

Interior Region 2 – South Atlantic-Gulf Region

 United States Department of the Interior

 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Kings Mountain National Military Park

2625 Park Road

Blacksburg, SC 29702

864-936-7921 / Fax 864-936-3477

Cowpens National Battlefield &

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

338 New Pleasant Road

Gaffney, SC 29341

864-461-2828 / Fax 864-461-7077

December 5, 2023

Dear Friends,

The team at Cowpens National Battlefield is busy preparing for the commemoration of the 243rd anniversary of the battle on **January 13-14, 2024**, and we hope that your group will be able to attend. Please read this letter carefully and share with your members, as some things have changed..

**Accuracy and Regulations:**

* Cowpens National Battlefield was created to commemorate the Battle of Cowpens. Campsites, clothing, and interpretation must be period correct, i.e. January 17, 1781. If you must have 21st century items, please make sure that they are concealed from public view. Activities such as smoking cigarettes must be carried out at least 25 feet from visitor center entrances and demonstration areas.
* NPS regulations prohibit selling anything, including memberships to your organization, onsite.
* Campfires may not be left unattended at any time.

**Amenities and Reminders:**

* Straw and firewood will be provided by the park and placed at the tree line near the encampment area for your use. Please do not bring straw or firewood from outside the park.
* **Reminder –** Regulations do not allow us toprovide food. We are looking into opportunities to have a food vendor at the event.
* Please email, fax, or mail the attached registration and Statement to Abide by NPS Policy forms to Ginny Fowler and Justin Holzer by **December 29**.
	+ Email: virginia\_fowler@nps.gov justin\_holzer@nps.gov
	+ Fax: 864-461-7795
	+ Mail: Ginny Fowler

 Cowpens National Battlefield

 338 New Pleasant Road

 Gaffney, SC 29341

**Commanders Meeting:**

* 9:00 am Saturday, Program Tent
* Someone from your group must attend**, *even if no one is firing.***

**Weapons Inspections:**

* Saturday and Sunday, 9:45 am, tree line behind the Program Tent
* All weapons, even if you are not planning to fire them, must be inspected by one of the park’s historic weapons supervisors. The park historic weapons supervisors are responsible for ensuring the safe and appropriate demonstration of historic weapons. They determine who will fire historic weapons in the park, and their instructions are to be followed at all times.
* Weapons will not be allowed inside of the visitor center on the day of park events since the park does not have the capacity to reinspect weapons for each entry/re-entry.
* If you know someone will arrive later, please let me know during the Commanders’ Meeting and have him/her find me or another historic weapons supervisor when they arrive.

**Arrival/Departure:**

* Since we will be in the final event preparation stages on Friday, **please do not arrive to set up camp until after 2:00 pm on Friday.**
* The first person who arrives from your unit should come to the Visitor Center to get the Registration/Welcome packet.
* For our visitors’ safety, **camp set up should be completed** and vehicles removed from the encampment area **by 9:00 am on Saturday, January 13th**. Please park in the area designated for reenactors***. DO NOT park anywhere near the firing range.***
* We ask that you stay for the entire event, but if your group cannot, please let us know on the registration so that we can accurately plan. **Breaking camp may begin at 3:00 pm on Sunday, January 14th**. Please remember to watch out for visitors who will still be in the encampment area.
* If you need to leave on Saturday, for our visitors’ safety and for historical accuracy, do not bring a vehicle into the camp until the lantern tours are finished and visitors have cleared the area.

**Programs**

Although, we do not have the full program set in stone yet. We are planning to have author talks and book signings, battlefield walks, cavalry demos and cavalry talks, dummy gun drills and other children’s activities, lantern walks, and weapons firing demonstrations.

* Saturday's Lantern Walk will begin at 5:45 pm. The program will be a little different this year. A ranger or volunteer will lead an abbreviated tour onto the battlefield and come back into the reenactor camp so that you can stay warmer near your campfires. Visitors will be led to the camps of the units who are participating. Groups who are interested in participating will give short (3-minutes max) talks. We can provide talking points.

If you are not the current commander, please forward this letter and the attachments to the appropriate person or send Justin and me the new contact information.

Thank you for your support in making this event possible. We want you to enjoy it as much as our visitors do. Please share any ideas to improve the event.

We are committed to helping to ensure the perpetuation of the art, craft and significance of reenactors and living historians for the next generation. I look forward to seeing each of you in January!

Sincerely,

Ginny Fowler

Chief of Visitor Services