

Guidelines for 2025 Living History at Eisenhower NHS

The following are guidelines for living history participation at Eisenhower National Historic Site 2025 WWII Weekend Event on September 19-21. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in dismissal from the event. We appreciate your cooperation in presenting safe and enriching living history programming at Eisenhower National Historic Site.

Personal Behavior and Code of Conduct

1. As a living history participant at the Eisenhower National Historic Site you represent the National Park Service as an interpretive volunteer. All participants will sign volunteer agreements with the park. You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional and courteous manner when dealing with the public, park staff, and other living history volunteers. Discriminatory or harassing behavior towards staff, other volunteers, or visitors will not be tolerated.
 - a. As volunteers for the National Park Service, all participants must adhere to the National Park Service Anti-Harassment Policy laid out in Directors Orders #16E. A copy of the order can be found here: https://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DO_16E_2018rev.htm. Anyone found exhibiting harassing behaviors will be asked to leave the event and participation in future events will be restricted.
2. Courtesy to the public is required. Use of colorful language (no matter how authentic) will not be tolerated. The general public includes children. Be sensitive to proper etiquette with different age groups.
3. Living history volunteers are not permitted to sell any items to the public or other living historians while at the historic site. World War II items, including books, must only be sold through our site bookstore. It is National Park Service policy that only NPS authorized vendors may make sales.
4. Living history volunteers or groups may not conduct fundraising as part of their participation in this event. Group literature or handouts that direct to websites or newsletters that have separate fundraising information are acceptable.
5. Use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on National Park Service property. Those in violation will be asked to leave and will not be allowed to participate in future events.

WWII Weekend Registration, Check In, and Set-Up

1. All participating groups must be approved and invited by the NPS and must meet authenticity guidelines and safety requirements. Groups need to register in advance to ensure their space needs and numbers are properly communicated to the NPS.
2. Once registration is complete, participating group leaders will fill out volunteer forms for their respective groups. All participating members will sign their group volunteer form upon arrival and check-in for the event.

3. Check in for the event will open at 10 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 19. Check-in will resume at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 20 and conclude at 9:00 a.m. If you cannot check in during these times, contact the park or your group leader in advance.
4. All participants must check-in and sign their group volunteer form prior to the camp opening to the public at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.
5. Displays may be set up during check-in hours on Friday, Sept 19, and Saturday, Sept 20. The camp must be clear of personal vehicles and camp sites/display areas must be open to the public by 9:00 am on Saturday.

Authenticity Guidelines

1. As interpretive volunteers representing the National Park Service, living history participants are expected to present well researched impressions and displays. Groups are expected to know their material well. Living history participants are expected to interact with the public in an engaging and respectful way.
2. All living history impressions and displays will align with the theme and goals of the event and be coordinated with NPS staff. Participating groups and individuals must apply and be vetted and approved by the NPS to participate in living history events at Eisenhower NHS.
 - a. Wherever possible, displays should link to Eisenhower or Gettysburg to center the interpretive experience with relevance for Eisenhower National Historic Site.
3. Event themes and goals will be laid out by the NPS staff at Eisenhower NHS, in consultation with a living history committee, made up of invited volunteers with a track record of excellent living history demonstrations and displays.
4. For 2025 WWII Weekend, living history impressions and displays will interpret the year 1945. Groups may have displays interpreting the following:
 - a. U.S. Army
 - b. U.S. Marines
 - c. U.S. Navy
 - d. U.S. Army Air Forces
 - e. Commonwealth and Allied troops who served under the command of General Eisenhower
 - f. Homefront experience in the U.S., United Kingdom, or French Resistance
 - g. The experience of Gettysburg during the year 1945
 - h. Areas of focus within these areas include stateside recruiting and training, preparations for and actions in the ETO and the Pacific, and a variety of Homefront impressions interpreting the impact of the war in the United States.
5. Groups that have acceptable authenticity standards but lack 1945 impressions may still participate in the event, so long as their impressions or displays can interpret storylines relevant to the event's theme.

Weapons Safety

To ensure the safety of participants, visitors, and park staff, the following rules will be followed. Failure to follow these will result in dismissal from the event.

1. This event is interpreting U.S. and Allied servicemembers in World War II. Accordingly, living history participants may have historic weapons with them for the purpose of interpretive displays and exhibits.
2. Living history volunteers are asked to only bring the weapons that are relevant to their display and can reasonably be used for interpretive purposes.
3. Weapons should be unloaded upon arrival at the site for safety inspection. Weapons must remain unloaded throughout the event.
4. NPS historic weapons supervisors will inspect all weapons for safety issues and to ensure they are unloaded before the start of the event. Weapons checks will consist of ensuring the weapon is unloaded and participants do not have any ammunition (live or blanks). Cleared weapons will have small pieces of yarn tied to them that must remain on during event hours.
5. Dummy explosives are to be inspected to ensure they are inert and safe for display and interpretive purposes.
6. Historic weapons staff will provide visual and spot inspections of the camp on Saturday and Sunday morning to ensure weapons are still unloaded and cleared for display and exhibit.
7. Outside of event hours, weapons should be secured with the participant in the participant's tent or a central secure space such as a locked vehicle. Weapons may not be left unattended at any time.
8. During event hours, weapons (including replicas) are to be under the physical or immediate control of their owners. Weapons may be used for displays in the following manners:
 - Weapons may be handled in a military manner by living history volunteers.
 - Weapons may be secured in the volunteer's hands.
 - Weapons may be slung.
 - Weapons may be laid flat on a display table with a living history volunteer standing adjacent to the table. No tables with weapons displays may be left unattended.
 - Never lean any weapon in a vertical position against any object unless you are using a rifle rack. Rifles with stacking swivels are permitted to be stacked in a military manner. If not stacked, weapons should be stored flat.
 - Weapons may not be left unattended. If left unattended, NPS staff may ask that the weapons be stored in a locked vehicle for the duration of the event.
9. Never point your weapon (firearm or edged weapon) at anyone at any time. All weapons will remain unloaded but will be treated as though they are loaded.
10. Participants under the age of 16 may not handle weapons (firearms or edged weapons).

11. Visitors may touch an unloaded weapon so long as the owner maintains physical control of it and it has been cleared and is unloaded.
12. The public is prohibited from handling edged weapons.
 - a. Sharp edged or pointed weapons, such as bayonets, knives, and swords, must be kept sheathed except for demonstration purposes. Even then, they must be kept in a scabbard unless there is at least a seven-foot safety zone between the volunteer, other re-enactors, and visitors.
13. Do not dry fire weapons.
14. No ammunition of any sort (live or blanks) is allowed on-site at any time. Those found to have ammunition will be asked to lock it in their vehicles or remove it from the site.

Vehicles

1. Only pre-approved World War II-era military vehicles will be allowed in the camp and display areas during visitation hours. Camp passes for approved vehicles will be distributed at event check-in. A parking area for modern vehicles will be provided nearby. Any person wishing to break camp during visitation hours will need to walk their gear back to their vehicles or request a historic vehicle to haul their gear to participant parking.
2. All vehicles are to be driven in a safe manner by licensed drivers. No excessive speeds are allowed and posted speed limits must be followed. In camp speed limit is 5 mph. Speed limit on all other roads is 10 mph. Traffic safety rules will be enforced by NPS staff.
3. Vehicle use in the camp should be kept to an absolute minimum during event hours. Unnecessary vehicle traffic jeopardizes the safety of staff, participants, and visitors.
4. Vehicles should only carry the number of passengers they were designed to carry.
5. Please use marked roads and camp roads while driving around the site. Do not drive across lawns, grass areas, and pedestrian bridges.
6. Participants may offer rides to visitors in historic vehicles only if they have a historic vehicle pass, agree to abide by all vehicle safety rules, and have a valid driver's license.

Fires

1. Cooking may be done on a stove, and all cooking stoves must be attended while in operation.
2. The NPS will issue a final call on fire danger one week prior to the event. In the event of a favorable forecast and the NPS decision, after event hours campfires may be permitted for cooking and warming. In the event conditions allow for campfires, they must be in raised fire pits places on a noncombustible surface and away from flammable materials. A fire extinguisher or bucket of water must be immediately accessible to extinguish the fire. Fires must not be left unattended and must be completely extinguished when done.

Medical Emergency Guidelines

1. During event hours, a first aid station will be set up near the flagpole near the Eisenhower Home. This will be staffed with trained medical personnel.
2. In case of a medical emergency, call 911. Do not wait for a NPS Park Ranger with a radio. NPS staff will hear the emergency dispatch over the radio.
3. National Park Service staff will be equipped with radios and will be on duty each day from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
4. For emergencies or issues that require immediate assistance, please call 911 or the non-emergency line for Adams County Dispatch: (717) 334-8101.