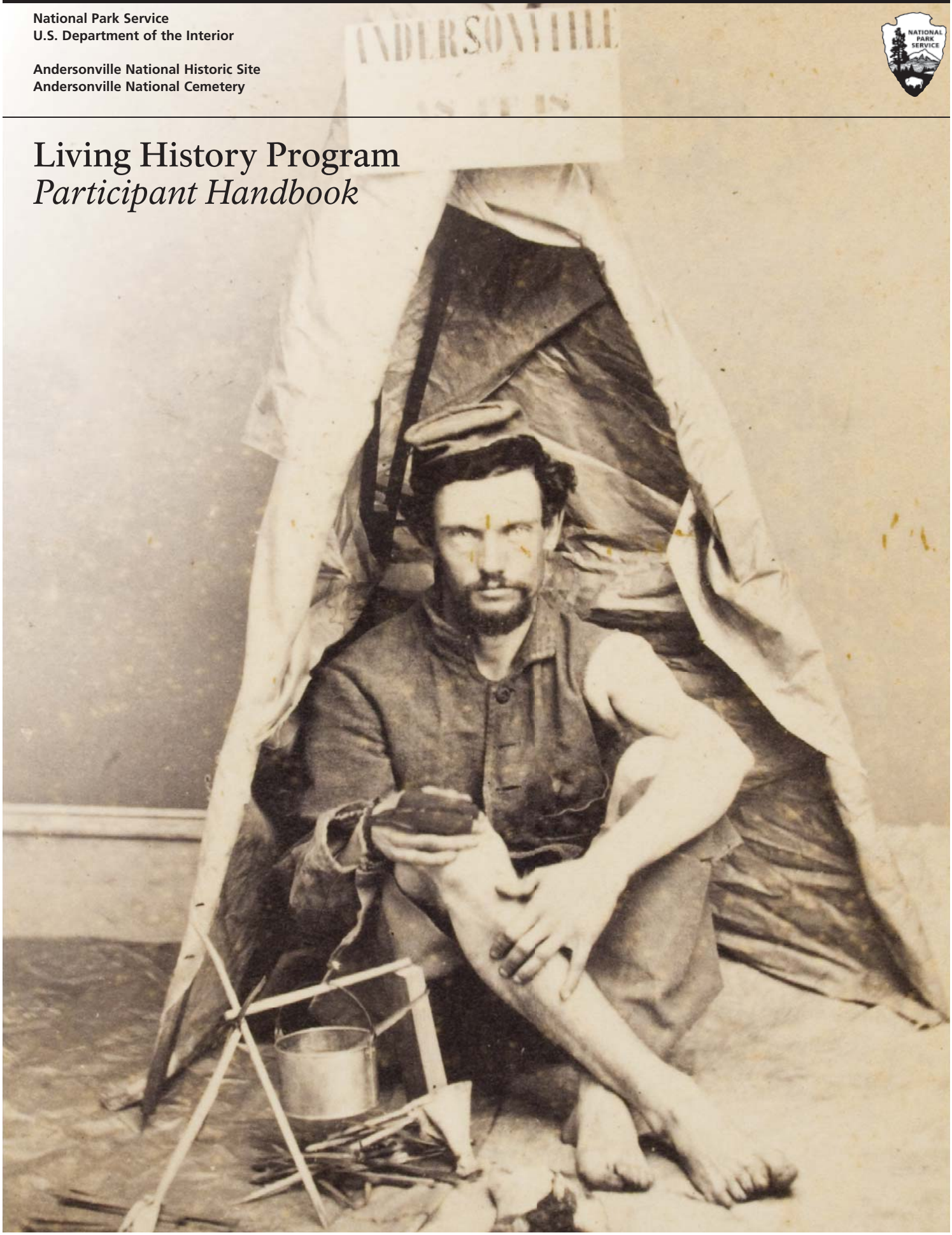
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Andersonville National Historic Site
Andersonville National Cemetery

Living History Program
Participant Handbook



Prisoners at the sinks, looking south; August 1864

Living History Program
Participant Handbook

Produced by the Division of Interpretation and Education
Andersonville National Historic Site
Georgia

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Cover Image:
An Andersonville survivor uses living history to illustrate living conditions in the prison. Circa 1866-1867
Connecticut State Library, 793.77 At 92, Box 1

North Entrance Gate

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Introduction

Living history programs at Andersonville National Historic Site offer unique opportunities to enhance visitor understanding of the experiences of Union prisoners of war held here during the fourteen months the prison operated in 1864 and 1865. These living history program guidelines will guide not only the experience of the living history volunteer while at the park, but they will also ensure that our visitors gain an understanding of the overall prisoner of war story of the Civil War that only a visit to Andersonville and a well-presented historic impression can provide.

It is the desire of the interpretive staff at Andersonville National Historic Site to be able to offer a variety of programming that audiences can experience. Living history programs are a significant component of that programming, but because they have such a powerful impact, it is imperative that we provide an arena of authenticity—in other words, "if it's worth doing, it's worth doing right!" The following guidelines will serve to help us get the story right—we owe the men who suffered here nothing less than our best effort.

Telling the story of the Andersonville Prison requires an understanding of the history of the prison's brief existence and its place in the broader context of the Civil War. Knowledge of National Park Service Interpretive themes, goals, and objectives, as they relate to the story of Andersonville is essential to successful living history programs. Themes are the key ideas or specific stories through which the park's national significance is conveyed to the public. These themes provide the foundation for all development of programming at the park. The themes do not include everything we may wish to interpret, but rather the ideas that are critical to a visitor's understanding of the prisoner of war experience at Andersonville.

The following themes serve as the foundation of all interpretive programming at Andersonville National Historic Site:

- *Camp Sumter military prison, known as Andersonville, was the deadliest landscape of the Civil War. Of the 45,000 Union soldiers imprisoned here, nearly 13,000 died. At its most crowded, it held more than 32,000 men, where forced overcrowding compounded problems of supply and distribution of essential resources.*

- *Prisoner of war policies and treatment during the Civil War were complicated by the evolving passions and politics of war. As a result of the reactionary nature of prisoner exchange and management, 56,000 Americans lost their lives while held as prisoners of war in the north and south.*

- *Beginning with the Civil War, the laws of war have attempted to balance two powerful but competing ideals: humanitarianism and justice. The enforcement and evolution of the laws of war since the 19th century provide ample illustration of the struggle between these two ideals and prisoners of war are beneficiaries and victims of this process.*

- *The challenges faced by prisoners of war, beginning with the moment of capture, the journey to camp, challenging living conditions, privation and torture, the risks of escape, the specter of death, and the hope of freedom all provide a structure for exploring the experiences that are common to all prisoners of war.*

- *Since the end of the Civil War, Andersonville has been a place where Americans struggle to define the legacy of that great conflict. The prison site remains a physical touchstone of debate over the causes of the war, the choices made during the war, and complex questions of justice, reconciliation, and memory.*

- *The Andersonville National Cemetery, its monuments, and its memorialization history are a testament of our nation's debt to its military veterans of all eras. The cemetery stands as a unique place to reflect upon this nation's history. As Andersonville survivor Robert Kellogg stated in 1907, the cemetery remains "an object lesson in patriotism."*

Confederate prisoners after the Battle of Five Forks. Library of Congress

Understanding Andersonville

Telling the story of the Andersonville prison requires an understanding of the history of Camp Sumter, the experiences of individual prisoners, and the complex political situation which governed the prisoner of war policies of both armies and governments.

At the onset of the Civil War, neither side was prepared for a prolonged conflict. Both sides believed that the war would not last long. As a result, no one considered how to house and care for the thousands of enemy soldiers who would eventually be taken prisoner. As the war continued, the necessity of caring for these prisoners became more apparent and critical.

At first, both sides used a parole system, which oftentimes occurred right on the battlefield. The prisoners would state on their honor that they would return home and no longer fight until officially exchanged. This system was quickly found to be impracticable, since many prisoners would immediately continue to fight.

Efforts began early in 1862 to formalize an agreement governing prisoner exchange and parole between the two parties. The formal agreement, known as the Dix-Hill Cartel, was signed on July 22, 1864. Based in large part of the cartel used in the War of 1812, the Dix-Hill Cartel stipulated that all prisoners would be exchanged either man for man or according to a system of rank equivalencies. All prisoners were to be paroled within ten days of capture; paroled prisoners could not serve in any military capacity until formally exchanged.

However, the Cartel broke down over the treatment of captured African-American soldiers in the summer of 1863. As a result, large prisons such as Andersonville were created.

Around the same time, President Lincoln ordered that the Union Army adopt General Orders No. 100, *Instructions for the Government of Armies of the United States, in the Field*. Also known as the Lieber Code, General Orders 100 was a military order to codify the laws of war into 157 articles and instructed soldiers on their humanitarian obligations and prohibited and permitted conduct during armed conflict. James Seddon, the Confederate secretary of war, proclaimed the Lieber Code "confused, unassorted, and undiscriminating" and partly "obsolete," but the Confederacy later adopted the Lieber Code for the instruction of its soldiers and commanders. Almost 150 years later, the Lieber Code is still considered the most important early codification of the customs and practices of war.

The earliest camps for Union prisoners were in and around Richmond, Virginia, capital of the Confederacy. By 1863 the prisoner population in Richmond had grown to the point that it caused a serious drain on the city's dwindling food supply. Richmond was under constant threat of attack.

In November 1863, General Winder directed that a new military prison be built in southwest Georgia, far from the front. That new camp was Andersonville.

While commonly known as Andersonville, the military prison facility was officially named Camp Sumter Military Prison, in honor of the county in which it was located. Construction of the camp began in early 1864 after the decision had been made to relocate Union prisoners to a more secure location. This decision was made because of the battles taking place near Richmond, VA where many prisoners were being held, and as a way to procure a greater food supply.

Camp Sumter operated for fourteen months—during that time nearly 45,000

***Top*: Burying the dead, August 1864.**

***Bottom*: Post-war photograph of the Andersonville National Cemetery.**

Union soldiers were imprisoned there, and nearly 13,000 died from disease, poor sanitation, malnutrition, overcrowding, or exposure.

The prison initially covered 16 acres of land, which was enclosed by a fifteen foot high stockade wall. The prison was enlarged in June 1864 to 26 1/2 acres to compensate for overpopulation. The stockade was constructed in the shape of a parallelogram that was 1,620 feet long and 779 feet wide. Approximately 19 feet inside of the stockade wall was the "deadline," which the prisoners were not allowed to cross. If a prisoner stepped over the "deadline," the guards in the "pigeon roosts," which were roughly thirty yards, apart were allowed to shoot them.

The first prisoners arrived at Camp Sumter in February 1864. By June 1864 over 26,000 prisoners were confined here. The stockade was only designed to house 10,000. The largest number of prisoners held at one time was over 32,000 in August 1864.

The Confederate government did not provide the prisoners with adequate shelter, food, clothing, or medical care. Due to the terrible conditions prisoners suffered greatly and a high mortality rate ensued.

Corporal George Tibbles, 4th Iowa Infantry, remembered:

> *If you can imagine yourself confined in a stockade, without shelter, blankets, or clothing, with one pint of course, unsifted, and often musty corn-meal per day to eat, no fire or utensils to cook it with, no pure water to drink, surrounded on all sides with dead, wounded, dying, and living skeletons, guarded and vigilantly watched by a villainous set of rebels, armed with cannon and muskets, eagerly waiting for an opportunity or the slightest pre-text, to shoot you, without hope of escape, and if, perchance, you did escape, to be hunted and torn to pieces by trained, ferocious bloodhounds, then you can for a moment partially realize the condition of the prisoners at Andersonville, in the summer of 1864.*

When General William T, Sherman's Union forces occupied Atlanta on September 2, 1864, fear of an Union Army assault on the prison led the Confederate Army to move most of the prisoners to other camps in South Carolina and coastal Georgia. From then until May 1865, Andersonville was operated on a smaller basis than before.

When the war ended, Captain Henry Wirz, the stockade commander, was arrested and charged with conspiring with high Confederate officials to "impair and injure the health and destroy the lives...of Federal prisoners" and "murder, in violation of the laws of war." Tried and found guilty of violations of the laws of war by a military tribunal, Wirz was hanged in Washington, D,C. on November 10, 1865. A monument to Wirz, erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, stands today in the town of Andersonville.

Andersonville prison ceased operation in May 1865. In July and August 1865, an Army Quartermaster Department expedition, with soldiers and laborers, accompanied by a former prisoner named Dorence Atwater and Clara Barton came to the Andersonville cemetery to identify and mark the graves of the Union dead.

As a prisoner, Atwater had been assigned to record the names of deceased Union soldiers. Fearing loss of the death record at war's end, Atwater made his own copy in hopes of notifying the relatives of the nearly 13,000 dead interred here. Thanks to his list and the Confederate records confiscated at the end of the war, only 460 of the prisoner graves had to be marked "unknown U.S. soldier."

The prison site reverted to private ownership in 1875. In December 1890 it was purchased by the Georgia Department of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Oversight of the prison site was given to the Woman's Relief Corps (WRC), the auxiliary of the GAR. The WRC made many improvements and in 1910 donated the prison site to the United States. Andersonville was administered by the US Army, until its designation as a national historic site by Congress in October 1970.

Interpretive Responsibilities

Interpretation is the primary function and justification for all living history activities in the park. Site related theme interpretation is the key element in all park programs.

A living historian talks with visitors about the experiences of Union prisoners at Andersonville. NPS/Andersonville NHS

Interpretation vs. Information
In recent years, the National Park Service has devoted considerable time and effort to this question, to identify what we do as successful interpreters. Interpretation is not simply the communication of facts and information. Although facts are an important part of an interpretive program, they are not enough. Successful interpretation is the communication of facts and information in such a way that visitors will develop an appreciation and understanding of the park and its resources and stories.

- First, understand that every visitor is unique. A good interpreter uses his or her skills to help visitors arrive at their own conclusions.

- Second, provide accurate and balanced information—remember that there are at least two sides to every story, so the information provided must take into account multiple points of view.

- Finally, use universal concepts and pose questions to the audience during a program as a way to provide a catalyst for the audience to make connections.

For example, a talk at the Northeast Corner Reconstruction might utilize the shelter reproductions, wall, and guard towers to illustrate the prisoner experience and overcrowding in the summer of 1864. The reproduction shelters provide a handy prop for illustrating the variety of shelters built. Using the presence of the shelters to pose some questions to the audience. “How would you have used the items you carry to survive in these conditions? Would you have helped other in an attempt to tunnel out, or would you tell the guards in exhange for more food? Asking questions encourages the audience to think and arrive at their own conclusions.

Ultimately, your success as volunteer interpreters will be measured in how well you inspire the public to care about Andersonville National Historic Site, and in turn, to care for this park that they, as citizens, own. You, as a successful interpretive volunteer, are creating new stewards of America’s cultural heritage!

An interpreter’s primary objective is to engage with visitors in a way that helps them make a connection to the site and the story. NPS/C. Barr

Costumed interpreters draw from primary source materials to tell specific stories of events at Andersonville
NPS/C. Barr

Living History Program Guidelines

The following guidelines contain information on the regulations and responsibilities applicable to individual and group living history volunteers participating in the Volunteer In Parks (VIP) program at Andersonville National Historic Site. This information on facilities, safety, historical integrity and responsibilities provide the guidance, consistency, and understanding for an effective program operation. These guidelines are in accordance with NPS management policies, Director's Order 6, the general guidelines for interpretive programming and NPS sponsored living history programming.

Andersonville's Living History program is regulated by the following:

1. Living history guidelines in this document are concerned with the management, administration, logistics of programs, special events, and exhibit staffing. These guidelines include authenticity standards for historical period costuming and offers suggestions for successful interpretation.

2. NPS Historic weapons firing manuals govern demonstrations, safety, and maintenance of historic weapons. In addition, Park-specific Weapons Demonstration Standards govern how these demonstrations are conducted at our park. *Given the nature of the story of Andersonville, opportunities for weapons demonstrations are limited.*

3. Volunteers agree to follow the historic scenarios and program themes as determined by park staff.

4. A volunteer agreement must be signed by each adult prior to a scheduled event. The event agreement will provide an outline of logistical expectations that living history volunteers must agree to. Participants under 18 may be included on their parent's agreement form.

Application Process
All volunteers interested in participating in the living history program at Andersonville National Historic Site must submit an individual application to the event coordinator. Applications are available by contacting the park by phone or by printing one from the park website at go.nps.gov/livinghistoryprisoners

Event registration must be submitted for each individual participant. Contact information will be used to send out event details, volunteer paperwork, and other materials.

Groups or individuals who have not participanted in a living history event at Andersonville within the last three years must speak with the event coordinator before their registrations will be processed to ensure that all participants can meet program expectations.

Individuals making application to Andersonville should understand that they are held responsible to abide by the conditions stipulated in the volunteer services agreement. Failure to comply with this voluntary contract may result in ineligibility to participate in future park programs.

Historic Weapons
The Historic Weapons Program is a mainstay of many Civil War related NPS sites. Given the nature of the story at Andersonville, weapons demonstration programs are not a regular part of interpretive program offerings. The living history weekend provides an annual opportunity for programs icorporating blackpowder demonstrations at the prison site.

An armed guard enters the prison site to interact with visitors.
NPS/C. Barr

The Black Powder Safety Officer will use National Park Service guidelines and policies to make any decisions regarding historic weapons and black powder. The Black Powder Safety Officer will have the final authority on any such decision. As always, safety is the primary concern.

For all units involved in firing, it is imperative that a safe, well-practiced drill is followed. All units are required to demonstrate their drill to the Black Powder Safety Officer.

On the firing line, the word of the NPS Black Powder Safety Officer is absolute. Before a unit (or any member thereof) can participate in any firing demonstration, all firearms must pass a safety inspection; and the unit must demonstrate its drill to the satisfaction of the Black Powder Safety Officer. NPS regulations require hearing protection use during all programs utilizing historic weapons. Facilities for weapon maintenance and repair are extremely limited on site. If you have any questions about drills, weapons and firing demonstrations please contact park staff.

Blackpowder
Guards must supply their own powder for cartridges. Cartridges may be pre-rolled but must be inspected for NPS compliance and safety prior to use. All cartridges and rounds will be turned over to the saftey officer and locked into a powder magazine in between demonstrations.

Bayonets and Other Edged Weapons
Edged weapons like swords, knives and bayonets may be drawn and brandished, in a safe and prudent manner, when the bearer and the weapon are behind a barrier in a secure area out of reach of visitors. When NOT behind a barrier, in the vicinity of visitors, swords, knives, bayonets and the like may NOT be fully drawn. They may be partially drawn out of the scabbard enough to expose some of the blade for visual inspection for interpretive purposes, but no visitor may touch the blade. Also, when not behind a barrier, bayonets may be fixed on muskets but the muskets must be kept in a vertical position and the bearer must maintain control of the weapon and the bayonet. At no time may muskets be fired with fixed bayonets.

Prisoners should only have period-appropriate pocket knives in their possesion, and should treat them in the same manner as bayonets when interacting with visitors.

Jewelry
Absolutely no modern jewelry or wristwatches can be worn. Wedding bands and emergency medical tags (if hidden from view) are excepted.

Eyeglasses
All eyeglasses are to be of the period. No modern eyeglasses will be worn. If you have contact lenses please wear those. If you have neither, and can see well enough without your glasses, please remove them while on location and/or among visitors.

Smoking
Smoking while on location will be permitted in the form of period tobacco products (cigars, pipes etc.) only. No modern cigarettes with filters will be allowed.

Food
Depending on the nature of the planned program, a ration issue may be provided. All other food is to be provided by the individual participant. If you wish to supplement with your own rations please make sure it is of the period and locale. Corn, onions, salt pork or beef, fresh beef or pork, rice and beans are acceptable, however **make sure there are no modern wrappers in sight**. No alcohol is permitted.

Amenities
Firewood, pine straw, water and toilets will be provided for the use of the participants. There is limited parking at the park so please carpool if you can.

Camping
Both modern primitive (no hook-ups, no RVs) and period campsites are provided on site. Modern camping is available in the town of Andersonville. In addition, the park has limited space for parking of RVs. Contact the volunteer coordinator for more information.

A youth volunteer portraying a musician held captive at Andersonville. NPS/C. Barr

Participants are welcome and encouraged to camp at the park in designated areas using period tentage. A restroom will be open after hours. **You must check with the park staff before setting up camp**.

Weather

Participants need to be prepared for inclement weather in the event of rain. Period rain gear must be worn. Be prepared for cold weather. All cold weather gear must be of the period.

Civilians

Given the nature of the operation of a military prison, opportunities for civilian interpretation are generally limited. During the day women may participate as local civilians visiting the prison camp. If you are interested in developing an appropriate civilian impression, please contact park staff.

Historic Costume Standards

Please see individual standards for Union POWs, Confederate Guards, and Civilian impressions, beginning on the next page.

Boys

Boys ages 13 and over may participate as Union prisoners. Boys ages 14 - 17 may participate as Confederate guards. All participants under the age of 18 must have signed parental approval forms. No one below the age of 16 is allowed to fire a weapon in demonstration programs.

Parking

During the normal operating hours, no volunteer participant vehicles will be allowed to remain parked anywhere in the historic prison site area, including roadways and parking lots, while visitors are on the grounds.

Fire Safety

Bonfires and cooking fires will only be allowed at pre-designated fire pads. A*ll fires must never be left unattended*. No digging!

Guard Tower Access and Safety

As access to the guard towers on the stockade reconstructions is by ladder, care must be observed at any time someone is ascending or descending. Someone must hold the ladder securely when it is in use. Only event participants will be allowed on the ladders or in the guard towers. Access to the guard towers will be generally allowed during daylight hours only.

A Few Words on Historical Authenticity

The reputation of the National Park Service, the Andersonville National Historic Site living history program, and your unit depends on every living history participant striving for and maintaining the highest possible degree of historical accuracy and authenticity in period dress and accoutrements, character role portrayals, and demonstrations.

Furthermore, the reputation of every living history participant at the Andersonville event depends on every other participant's dedication to these same high standards. At the park we hold that everyone is responsible for historical authenticity. If you see something being worn or used by another participant or in camp that is "out of period" then the first course of action should be to find a gentle and tactful way to call attention to it and correct it. Second course of action will be for you to bring the matter to the attention of the event coordinator. Any determination made by park staff on historical authenticity and appropriateness is final.

During normal visitor hours, all non-period articles will be kept out of sight, in tents with tent flaps closed and tied shut, or covered well with burlap or blankets or another appropriate material.

Modern cigarettes and cigars should be smoked behind tents (not in them) and completely out of sight of the visiting public. Period pipes are acceptable and encouraged for smokers.

Emergencies

National Park Service Rangers will be in charge of Emergency Services during the normal operating hours. If someone needs to reach a participant at the park, they may call the park 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 229 924-0343, ext. 205 or 201.

Living History Uniform and Clothing Standards

It is acceptable for living historians to shed coats, shoes, and other accoutrements.
NPS/E. Leonard

Union Prisoners of War

These standards apply to any time frame during the prisons operation. Early in the operation of the prison most of the prisoners were transferred from other prisons and they had very few things with them. By the summer of 1864 there were larger numbers some "fresh fish" (new captures) who carried with them more personal items. Keep your gear to a bare minimum. Wear your oldest, rattiest, most threadbare uniforms, pieces of uniforms, and civilian attire that you own. If it is not old and threadbare, you can enhance its look by sewing on patches etc.

All branches were represented: infantry, artillery, cavalry, USCT, sailors and marines, military and civilian teamsters, sutlers, sutler clerks, and musicians. Andersonville was for enlisted men so please keep rank to a minimum. We need a lot of privates.

Although stitching is not as important for prisoners as for the other impressions, all prisoner uniforms and equipment must be of the proper material, weave, and pattern for the period and branch of service being interpreted and must be documented as being used by the Federal Army or by civilians. The burden of proof resides with the participant. If you cannot prove an item or article of clothing was used, you will not be allowed to use it.

Blankets and coats can be used in the construction of prisoner shelters.
NPS/C. Barr

Uniforms and Clothing

- Uniform coats should be sack coats, frock coats, or shell jackets with any branch insignia. Navy impressions may be winter or summer jumper and Marines may wear fatigue or frock coats.
- Trousers may be dark or light blue military issue or civilian pattern.
- Shirts must be Federal Army issue or civilian style and must be of the correct material, weave and pattern. Acceptable fabrics are cotton, period flannel, linen, or homespun.
- Hats may be military forage caps, kepis, broken down and undressed Hardee hats, slouch, or civilian slouch or straw hats. All brass insignia must be removed.
- Shoes and boots must be worn and torn if possible and must be either military issue boots or brogans, or civilian shoes, bootees, brogans, or boots.
- Socks must be wool or cotton of the correct pattern and weave.
- Suspenders must be of the correct material, weave, and pattern for the period.
- Rank must be kept at a minimum. If you have corporal or sergeant stripes on your uniform, you may be asked to remove them.

Interpreters can develop their impressions through primary source materials.

***Top*: Andersonville prisoner George Wesier, from his 1890 memoir.**

***Bottom*: An interpreter bases his appearance on Weiser's drawing. NPS/Andersonville NHS**

Equipment and Personal Items

- Accouterments for weapons are not required. Do not bring cartridge boxes or cap pouches.
- Do bring Federal issue haversacks, knapsacks, plates, cups, knife, fork, or spoon, canteen, etc.
- Tents will be Federal issue shelter halves or dog tents of the correct material and pattern for 1863 and later.
- Blankets must be of the correct material, weave and pattern for the period.
- Gum cloth or poncho must be of the correct material and pattern for the period.
- Glasses and other eyewear must be of the correct material and pattern for the period.

Extras and Advice

- Do bring one or two of the following items: a gum blanket, tent half, blanket, dice, cards, carvings, diary, testament, newspaper, dominos, chess game, or checkers. Do not bring one of everything! All items must be period in style and material.
- Do bring your great coat to wear after hours. Do not expect to be able to wear it during the day. These were not available to the average prisoner.
- The park maintains a number of shelters in the northeast corner, which can be used by volunteers. Be prepared to make your own shelter. This is why you need to bring your tents, blankets, or gum blanket. Shelter building materials such as sticks, rope or twine may be available.

Interpreting the Prisoner Experience

Here are a few things to consider before doing living history at Andersonville, and to keep in mind while you are at the prison site portraying a Union prisoner of war:

- We are here to interact with visitors. Answer their questions and do not ignore them.
- *First person versus third person*
  Our preferred method of presentation is a mixture of first person information in a third person presentation.
  We encourage you to speak to the experiences of an individual prisoner while also speaking to the larger prison story, as needed.
- Watch your language. Banter between prisoners and guards should be kept to a minimum and use period terminology. Be mindful that children are part of our audience.
- It's going to be boring. One of the themes of the prisoner experience was boredom Filling that time with period activities, such as playing cards, carving items, and so on can be interpretive.
- Don't be a comedian. Men died here and our mission is to tell their stories.
- While you are interpreting the first-hand prisoner experience, speak only that. Prisoners would have had little to no knowledge of northern prisons and would have had no sympthy towards Confederate soldiers held in the United States.
- Be aware of the limits of accuracy. The best practices to ensure an accurate presentation is to be as knowledgeable as possible about the prisoner experience. In a very real sense, we cannot fully recreate the prison environment of 1864, nor should we truly want to do so.

An unidentified Confederate soldier. Most guards at Andersonville were young and untrained reservists. Library of Congress

Confederate Guards

This is a guard impression, not a field army. Heavy marching gear, knapsacks are not required, but may be used. Camp impression shall be similar to that of a soldier on garrison duty.

Condition of clothing will vary depending upon the time frame being depicted. From February 1864 - May 1864 the uniforms and equipment would be in good condition. From May 1864 - May 1865 the conditions would be in varying states of disrepair, with the conditions getting worse as more time goes by. Additionally, after April 1864, the guards were mainly old men over the age of 43 and young boys under the age of 18 from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Georgia Reserves. Their equipment was a mixture of good and bad quality, with it deteriorating over time, eventually making it difficult to tell the difference between guard and prisoner.

All clothing, accouterments, weapons etc. should conform to documented equipment issued to the Army of Tennessee, Army of Northern Virginia, or Georgia Reserves. The burden of proof resides with the participant. If you cannot prove an item or article of clothing was used, you will not be allowed to use it. Preferred styles are listed below.

Columbus Depot – Early to mid war issue

- Type I, 5-button shell jacket, wool jean cloth with blue collar and cuffs.
- Trousers manufactured from same material as the jacket and of the proper pattern.

Atlanta Depot – Early to mid war issue

- 6-button shell jacket, hand loomed wool cloth resembling salt and pepper burlap.
- Trousers manufactured from same material as the jacket and of the proper pattern.

Richmond Depot- Early to mid war issue

- Second pattern 6-button shell jacket, untrimmed, gray wool cloth.
- Second pattern 9-button shell jacket, partially trimmed or untrimmed, wool jean cloth, two piece sleeves, plain cuffs, and belt loops.
- Trousers to be manufactured from the same material as the jacket and must be of the proper pattern.

Clothing should be hand topstitched and should have hand worked buttonholes.

Portraying a guard at Andersonville NPS/Andersonville NHS

Jackets - Should conform to the documented type issued to the Army of Tennessee, Army of Northern Virginia, or Georgia Reserves between 1863 - 1865.

Trousers - Should conform to the documented type issued to the Army of Tennessee, Army of Northern Virginia, or Georgia Reserves between 1863 - 1865.

Civilian trousers must be of correct pattern and sewing. Should be mostly hand sewn, including buttonholes.

Shirts

Civilian shirts were most common - plaids, checks, and stripes. No modern prints. Should be mostly hand sewn, including buttonholes.

Shoes and socks.

- Civilian boots or shoes.
- Army issue Brogans.
- Wool or cotton socks of the correct pattern.

Head gear

Hats must be civilian pattern with proper modifications or of the correct pattern.

Army issue hats or kepis of the correct pattern.

A Confederate sergeant processes prisoners at the gate. NPS/S. Steinhorst

A guard interacting with a visitor NPS/C. Barr

Gear (Accouterments)
Cartridge box - Documented to Army of Tennessee, Army of Northern Virginia, Georgia Reserves, Atlanta, Richmond, or Columbus depots.

Cap pouch - Documented to Army of Tennessee, Army of Northern Virginia, Georgia Reserves, Atlanta, Richmond, or Columbus depots.

Waist belt - GA. Frame, C.S.A. Rectangle, or Clip Corner CS.

Haversack
Documented to the Army of Tennessee, Army of Northern Virginia, or Georgia Reserves, Atlanta, Richmond, or Columbus depots.
Federal issue.

Canteen
Must be documented to the Army of Tennessee, Army of Northern Virginia, or Georgia Reserves.

- Wooden, Gardner pattern.
- Federal bulls eye.

Weapons
- Brown Bess (with proper cartridge box).
- 1816 musket.
- 1822 musket.
- 1842 musket.
- Two or three band Enfield musket.

Tents
A- frame (wedge) of the prescribed period. Please bring them if you have them. Shelter halves of the prescribed period.

Interpreting the Confederate Experience at Andersonville
Here are a few things to consider before doing living history at Andersonville, and to keep in mind while you are at the prison site portraying a Confederate guard:

- We are here to interact with visitors. Answer their questions and do not ignore them.
- *First person versus third person*
  Our preferred method of presentation is a mixture of first person information in a third person presentation.
  We encourage you to speak to the experiences of an individual prisoner while also speaking to the larger prison story, as needed.
- Watch your language. Banter between prisoners and guards should be kept to a minimum and use period terminology. Be mindful that children are part of our audience.
- Be aware of the limits of accuracy. The best practices to ensure an accurate presentation is to be as knowledgeable as possible about the prisoner experience. In a very real sense, we cannot fully recreate the prison environment of 1864, nor should we truly want to do so.
- While you are interpreting the first-hand experience of a Confederate guard, speak only that. Guards would have had no first-hand knowledge of northern prisons, but could speak to rumour, and perceptions of policy.

Civilian interpreters help tell the story of how Andersonville affected the surrounding communitities.
NPS/C. Barr

Civilians

On at least one occasion, the local civilians did bring food to the prisoners. These people were hard working farmers from the immediate area and town people from nearby Americus, Georgia. For the most part, they were not fancy or rich. Please dress accordingly. All clothing and other items must be of period correct materials, weave, and patterns. Clothing should have hand worked topstitching and buttonholes. The burden of proof resides with the participant. If you cannot prove an item or article of clothing was used, you will not be allowed to use it.

Given the nature of the operation of a military prison, opportunities for civilian interpretation are generally limited. During the day women may participate as local civilians visiting the prison camp. If you are interested in developing an appropriate civilian impression, please contact park staff.

Men and boys

Coat
Civilian sack or frock coat of the correct material, weaves, and pattern for 1861 – 8165. Civilian overcoats will be allowed in cold weather. Appropriate materials include satinet, wool, jean cloth, cotton.

Trousers
Civilian sack or frock coat of the correct material, weaves, and pattern for 1861 – 1865. Appropriate materials include satinet, wool, jean cloth, cotton.

Suspenders
Must be of period correct materials, weave, and patterns.

Shirts
Civilian sack or frock coat of the correct material, weaves, and pattern for 1861 – 1865. Appropriate materials include cotton, period flannel, muslin, linen.

Socks
Cotton or wool of the correct material, weaves, and pattern for 1861 – 1865.

Shoes or boots
Civilian boots, brogans, or bootees of the correct material and pattern for 1861 – 1865. Appropriate materials include leather or Leather/canvas.

Women/girls

Dress
Day or work – no hoops- hand woven if possible. Dress must be of the correct material, weaves, and pattern for 1861 – 1865. Appropriate materials include cotton, wool, muslin, linen, satinet.

Shawls, capes, bonnets, and aprons
Must be of the correct material, weaves, and patterns for 1861 – 1865. Appropriate materials include cotton, wool, muslin, linen, satinet.

Shoes or boots
Must be of the correct material and pattern for 1861 – 1865. Appropriate materials include cotton, wool, muslin, linen, satinet.

Blankets
Must be of the correct material, weaves, and patterns for 1861 – 1865. Appropriate materials include cotton or wool.

An interpreter talks with visitors about the experience of ministers who visited the prison.
NPS/C. Barr

***Top*: The park's National Prisoner of War Museum opened in 1998 and explores the experiences of POWs throughout American history.**

***Bottom*: Museum exhibits examine the different types of experiences of POWs through themed rooms, such as this room on prisoner communication. NPS/C. Barr**

Further Reading and Resources

Getting started

The books listed below are highly recommended resources for background and gaining a better understanding of Camp Sumter. Park staff can also recommend further reading.

- Futch, Ovid L. History of Andersonville Prison. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1968. Reprint, 1999.
- Bearrs, Edwin C. Andersonville National Historic Site: Historic Resource Study and Historical Base Map. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1970.
- Marvel, William. Andersonville: The Last Depot. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1994.
- Burnett, William G. The Prison Camp at Andersonville; Civil War Series. Fort Washington, PA: Eastern National, 1995.
- Styple, William, et al. Andersonville: Giving Up the Ghost. A Collection of Prisoners' Diaries, Letters and Memoirs. Kearny, NJ: Belle Grove Publishing, 1996.

Finding the Prisoner Voice

Prisoner memoirs published decades after the fact must often be taken with a grain of salt, as history gives way to memory. Prisoner diaries and materials published shortly after the war are often the most reliable window into the prisoner experience. Park staff strongly recommend the following:

- **The Trial of Henry Wirz (1866)**
  http://go.nps.gov/wirztrial
  In 1866, Congress published a transcript of the war crimes trial of Captain Henry Wirz. Former prisoners and guards testified for both the proscecution and defense and provide vivid descriptions of prison life.

- **Report on the treatment of prisoners of war by the rebel authorities during the War of the Rebellion (1869)**
  http://go.nps.gov/shanksreport
  In 1867, Congressman John Peter Cleaver Shanks of Indiana formed a "Special Committee on the Treatment of Prisoners of War and Union Citizens held as prisoners by the confederate authorities during the recent rebellion." In the course of their work, the committee interviewed nearly 150 former prisoners, and received nearly 3,000 written statements. Beginning on page 787 of the report, the prisoner testimonies provide powerful first-hand experiences.

It is important for interpreters to be considerate of the fact that American soldiers lived and died on this ground. NPS/C. Barr

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Andersonville National Historic Site
Andersonville National Cemetery
National Prisoner of War Museum
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
http://www.nps.gov/ande/