

48th Annual Reenactment of the
**Battle of
Olustee**



February 13 – 16, 2025

TO: All Unit Commanders
FROM: Olustee Battle Reenactment Committee
SUBJECT: 2025 Information

The 48th annual reenactment, commemorating the 161st Anniversary of the Battle of Olustee or Ocean Pond will be held Sunday, February 16, 2025, 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 are allowed at the Park during the Olustee Battle Reenactment from Wednesday through Sunday. *Service animals are always welcome.*

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS: The Florida Park Service, the USDA Forest Service, and The Olustee Battlefield Citizen Support Organization, The Baker County Tourist Development Council and the Blue Gray Army.

COMMANDERS: 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 15th at **1:30 p.m.** and the Battle of Olustee or Ocean Pond reenactment at **1:30 p.m.** on Sunday, February 16th.

PARTICIPANTS: We are anticipating at least 1200 combatants, 16 full scale artillery, more than 50 mounted troops, 2 wagons, and over 160 ground charges.

SUTLERS: Sutlers are expected once again.

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.

ARRIVAL TIME: Troops may begin arriving on Thursday, February 13th, and may stay until Monday, February 17th.

HORSES: 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 outside of those hours, contact the Cavalry Camp Coordinator, Jimmy Bishop (352-339-1197) for instructions.*
- **Coggins must be verified by Florida Park Service or designated event staff before entering camp or unloading horses.**
 - 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 current Coggins must leave the site.**
 - Any horse not inspected will not be allowed in the battle.
- After having Coggins verified, please proceed to your Cavalry Camp and check in with your Camp Coordinator before unloading your horse.
- 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.

PARKING: Because of our 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.

ENTRANCE/DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS: Please drive slowly and carefully.

- **Entrance passes (obtained at Registration) are required to enter back gates.**
- 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 prior to your arrival at the reenactment for updated driving policies.

Thursday, February 13th **Enter and Exit Front Gate Only**
(Cavalry with horse trailers enter through appropriate back gates).

Friday, February 14th **Enter Front Gate - Exit Back Gate**
The front gate will be closed between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. for the safety of our school groups. You may enter at the back gate leading into modern camping and at the Union Camp back gate during this period only. **You must come to participant registration to register before you're allowed to set up camp.**
(Cavalry with horse trailers enter through appropriate back gates).

Saturday, February 15th **Enter and Exit Back Gate Only**
Vehicles are not permitted in period camps after 8 a.m.
No vehicles in Sutlers Row

Sunday, February 16th **Enter and Exit Back Gate Only until 5 p.m.**
Vehicles are not permitted in period camps 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
No vehicles in Sutlers Row

PRIOR TO 5 PM: ONLY EXIT THROUGH BACK GATES.

Once all pedestrian traffic is clear, all gates will open. ***After 5 p.m.***

CAVALRY: Cavalry with horses must enter through their appropriate gate.

Authentic Federal horses will enter through the Federal Camps back gate and all others at the modern camping back gate. All horses must remain loaded in their designated Coggins Check area prior to entering Cavalry Camps. After Coggins Check, make sure you check in with your camp coordinator.

REGISTRATION: Registration will begin on THURSDAY at 10:00 a.m.

- **No arrivals will be admitted prior to Thursday at 10 a.m.**
- **A current photo ID must be presented at registration.**
 - 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 at one of the event parking areas outside the park and ride the bus to the main gate to register.** *Information about parking area locations will be posted on www.BattleOfOlustee.org.*
 - After registering, 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 13 th	10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.
Friday, February 14 th	8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 15 th	7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 16 th	Registration Closed

REGISTRATION CARD: A registration card will be issued for each participant and will be required to participate in events.

- Cards must be presented at the time of weapons inspection on 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 black powder weapons must be at least 16 years of age to participate.**

MINORS MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION: For your convenience an emergency medical authorization for minors is included in your registration materials. We ask 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. **These are not turned in at registration but are required for all minors participating in activities at the park.**

Donation Requested: The Olustee Battlefield Citizens Support Organization will charge a donation for the Olustee Battle Reenactment. **The suggested \$10.00 per person donation assists 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 requested of each reenactor dressed in period dress and each guest accompanying that reenactor over the age of 6. Donations may be made at registration. ***There's no change available at registration.***

MODERN CAMPING: Generators may only be used in the Special Needs Area in Modern Camping. 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 except in designated area.**

- Each modern camper will be assigned a numbered lot.
- Quiet times are from 12:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m. each day.
- All modern campers must camp in designated camping areas.
- Registered reenactors will proceed to find a campsite, complete a campsite registration form, and return the form to the modern camping gate prior to setting-up camp.

CAMP PROVOST: Remember that the public will be visiting authentic camps on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Please post an 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 already made into cartridges (about 100 rounds/man). ***You may not roll cartridges on site.***

SCHOOL GROUPS: We are requesting that all units and associated civilians take part in living history demonstrations on Friday, February 14th for school groups beginning at 9:00 a.m.

GOING HOME AFTER THE BATTLE: Following Sunday's battle, **Reenactors will not be allowed to leave the event through the front gate until after 5:00 p.m. or until pedestrian traffic clears.** 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.*

UNIT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS: Unit specific regulations have been developed for all Cavalry Units (*this includes all mounted troops*), Artillery Units and Medical Units. *Regulations are in the Reenactors Guide.*

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 on the following:

- 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 or volunteer at any Florida State Park.
- **All persons with horses must enter the event through designated gates and check in at their designated Coggins check area during event registration hours.**
 - **Coggins must be verified by Florida Park Service or designated event staff before entering camp or unloading horses.** If you have an emergency and will arrive outside of registration hours, contact Jimmy Bishop (352-339-1197) for instructions.

- 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 (11 or older who can actually play a drum, a fife or a bugle).
 - Young children are not to serve as color bearers during battle reenactments.
- No dismounted cavalry.
- 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 except for the designated special needs area in Modern Camping.**
- **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 Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park at 1-877-635-3655 if you have further questions or problems.