

School of Artillery at Old Fort Niagara

We are honored to present to you this registration packet for the School of Artillery, to be held at Old Fort Niagara in Youngstown, New York. This is the 36th school sponsored by the National Civil War Artillery Association and Reynolds Battery L is proud to host it at this site.

Old Fort Niagara is a historic landmark which we are honored to be permitted to use for this weekend. "History happened here," dating back to 1657 when the beginning foundations of the stone fortress were begun where the Niagara River meets Lake Ontario. Today the Fort is a privately administered association within the New York State Office of Parks and Historical Preservation system and is one of the largest and most successful tourist attractions in the state. Every year during this school, tour groups from places as far away as Russia and China visit. We hope all participants take some time to view the Fort, visit the new visitor's center, talk to the staff and interpreters, and respect the site.

This training weekend, whether you wear blue or gray the school is dedicated to one simple goal: the training of reenactors in the safe portrayal of their branch. To a lesser degree, it is the hope that, in brotherhood, we can continue to strive to make this hobby enjoyable and accurate to ourselves, our comrades, and the public.

Except for general formations for colors, the Fort will be garrisoned, scheduled, administered, and certified by staff from Reynolds' Battery L. We will assist putting together limited classes for any participants who attend and will base the number of classes on the needs of our many participants.

The registration area will open at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and will remain open until 10:00 p.m. that evening. It will reopen at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning until 10:00 a.m. If you will arrive at a different time, and have not been to the Fort before, please contact us so we can make arrangements to meet you.

General Rules and Regulations

1. Use Common Sense! If in doubt, ask a staff officer.
2. We ask that as many soldiers as possible, camp on the grounds of the Fort in period tents (no modern tents allowed). The Fort no longer allows men to sleep in the French Castle. The Fort asks to have a filled bucket for every two tents.
3. There is limited space for sleeping in the Fort Blockhouses, given on a first-come, first-served basis. For the purpose of our impressions, we encourage all tents to be inside the Fort walls.
4. No camping in the parking lot. Vans, trucks, cars, trailers for guns, motor homes, campers and etc., must use the designated parking area set up by the Fort. This will be pointed out to you when you register.
5. No kerosene lamps, heaters, etc., allowed anywhere in Fort Niagara. All flames (candles, lanterns, etc.) must be in an enclosed vessel.
6. There is no smoking in any building at any time. Cigarette smoking will be restricted outside the Fort during operational hours. Period smoking (cigars and pipes) will be limited to the parade ground only.
7. Fires in the blockhouses must have a fire watch on duty while the fire is lit.
8. No digging of any kind on the Fort grounds.
9. All outdoor fires and cooking will be limited to the fire pads near the camping area. All cooking equipment will be of a period style.
10. The Fort has modern bathrooms and washing areas on site. The Fort concession stand may or may not be open. You should plan on your own meals.
11. No vehicles will be allowed in the Fort during operational hours. On Friday, after 5:00 p.m., at the discretion and permission of the Provost Marshall, vehicles will be allowed inside the Fort to unload equipment. On Saturday, after 4:00 p.m., at the discretion and permission of the Provost Marshall, vehicles will again be allowed inside the Fort to load equipment. If you need to leave early on Saturday, please plan ahead!

12. Cannon trailers can be unloaded from the front portal (see map).
13. This is a military camp, and military courtesy will be strictly enforced. This includes attending formations, saluting officers, demonstrating proper manners to civilians, etc. Also, since soldiers here are on garrison duty, soldiers must be clean and in full dress uniform during daylight hours.
14. We realize that training is the primary goal for the weekend. If you have recruits who are not fully outfitted, have them wear what they have.
15. Bring warm clothes for under your uniform (long johns, etc.). The weather could (and has) range from 25 degrees at night to 76 degrees during the day, with a cold wind off Lake Ontario. Be ready for inclement weather. Classes will not be canceled due to weather.
16. Civilians are asked to remain in period clothes during daylight hours.
17. All non-period equipment must be covered during the day.
18. Officers and non-commissioned officers will always be responsible for the men of their unit. This includes their actions for safety.
19. Sutlers are welcome and will be permitted to sell to the public.
20. If you have any questions, problem, suggestions or comments, you can ask the Provost Marshall or the Adjutant. We will try our utmost to instruct your staff on our rules, etc., and will do our best to answer your questions.
21. In case of emergencies, the Officer of the day will be on duty Friday and Saturday, 24 hours a day. You can also check with the registration tent, or at night, at the camp of Reynolds Battery.

Artillery Rules and Regulation

1. Artillery units that are traveling more than 10 (ten) hours do not have to bring a gun. Units traveling less than that are asked to bring at least one full-scale gun.
2. No rounds will be made on site. This includes muskets, revolver and artillery rounds. All charges must be pre-made charges. No loose powder is allowed in the Fort.
3. All artillery ammunition must be in a secure, locked limber chest, or be stored in the Fort's magazine at night. See the Adjutant or Provost Marshall for location of this magazine.
4. Each artillery piece will wait five (5) minutes between firings and will be double sponged. This is required by the State of New York for all artillery on State property.
5. All certification and recertification candidates will attend all assigned classes and be duly certified by a National Civil War Artillery Association Artillery Instructor to earn certification. Certification (and recertification) costs \$5.00 per person per year to offset the cost of the paperwork and is separate from the registration fee. Certification is good for two years or (\$10.00)

Off-Site Lodging

In Youngstown:

Lakeview Motel & Cottages 716-791-8668
Four Mile Creek State Campground 716-745-3802
Cameo Manor North/ Cameo Inn 716-745-3034

In Lewiston, six miles from the Fort:

Lewiston KOA Campground 716-754-8013 (info) 800-562-8715 (reserve)
Riverside Motel 716-754-4101
Niagara Crossing Hotel and Spa 888-838-0829
Brickhaus Inn (Bed & Breakfast) 716-754-7936