

Militia Muster 2023

FAQ Sept 21 – 24

How and where do we register?

- We would prefer for participants to register ahead of time that way we know how many participants to expect. Each individual must register and be affiliated with an organization. There are a number of ways to obtain a *Participant Registration* form.
 - Contact Aaron Meisinger via email (aaron.meisinger@maryland.gov) or phone (301-904-2573) to request registration forms.
 - Get a form the day of arrival. Contact Aaron Meisinger.
- If you are attending and are unable to pre-register, you may register the two days before Saturday the 23rd - between 4 and dusk on the 21st or 22nd, or the morning of the 23rd before 10:00 am. Ask for Aaron Meisinger and he will have extra forms for you to fill out and also arrange for fee collection.

How much is registration?

- This year the registration fee is \$10. This covers firewood and the building of temporary hearths needed to protect the archeology yet to be discovered in the ground.

Can we arrive earlier in the week?

- While we welcome all to come and enjoy the museum before the event, be aware there are school tours and general visitation occurring during the week. If you are planning to arrive before Friday, September 22nd, be aware that we are not a campground, however we can be flexible. Please contact Aaron Meisinger about making arrangements. If we can figure out a way to work around our patrons and our Muster reenactors, we will.

Where do we load and unload our camp and belongings?

- Each group will receive a map included in the orientation packet when they arrive. Each packet will contain:
 - A copy of this FAQ document.
 - A map of Historic St. Mary's City (**where you can load and unload**).
 - An event program. (what the public get)
- Gates may be used **before** 10:00 am and **after** 4:00 pm to load and unload your vehicles. When the gate is not in use, it should remain closed, (especially between 10 and 4). If you need any special considerations please contact the event coordinator. This year it is Aaron Meisinger, Interpretive Programs Manager (301-904-2573)

Can we have access to showers?

- It has been arranged with the college for muster participants to be able to use the shower facilities at the ARC building on the SMC college campus in the past. No one has used the college facilities for last few years, so we don't have an arrangement in place. **Also,**

due to recent events related to COVID, they will not allow those not directly affiliated with the school to use the facilities. However, if someone is in desperate need of a modern shower, please contact Aaron and he can arrange time and facilities on a case by case basis.

What about access to potable water?

- The well that has supplied water for the Town Center and Woodland Indian Hamlet living history sites has very recently gone dry (as of mid-August 2022). However, we now have a water supply of potable water that will be available at a spigot near the campsite.

What other restrictions and adaptations have been made because of COVID 19?

- At the present time the situation is still potentially fluid, and as such, please be aware the situation could change at any time. However, we are optimistic that things will continue to improve. Right now our policy is that:
 - We are on honor system in regards to vaccinations and mask wearing on museum property. We ask that if one has not been vaccinated, one is asked to wear a mask.
 - The same policy is true for staff, paid and volunteer alike. So if you wish to participate and have not been vaccinated, please be masked up during the event.

Is it possible the event could be cancelled?

- Only if a new variant of COVID evolves that is NOT hampered by the present vaccine drugs. Then everything will need to be reevaluated as has been done in the past.

Where do we park after we unload?

- We would ask that after you finish loading or unloading gear, please park in the designated area for re-enactor parking. It will be noted on the map included in the orientation packet. The State House Lot will be reserved for general visitors and handicapped visitors.

Will vehicle access to our camping area for loading and unloading be permitted?

- Vehicles will be permitted into camping areas during designated times only.

What do we do if we are not in kit or costume?

- We are open to the public Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We would prefer that participants stay in kit and costume, if possible, but not necessary. If you go to visit any of the other “ticketed” sites while we are open, you should be in period dress or have a ‘militia volunteer’ sticker. This is to let ticketed visitors know you are not a general public visitor who has not paid the ticket price.

What about security at night?

- It has been arranged (like the previous Militia Muster events) for the SMC Public Safety to make semi-regular rounds during the dark hours when participant are in camp on our grounds.

When will next year’s militia event be?

- Next year’s event is scheduled on the weekend of September 21st.

Will we be able to tour the new *Maryland Dove*?”

- As it is also Riverfest Day, *Maryland Dove* will be available to tour.

How will we be treated by the public and HSMC staff?

- Muster participants are considered volunteer staff. Since visitors do not make a distinction between our volunteers in period dress and our HSMC staff in period dress you will be important ambassadors to our visiting public. Taking this into consideration, please answer the visiting public’s questions to the best of your ability. If you are not certain of the answer, refer them to our interpretive staff whenever you feel necessary. There should be a number of HSMC staff in the immediate area.
- Historic St. Mary’s City is open to the public between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm for the event on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. While the “museum” is not open on Sunday, there may still be visitors touring the outside grounds. Please make certain that all modern equipment is out of sight during these times general public may be visiting. This also includes the discrete use of cell phones and plastic water bottles.
- Please remember HSMC is a state organization and a museum open to the public. It is part of our mission to educate our visitors concerning 17th-century life. The presence of several re-enacting groups adds a wonderful enhancement to this educational mission. We respectfully ask that all re-enactment participants adhere to HSMC policies stated in the attached agreement. All event participants/volunteers, whether children or adults, are expected to act with the same respect and responsibility expected of HSMC staff.

What will we be doing during the event?

- Each reenactment organization is encouraged to have hands-on activities that can be shared with the visiting public.
- By consulting with each group leader prior to the event, we hope to clarify what should or should not be done. That way everyone will know exactly what will be appropriate for the venue and variables of such a unique event.

What do the colored paved paths represent on the grounds?

- The roads/visitor pathways are painted in two colors.
 - The lighter color designates an original road, part of the *baroque town plan*.
 - The darker colored roads are service roads and not original to the town’s planned landscape.
- Because the roads were built for pedestrians and not vehicles, cars are not encouraged on the roads unless the driver has obtained permission HSMC staff.

How will muskets be inspected?

- A safety inspection performed by one of the HSMC Historic Black Powder Safety Officers will begin at 0830 Saturday morning. Should a reenactor not be able to attend the safety inspection their unit officer can arrange with the Safety Officer for a late inspection contingent on availability. However, no inspections will be performed after 10:00 (some exceptions **may** be made at the discretion of the Safety Officer.)
- Any musket, edged weapon or other weapon not inspected by the Safety Officer prior to 10:00 will not be allowed on site at the discretion of the Safety Officer.

- If necessary for Sunday, the Safety Officer will arrive on site between 1230 and 1300 to perform a second inspection for anyone who wishes to fire Sunday afternoon. They will remain on site until approximately 1530 to supervise any firings. Any weapon not inspected and cleared by the Safety Officer cannot be fired on site on Sunday.

What is the proposed order of the activities on Saturday? There may be more added to this as the event takes shape.

- 08:30 – Small Arms Weapons inspection for the day.
- 09:15 – Planning meeting of officers and review of tactical scenario.
- 09:30 – Cannon Inspection (if necessary)
- 10:00 – Museum open to the public.
- 10:30 – Musket, Pike and Cannon Drill.
- 11:30 – Kids drilling near the encampment.
- 12:00 – Midday meal in camp.
- 13:00 – Salter Trial at militia encampment.
- 14:00 – Ladies Gathering – to chat and share all things domestic.
- 14:30 – Kids drilling.
- 15:00 – *Tactical* on site near and about the Town Center living history site.
- 16:00 – Living History sites closed for the day.
- 17:00 – If groups want to coordinate, there can be an evening potluck at the Camp Site.

What happens on Sunday?

- Groups are on their own to decide to stay or go during the day. Let Aaron know what you plan to do at registration on Thursday/Friday/Saturday. All are invited to stay as long as they wish on Sunday. You can practice drill or just socialize and enjoy the day. Because of local church service, we ask that no weapons are fired before 12:30 on Sunday, please. Also, there will be no firing of weapons without the staff Safety Officer (DJ Lavery) present.
- There will be no cannon firing on Sunday.
- Note – Units wishing to stay overnight for Monday departure may do so, just let Aaron know so he is aware of your plans.

How will cannons (if we have any) be handled?

- The cannon display will be on the Print House bluff. If we perform it, this is where the public will see them and where the firing demonstration will occur. No cannons will be used in the tactical.
- In order to qualify to be displayed or fired during the firing demonstration the cannon and its crew must be present for the cannon inspection. We ask that all cannons intended for the firing demo be on site before the 08:30 weapons inspection.
- In order to be fired on site the cannon must have a full field crew of five hands plus a gun commander. The crew must be trained and experienced on the gun that they are firing prior to the event. There will be no “pick-up” crews.
- Each unit will be responsible to have a guard on duty to watch over their cannon when the cannon is on display. No cannon will be left unsupervised for any length of time for any reason.
- Inspection of the cannon will include an inspection of the piece itself, the accoutrements, the cartridge, the crew and their drill. This will be performed by one of HSMC’s Historic Black Powder Safety Officers.

- If cannon are not present for inspection, it will not be allowed to be fired or displayed on museum grounds.
- If a unit cannot field a crew which matches the requirements for firing the cannon it will not be allowed to be fired. However it can still be displayed on grounds as long as it passes inspection and has a member of its unit assigned to it at all times.