



General Information:

The annual reenactment of the Campaign to Kings Mountain is a combination of walking, camping and in recent years, an opportunity for school children, primarily 4th graders, to learn of this great early American story of victory by a determined group of men and women, united in spirit, to preserve their independence from British rule. Most of the roads the Overmountain Men followed in 1780 have become the roads of today. Over the years, a “reenactment route” has emerged that offers walkers a chance to get off highways and into the woods or on back roads. As of 2014, there are 87 miles of off-road walking which includes some remnants of the original roadbeds. The trail covers 330 miles in four states (VA, TN, NC, SC).

Programs are given to schools and community groups along the trail to educate people about the significance of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and the contribution the Overmountain Men made in winning America’s independence. Every effort has been made to ensure the programs do not interfere with walking off-road segments of the Trail. Programs will range from lecture to demonstrations to an “interactive” format using skits and re-creations that depict historical events. Since we are indeed interpreting history in our programs, it is important that the participants be authentic in their facts and in their dress. Only those marchers appropriately attired in 18th century period dress will participate in historic programs.

The OVTA, with support from the National Park Service, National Park Foundation and other partners, provides volunteers and funding that transports thousands of school children across four states (VA, TN, NC, SC) each year to the trail. Once on the trail, the children move between learning stations where they get a sense of the focus, determination, and resolve these early Americans demonstrated in their pursuit of independence that we enjoy until this day. In 2016, over 14,000 children heard the story of the Campaign to Kings Mountain.

Liability: The OVTA carries liability insurance. However, it is the responsibility of each participant to act and conduct themselves safely and with respect for others to minimize the risks of accidents or altercations. The atmosphere of the reenactment is informal with a strong sense of camaraderie developing quickly. Each marcher is required to respect the individuality of the other participant and stay within the safety guidelines and demonstrate courtesy to fellow marchers and the public at all times. Each participant in the reenactment will be asked to sign a liability release and code of conduct form.

Daily Schedule: A copy of the March schedule can be found at www.ovta.org/ under the current year March button and is a printable document. While there is no set bedtime, quiet-time in camp begins at 10PM.

Weather: You should be prepared for almost any weather conditions ranging from scorching heat to freezing temperatures to drizzle and heavy rains, and even snow like in 1780, was “shoe mouth” deep as the men crossed Roan Mountain.

Transportation: March participants are required to provide your own transportation. We will make all group movements in convoy. Please follow these procedures:

1. A front and rear vehicle that knows the route to the destination will be selected. Please stay between these two vehicles.

2. Do not run red lights or stop signs. All rules of the road and liability still apply.
3. Keep the car ahead and behind you in sight. If the car behind you falls back, slow down to ensure you keep it in sight. This will help adjust the speed of the entire convoy and keep everyone together.
4. If you get stopped at a red light or stop sign--especially while going through towns-- the vehicle in front should stop and wait. If not, you will have a vehicle behind you that knows the way and can take over the lead. If you do pull over for some reason, make sure there is enough room for all the vehicles behind you to pull off safely.
5. Those who are familiar with the route and wish to make a stop are asked to not join in the convoy. Otherwise, they might confuse those behind them when they pull off.

Safety during the Reenactment

Safety is a serious concern during the reenactment since we walk along roads and highways, carry weapons and are joined by school children and other groups. We are proud that we have never had a serious injury since the March started in 1975. It is important that all participants understand that any breach of the safety rules or misconduct will be dealt with quickly and decisively. Safety is the responsibility of every individual. Each participant must be careful to ensure that their actions do not endanger themselves or others.

Here are the safety rules.

1. The Grand Marshal, Trail Marshall and the Safety Marshal are in command of the reenactment. Failure to follow their instructions or directions can result in dismissal from the reenactment, particularly if the safety of others is threatened. Any grievance or dispute may be addressed at a later date, but during the March, the Grand Marshal, Trail Marshal or Safety Marshal instructions are to be followed, no exceptions.
2. Any participant whose behavior disrupts the reenactment or threatens the safety or well being of others will be asked to leave. Assistance from local law enforcement agencies will be called for if necessary.
3. The Committee of Safety (Grand Marshal, Trail Marshal, Safety Marshal, Director of Interpretations, and 2 other March committee members (or core group of marchers that are on the current march) will review any violations and take the appropriate action.
4. Do not leave the trail or campsite without notifying the Grand Marshal or his designee.
5. When walking on roads following vehicles or being escorted by local police, keep to the right, walking in the direction of traffic. Do not cross the centerline or move to the left of the vehicles. Stay well behind the lead vehicles and well in front of the trailing vehicles. Cross roads only when guards are in position and the command to cross is given.
6. When marching with school children, report any safety concerns or conduct problems to their supervisor immediately. It is the responsibility of supervisors to monitor the children.
7. Participants are required to reveal any medical conditions, mental or physical, that could impact their well-being, or the well-being of others, during the march. Participants are required to notify the Grand Marshal of any diagnosed physical or mental problems and will be asked to provide a note from a physician stating the individual is medically approved to participate.
8. Alcohol or controlled substances not prescribed by a doctor are prohibited during school or public programming, unless provided by the event organizers. Request no smoking in public during school or public programming.
9. Since the marchers live together in close proximity for 2+ weeks, respect and decorum are essential to ensure an enjoyable environment for all. Profanity, obscene, off-color talk and/or inappropriate

behavior will not be allowed.

10. Appropriate age includes anyone who is physically capable of making that day's march is welcome to join us. Parents who bring children are required to supervise them at all times.

Weapons Safety Rules

The goal of the OVTA living history program is to provide a safe and accurate education for the public. The reputation of the OVTA and The NPS depends on the quality of the demonstrator's impression. There will be no demonstration or firing that is not scheduled and managed by the Grand Marshall, his designated representative or the Safety Marshall. It is a privilege to be invited to participate.

1. Demonstrators must be:
 - a. Competent to execute the required manual of exercise or applicable venue manual without error.
 - b. Able to perform the appropriate misfire procedures without mistake.
 - c. Skilled in the proper manner of presenting demonstrations with maximum safety to themselves and venue visitors.
 - d. Proficient in the methods of cleaning and storing historic weapons.
 - e. Aware of methods of storing and transporting black powder within the venue (National, State)
 - f. Adept in the manufacture of cartridges, if applicable.
 - g. Versed in the basic nomenclature of the firearms they use.
 - h. To handle weapons, anyone under 18 must have signed written parental approval, under 16 cannot fire, under 12 must have parental supervision.
2. Only weapons that are representative of the 18th century may be carried on the Trail during the reenactment. This includes firelocks, bayonets, knives, tomahawks or hand axes, sabers, war clubs or other weapons appropriate to the period. Cap locks are not allowed.
3. Black powder safety regulations as published by the National Park Service's "*Manual for the Safe Use of Reproduction Flintlock Weapons in Historic Weapons Demonstrations*" will apply to all persons in possession of any firelock during the March. (What was here: presented during training by staff of Cowpens National Battlefield and/or Tennessee State Parks will be used.)
4. The National Park Service's "*Manual for the Safe Use of Reproduction Flintlock Weapons in Historic Weapons Demonstrations*" is used only as reference. This OVTA Weapons Safety Rules override any difference in this NPS manual, except at National Parks. NPS rules will be followed at all National Parks. The National Park Service states that **visitors may not touch or handle edged weapons on National Parks.**
5. The opinions, decisions or directives of the Grand Marshal, Safety Marshal or any trained black powder safety officer that is present at any demonstrations, ceremonies, graveside services, or programs shall be final in regards to any safety issues. Failure to comply with directives will result in expulsion from the March.
6. Each person carrying a firelock on the Trail or participating in any drills, demonstrations, ceremonies, graveside services, or programs must attend a safety briefing that will be conducted several times during the reenactment.
7. Weapon safety is paramount. Anyone handling any weapon in an unsafe or dangerous manner will be asked to put the weapon away or surrender it until the campsite is reached.
8. Any person, who because of physical conditions or limitations cannot safely handle their firelock during any drill or firing demonstration, ceremony or program, will not be allowed to participate.
9. **Each individual is ultimately and completely responsible for the control and supervision of their weapons. Do not leave weapon unattended or point it at anyone at any time. Visitors, including school children, may be allowed to hold or otherwise handle or touch any weapons of any type as long as the individual maintains control of the weapon. (keeps a hand on it).**
10. All firelocks used in firing demonstrations must pass safety inspections. Safety inspections of each firelock will be held in the morning before the day's march begins and prior to all demonstrations or programs. That inspection includes:
 - a. Ensuring the barrel is empty and free of obstructions. (This is the **only time** a ramrod will be permitted to be used.)
 - b. The lock supports the weight of the weapon while at half cock
 - c. The lock's cock will hold on full-cock when pushed with the thumb.
 - d. Inspect flint is tight.

- e. All firelocks must be equipped with a hammerstall (leather frizzen cover) and a flash guard. Some firelocks will not accept flash guards. These firelocks will be ok as long as the firelock is turned upward when firing. National Park Service may not agree to this exception (must follow NPS requirements on National Parks).
 - f. Inspection of the gun bag and powder horn to ensure no “contraband” is present.
 - g. Any firelock, in the opinion of the Grand Marshal or Safety Marshal or black powder safety officer that may be present, that is too dirty or fouled or has other mechanical conditions that render it unsafe to be fired or used will be re- moved from the line.
 - h. All garments worn must be free of polyester or other flammable or meltable material.
11. The OVTA will provide all black powder in pre-rolled cartridges. Black powder will not be carried in a powder horn. Powder used in firing demonstrations will be loaded from paper cartridge. All powder horns must be empty. Those using priming flasks or priming horns will provide their own priming powder. Do not use ramrods to ram down powder.
 12. No projectiles of any kind, including wadding, cartridge paper, or any other material, shall be rammed down the barrel at any time during the reenactment.
 13. All edged weapons including knives, tomahawks, swords, sabers, etc., are to be sheathed in such a way that no part of the edge is exposed.
 14. No ball or other projectile that could be fired from that weapon will be carried during the reenactment. Note: The person “telling the story” may carry rifle and musket balls to demonstrate the difference in size that the opposing forces faced.
 15. Anyone handling a weapon in a threatening or intentionally dangerous manner will be asked to leave and if necessary, immediately reported to local law enforcement.



OVTA REENACTMENT CODE OF CONDUCT & WAIVER OF LIABILITY

I, (Printed Name) _____, desire to serve as a volunteer in the 01 Sept – 15 Nov 20__ Overmountain Victory Trail Organization's (OVTA) Annual March activities. I understand that participation in the OVTA's programs is subject to the observance of the organization's rules and procedures. The activities outlined below are strictly prohibited. Any participant or staff member who violates this Code is subject to discipline, up to and including removal from the program and/or involvement of law enforcement.

- Failing to cooperate with the safety and/or conduct instructions of the March Grand Marshal or designee
- Discourtesy or rudeness to a fellow participant or volunteer
- Abusive language towards a volunteer or another participant or venue staff
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages during school or public programming, unless provided by the event organizers, request no smoking in public during school or public programming
- Possession or use of illegal drugs
- Verbal, physical or visual harassment of another participant, staff member or volunteer
- Actual or threatened violence toward any individual or group
- Conduct endangering the life, safety, health or well-being of others
- Bullying or taking unfair advantage of any participant

Waiver of Liability Acknowledgement of Risk or Injury Possibility

As a participant or volunteer in the program, I recognize the risk and acknowledge that there are certain risks of physical injury, including death, damages, property damage, or loss which I may sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with such program, or the use of the facilities or equipment.

Waiver of Claim for Injury Clause - I agree to waive and relinquish all claims that I may have for injuries or damages, as a result of participating in the program or using the facilities or equipment against the OVTA and its officers, agents, servants, employees, other volunteers, and affiliates.

Release from Liability Clause - I do hereby release and the OVTA and its officers, agents, servants, employees, volunteers and affiliates from any and all claims for injuries, including death, damages, property damage, or loss which may have or may in future accrue to me in account of participating in or volunteering for the OVTA.

Indemnity and Defense Clause - I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless and pay defense costs and defend the OVTA and its agents, servants, employees, other volunteers, and affiliates, from any and all claims resulting from injuries, including death, damages, property damage, or loss sustained by me and arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated the activities of the Annual March.

I have read, understand and agree to the OVTA's Code of Conduct and Waiver of Liability. I agree to abide by the rules described above and understand that I may be removed as a participant if any one of these rules is violated.

Signed _____

Date: ____/____/20 __

Phone: _____

Parents signature (if under 18) _____