

42nd Annual Reenactment of the

# Battle of Olustee



February 16 – 18, 2018

TO: All Unit Commanders  
FROM: Olustee Battle Reenactment Committee  
SUBJECT: 2018 Information

The 42nd annual reenactment, commemorating the 153rd Anniversary of the Battle of Olustee or Ocean Pond will be held Sunday, February 18, 2018 at the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park within the Osceola National Forest. Please be sure to share the following information and participant guidelines with each member of your unit attending the Olustee Battle Reenactment.

**NO PETS** such as cats and dogs are allowed at Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park during the Olustee Battle Reenactment from Wednesday through Sunday.

**SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS:** The Florida Park Service, the USDA Forest Service, The Olustee Battlefield Citizen Support Organization, and The Blue-Grey Army, Inc. of Lake City, Florida.

**COMMANDERS:** For the 42nd Annual Reenactment, Tom Jessee has been appointed the Confederate Commanding General; James Permane has been appointed the Union Commanding General. They will share responsibilities as the overall commander.

**LOCATION:** The battlefield is located 15 miles east of Lake City, Florida and 50 miles west of Jacksonville, Florida on U.S. Highway 90, just off Interstate 10. The park's physical address is: 5890 Battlefield Trail Road, Olustee, Florida 32087 (please note this is not a mailing address).

**BATTLE REENACTMENTS:** A battle reenactment will be fought on Saturday, February 17th at 3:30 p.m. and the Battle of Olustee or Ocean Pond reenactment at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 18th. A REENACTORS ONLY Tactical will take place on Friday afternoon.

**PARTICIPANTS:** We expect at least 1200 combatants, and hope to fill the 10 C.S. and 12 U.S. full scale artillery limits. We are also anticipating in excess of 50 mounted troops, 2 wagons, and over 200 ground charges.

**SUTLERS:** A large number of Sutlers is expected once again. Fifty five Sutler spaces are available.

**WEATHER:** The weather should be predictably Florida-like with daytime temperatures in the 60s and 70s and evening temperatures in the 40s to 50s. Cold snaps with days and nights in the 20s to 30s are not uncommon. Rain is always a threat. Greatcoats, ponchos and gum blankets may all prove to be useful.

**HORSES:** All horses, whether cavalry, infantry or artillery, must be inspected at the Cavalry Camp and have current Coggins verified. Any horse not inspected will not be allowed in the battle. All horses and riders must comply with Cavalry Regulations. **All persons with horses must check in at the Cavalry Camp.**

**PARKING:** Because of our continued space limitations we need to limit vehicles. Please encourage your men to come in as few vehicles as possible and help us discourage large RVs. Please, only one car per family.

**ARRIVAL TIME:** Troops may begin arriving on Thursday, February 15th, and may stay through Monday, February 18th.

**ENTRANCE/DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS – Entrance passes (obtained at Registration) are required to enter back gates.) Please drive slowly and carefully. Driving conditions prior to and during the reenactment may change due to weather conditions. Please help protect the Olustee Battlefield by making yourself aware of driving policies during the event. Remember, this is one of the few reenactments that take place on the actual battle site. Please visit our website [www.BattleofOlustee.org](http://www.BattleofOlustee.org) prior to your arrival at the reenactment for update driving policies.**

Thursday, February 15th	Enter and Exit Front Gate Only ( <i>Back Gate will be locked</i> )
Friday, February 16th	Enter Front Gate      Exit Back Gate ( <b>Note: Front gate will be closed between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. for the safety of our school groups. You may register at the back gate leading into modern camping and at the Union Camp back gate during this period only.</b> )
Saturday, February 17th	Enter and Exit Back Gate Only ( <i>Vehicles are not permitted in period camps after 8 a.m. No vehicles in Sutlers Row</i> )
Sunday, February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Enter and Exit Back Gate Only until 5 p.m. ( <i>Vehicles are not permitted in period camps 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. No vehicles in Sutlers Row</i> ) <b>After 5 p.m.</b> all gates are clear for entrance and exit if pedestrian traffic is clear
<b>Cavalry</b>	<b>Cavalry with horses should enter through the modern camping back gate and check in at the Cavalry Camp</b>

**REGISTRATION:** Registration will begin on THURSDAY at 10:00 a.m. **No arrivals will be admitted prior to Thursday at 10 a.m.** All Reenactors must be registered before going to any of the camps to set up, including Modern Camping. **Arrivals after 7:00 a.m. on Saturday must park outside the main gate and walk in to register.** You may then drive to proper camping areas by using the rear entrances. You will not be admitted through camp entrances without proper passes. **Registration is required to be covered by worker's compensation insurance.** The Registration Schedule is as follows:

Thursday, February 15th	10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.
Friday, February 16th	8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 17th	7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 18th	7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

**REGISTRATION CARD:** A registration card will be issued for each participant and will be required to participate in events. Cards must be presented at time of weapons inspection Saturday and Sunday and must be carried at all times. **Proof of age must be provided at registration in order to be issued a registration card. Reenactors carrying blackpowder weapons must be at least 16 years of age to participate at Olustee.**

**MINORS MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION:** For your convenience an emergency medical authorization for minors is included in your registration materials. We ask that you: (1) file a notarized copy of the form with the registrar; and (2) that you or your designee, the minor, and the minor's parent or guardian carry copies of the form during your stay at the Olustee Battlefield.

**MODERN CAMPING:** Each modern camper will be assigned a numbered lot. Quiet time is from 12:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m. each day. No generators are allowed to operate during this designated quiet time. All modern campers must camp in designated camping areas. Camping is primitive in nature and no electricity is provided. **Due to safety issues, this event cannot accommodate requests to operate generators during the posted quiet time hours.**

**CAMP PROVOST:** Remember that the public will be visiting authentic camps on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Please post appropriate provost.

**BLACK POWDER:** No black powder may be sold on site, per the Federal Explosive Law (Public Law 91-452) & Title 27, Code of Federal Regulations Part 55, Commerce in Explosives, Subpart D-Licenses and Permits. **BRING ALL THE BLACK POWDER THAT YOU WILL NEED** (about 100 rounds/man).

**SCHOOL GROUPS:** We are requesting that all units and associated civilians take part in living history demonstrations on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> for school groups beginning at 9:00 a.m.

**UNIT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS:** Unit specific regulations have been developed for all Cavalry Units (this includes all mounted troops), Artillery Units and Medical Units. If these regulations apply to you and you did not receive them, please contact the Florida Park Service toll free at 1-877-635-3655.

**GOING HOME AFTER THE BATTLE:** Following Sunday's battle, **Reenactors will not be allowed to leave the event through the front gate until 5:00 p.m.** Please respect the safety of pedestrians and motorists alike by being patient until the gate opens. You are welcome to exit by the rear gates before 5 p.m. on Sunday. Unit commanders – please be sure to share this information with your unit members.

**REGULATIONS:** The Florida Park Service Guide for Reenactors has been adopted by the Battle of Olustee. The Guide for Reenactors also includes additional regulations specific to the Battle of Olustee. **The entire guide and Olustee Regulations have been updated.** Please ensure that each participant from your unit is aware of the rules and regulations. Great emphasis should be placed upon the following:

- \* We encourage all participants to maintain their best early 1864 impressions and wish to encourage ALL AUTHENTIC CS and US infantry, mounted cavalry, and **full scale** artillery to attend.
- \* No black powder weapons of any kind will be carried or fired by any participant under 16 years of age. Children are not permitted on the field during the reenactments. Exception is made for functional musicians (boys 11 or older who can actually play a drum, a fife or a bugle). Young boys are not to serve as color bearers during battle reenactments.
- \* Dismounted Cavalry, not entering the battle mounted, are accepted by invitation only.
- \* Loaded pistols are to be carried only by officers and by mounted cavalry. No small arms of any type will be carried by artillery men during the Battle.
- \* All cartridges must be stored in hard cartridge boxes lined with metal tins or wooden boxes.
- \* SHOTGUNS AND ZOUAVE RIFLES ARE NOT PERMITTED.
- \* Only those types of soldiers actually at the battle of Olustee may be portrayed. Therefore, sharpshooters, zouaves, naval, marine and other impressions not documented at Olustee **WILL NOT BE PERMITTED** on the battlefield and **non-period or non-Civil War related costumes are PROHIBITED at the event.**
- \* All participants are expected to attend Colors on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- \* Each participant is expected to observe military courtesies and civil behavior.

- \* Camping is primitive in nature and no electricity is provided. **Due to safety issues, this event cannot accommodate requests to operate generators during the posted quiet time hours.**
- \* **Digging of any type, including fire pits, is strictly prohibited. Violators will be issued Federal fines and will be immediately dismissed from the event.**

We would like to thank you for your time and attention. Look over the enclosed information and feel free to contact the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park at 1-877-635-3655 if you have further questions or problems.