

Read this First

Be aware of these updates for the 48th Annual Reenactment of the Battle of Olustee in 2025. Please share this information with your entire unit. There are changes that impact everyone.

Military Matters

James Permane has been appointed Union Commanding General for the 48th Annual Reenactment. Tom Jessee is the Confederate Commanding General. They will share the responsibilities as Overall Commanders for the event.

Reminder for 2025

The Florida Park Service initiated new policies regarding black powder weapons and other weapons used during event programming in 2011.

- ❖ When volunteering for reenactment scenarios in which black powder replica weaponry and/or replica artillery is expected to be present. Persons with felony convictions are prohibited by law from the constructive possession of firearms and may not reenact at any Florida State Park.
- ❖ Volunteering involves interactions with the public, including people of all ages. Persons that have committed any offense for which they are prohibited from interactions with people of all ages may not reenact at any Florida State Park.
- ❖ Only reenactors 16 and older may handle black powder weapons. **Everyone** is required to show proof of age at registration before you can be issued a registration card. ***Please remember to bring your ID.***
- ❖ **The notarized minor permission slip is now required for all minors participating in activities at the park, even if a parent is present.**
- ❖ Only FFg (2F) black powder will be used for small arms and 1F or CG for artillery according to the table of maximum loads located in the Reenactors Guide. NO Pyrodex. NO FFFg (3F) or FFFFg (4F) powder will be used except by artillery units for priming.
- ❖ Each person handling a black powder weapon is required to complete a brief training – training will be conducted during weapons inspection, and you will be provided special handouts at registration to help us accomplish this directive.
- ❖ All cartridge boxes must be lined with metal tins or have wood blocks.
- ❖ A donation of \$10.00 per person is suggested to assist the CSO in ensuring the Olustee Battle Reenactment continues. Resources supplied by the Olustee Battlefield CSO include portable toilets, bedding hay, firewood, bus transportation, dance bands, event marketing, tent rentals, sound equipment, modern camping management, ladies' social supplies and speaker, bleachers, pyrotechnician and supplies and many other expenses. The donation is suggested of each reenactor dressed in period dress and each guest accompanying that reenactor over the age of 6. Donation can be made at registration. Exact change is **required**.
- ❖ The Skirmish scheduled for Saturday is at **1:30 p.m.** Please check your Reenactor Schedule for other schedule changes in 2025

Returning in 2025

- ❖ Old Fashioned Barn Dance Friday evening
- ❖ Olustee Reenactors Ball Saturday evening

Practical Matters

- ❖ **For the safety of our school groups visiting on Friday, the front gate will be closed to vehicular traffic from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. During this period only, you will be allowed in the back gates and must walk up to registration before setting up in your camp.**
- ❖ There will be specific information regarding driving conditions and parking posted on the BattleofOlusee.org website prior to the reenactment weekend. Driving conditions may change due to the condition of the battlefield in order to protect our natural and cultural resources. Please be patient and consider that this is one of the few actual Civil War battle sites you are still able to participate on.
- ❖ **Digging of any type, including fire pits is strictly prohibited at Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park. Violators will be subject to federal fines and will be immediately dismissed from the event.**
- ❖ The front gate is closed for vehicle entry from 7 a.m. Saturday until 5 p.m. Sunday
- ❖ **Reenactors will not be allowed to leave the park through the front gate following Sunday's battle until after all pedestrian traffic has cleared, or at approximately 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 through the rear gate before 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- ❖ Campers will not be admitted to the Modern or Authentic Camping areas until they have registered for the event.
- ❖ Camping at Olustee Battlefield is primitive in nature. Those in need of a generator must camp in the area designated in the Special Needs section of Modern Camping for generator use.

Educational Activities

- ❖ Reenactors are asked to have either a 10-minute living history presentation developed for school groups visiting the Olustee Battlefield on Friday, or to assist as a guide for school groups. *Please contact the park about participating in these activities at 386-397-7009.*

Artillery Information

- ❖ Please have your cannon on the battlefield ready for inspection no later than 9:30 a.m. Saturday. If possible, please have your cannon at the event by Friday night.
- ❖ **Full scale artillery only**
- ❖ **Artillery Units Must Be Pre-Registered**
- ❖ **Returning in 2025 – Bring your own black powder to this event in prepared cartridges or rounds! Artillery Gun Owners participating in the battles both Saturday and Sunday will receive a \$375 stipend per gun following this event. All black powder must be brought into the park in prepared format – cartridges or cannon rounds, as appropriate. Black powder will not be distributed.**
- ❖ Please make sure your cartridges are prepared in accordance with policies established in the Reenactor Guidelines, artillery may only use 1Fg or C (Cannon) grade powder. **Cartridges will be inspected.**
- ❖ Aluminum foil only for making rounds, no additives to powder, no nylons or panty hose.

Cavalry Information: There are significant changes, please make sure you read everything.

The Olustee Battle Reenactment follows all guidelines related to movement and assembly of horses in Florida as outlined by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) - <https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Horses-Equine/Equine-Movement-Requirements>.

- ❖ **All persons with horses must check in at their designated Coggins Check area during event registration hours.** *If you have an emergency and need to arrive later, contact the Cavalry Camp Coordinator – Jimmy Bishop (352-339-1197) for instructions.*
- ❖ **Horses may not be unloaded until Coggins is verified by Florida Park Service or designated event staff.**
 - All horses, whether cavalry, infantry or artillery, **must be inspected and have current Coggins verified** by Florida Park Service or designated event staff.
 - Coggins certification must include horse name, sex, description, owner's name, EIA test date (date blood sample was taken) and EIA accession number.
 - Horses without a current Coggins Certificate must leave the site.
 - Any horse not inspected will not be allowed in the battle.
- ❖ After checking in and having Coggins verified, you should proceed to your Cavalry Camp and check in with the Cavalry Camp Coordinator before unloading.
- ❖ All horses and riders must be authentically equipped and comply with the Cavalry Regulations.
- ❖ Horses should use trails to move from Cavalry Camp to the Authentic Union Camp.
- ❖ Horses are not permitted in public use areas with the exception of Colors.
- ❖ Owners are responsible for the care and safety of their horses.

General Safety Information

- ❖ 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 (children 11 or older who can actually play a drum, a fife, or a bugle).
 - Children are not to serve as color bearers during battle reenactments.
- ❖ If you encounter bees in or near your campsites or in the park, please leave them alone and notify uniformed staff from the Florida Park Service or U.S.D.A. Forest Service of their location.
- ❖ **Please take note that trains traveling through the Olustee Battlefield Wednesday through Sunday are traveling under a “Slow Order” issued by the Florida Gulf and Atlantic Railroad. The “Slow Order” is lifted at 6 p.m. Sunday evening. Use extreme caution when exiting the park after this time. Trains will be moving at a high rate of speed.**

Before Leaving the Event

- ❖ **Please be sure to clean your campsite and place all garbage in the dumpsters provided.**

Visit Our Website: BattleofOlustee.org