public hours or according to a pre-approved set and published schedule. Demonstrator status is not given to someone whose main purpose for attending the event is to make sales. Demonstrators may make incidental sales *ONLY* of the items / type of items they are crafting. There are no exceptions. Demonstrators who wish to sell more than the items they are crafting must register as a sutler.

**VOLUNTEERS:**

**Point of Contact: Dade Battlefield Park Manager – [Bill.Gruber@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Bill.Gruber@dep.state.fl.us)**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks or money orders should be made to Dade Battlefield Society, Inc.**

**PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM BY DECEMBER 8, 2021**

**along with any fee(s) to**

**Dade Battlefield Society, Inc.  
c/o Treasurer**

**7200 Battlefield Parkway  
Bushnell, FL 33513**