

*Friends of Wilderness Road State Park  
Presents:*

***Virginia: America's First Frontier***  
**May 9 – 11, 2025**

**MANDATORY GUIDELINES**

**All participants MUST check firearms in at registration building upon arrival.** Please remain in period clothing at all times. Vehicles are not permitted in the program area after 8:00 a.m. on Friday. **Your appearance, camp, accouterments, food, etc, will be reviewed by park interpretive staff and park consultants for authenticity.**

1. All items used or sold will be authentic to 1750-1776. This includes clothing, furnishings, guns, knives, shoes, hats, baggage, eating utensils, cooking utensils, trunks, etc. No Western or Plains Indian articles should be used or sold. The following items may not be sold: \*Chinese bamboo flutes \*hatchets, \*poppuns \*Archaeological artifacts \*Items representing post 1776 \*Holiday items \*Mass-produced items (T-shirts, etc.), \*Skins of domestic animals \*Souvenir-type items \*Photographs \*pictures, or \*stationary. CDs and tapes may be sold but must remain hidden at all times.
2. Only 18th Century style eyewear, facsimiles or contact lenses will be allowed. **Modern eye-wear is not acceptable.**
3. Men's clothing and appearance is restricted to typical 18th Century colonial apparel. The following items are not allowed: long fringed buckskins, "Mountain man" clothing, western clothing, and capotes. Facial hair is acceptable, but please, no sideburns or goatees. **Breechcloths should reach to about mid-thigh and be wide enough to cover what's necessary for modern decency.**
4. Women's clothing and appearance is restricted to typical 18th Century colonial apparel. Simple gowns, petticoats, shifts, short gowns or bed jackets. Jewelry should be appropriate to the 18th Century only. The following items are not allowed: makeup, off-the-shoulder shifts, or bodices worn as outer garments. Please cover all modern haircuts with a cap or kerchief.
5. Footwear allowed includes 18th Century style shoes and moccasins. **Modern footwear, modern moccasins, slippers, Mary Jane's, or Chinese slippers are not acceptable.**
6. Shelters accepted include simple lean-to's/diamond flies, marquees, and wedge or wall tents. **Civil War tents, Teepees, Bakers, Walens, Centerpoles or nylon tents will not be allowed.**
7. Coolers are allowed in the tent area, but **coolers and other non-period items are to be left outside the program area (the area around the Fort, surrounded by split rail fence).** The parking area is a short distance from the program area, so keep your perishable foods in this location.
8. **No food or drink is to be served unless you have an 18th Century period cup, mug, plate, etc.**
9. **Alcoholic beverages are not permitted by order of Virginia State Park regulations.**
10. No cigarettes, brown cigar-like cigarettes, or cigars are allowed at any time while you are in period clothing. This includes the parking area, rest rooms, etc. **Only 18th Century period pipes are permitted.**
11. **Pets are allowed, however, all dogs MUST be restrained by a leash not exceeding 6ft in length and under the owners control at all times. This is Virginia state law. Breeds should be appropriate to your persona, and on an appropriate 18th Century leash at all times.** Anyone wanting to bring horses to this event **MUST** contact Park Staff two weeks prior to the event. There are special equine regulations that must be followed.

12. Minor children are the sole responsibility of their parents. **Children will not be allowed to run around unattended, or play around fires, tools, or animals at any time. Young children need to be supervised by parents at all times.**
13. **The use of cameras should be kept as inconspicuous as possible while you are attired in period clothing.**
14. **To insure the safety of visitors, participants and staff, all firearms will be inspected upon arrival at the park.** Only staff and selected volunteers can demonstrate a firearm. A staff member must be notified before the demonstration of any firearm.
15. **Tables must be correct to 18th Century or skirted to the ground. No modern staples can be used to secure the covering.**

### **Participant Categories**

1. **PARTICIPANT / PROGRAM PERSONNEL** - Individuals or groups in this category are primarily interpreters of some aspect of 18th Century life. These include musicians, militia, military, etc.
2. **TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMEN** - Traditional craftsmen must demonstrate a craft of the 18th Century and produce an 18th Century replica, using tools and equipment of the time period. Craftsmen must be on site during the event's hours of operation. Traditional craftsmen may sell their hand-made goods.
3. **MERCHANT** - Merchants may sell 18th Century trade goods from a shelter. Shelters must meet period specifications. All goods sold must be approved by the park staff.
4. **BLANKET TRADER** - Blanket Traders may sell 18th Century Trade goods from a blanket or skin laid on the ground. Display space size is that of a 4-point blanket (72" x 90") 45 square feet. All goods sold must be approved by the park staff.

Wilderness Road State Park acknowledges the sensitive nature of cultural interpretation of indigenous peoples and seeks to provide authentic and respectful programs. We encourage members of federally and state recognized Native American tribes to participate in our unique and diverse programming. As in the past, all interpretive volunteers are subject to approval by a jury process, ensuring historical accuracy. All volunteer applicants participating as Native American interpreters will be juried by a member of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee who is acting as the park's consultant to ensure appropriate standards concerning historical authenticity and cultural integrity are maintained.

**OFFICIAL SETUP AND TAKE-DOWN WILL BEGIN WEDNESDAY MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> AND END MONDAY MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>. ANYONE NEEDING TO ARRIVE EARLY OR STAY LATE PLEASE CALL THE PARK OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS.**

Wilderness Road State Park  
8051 Wilderness Road, Ewing VA 24248  
1-276-445-3065

If you choose to return the application by email, please send to:  
[joseph.mcclure@dc.virginia.gov](mailto:joseph.mcclure@dc.virginia.gov) and [charles.jones@dc.virginia.gov](mailto:charles.jones@dc.virginia.gov)

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**APPLICATION**

Please fill out this application. **If you have not participated in a juried event at Wilderness Road State Park before, you must send color photographs of your clothing, merchandise, and shelter with your application and agreement.**

**New applicants who do not send in photos will have their application returned.**

Name:	Type and Number of Authentic Tent(s) and/or Shelter(s):
Group or Business:	
Mailing Address:	Merchant Size Requirement (Include Ropes):
City, State & Zip Code:	
Phone Number:	E-mail:

**CAETGORIES**

I am a... (Please circle one and complete as determined)

<b>Participant / Program Personnel:</b> Who will you be portraying?
<b>Craftsman:</b> What trade or art will you be demonstrating?
<b>Merchant or Blanket Trader:</b> What type of items do you intend to sell?

All participants are responsible for rules and regulations applicable to Virginia sales tax.

Are you willing to assist with school day programming on Friday? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read the application and the mandatory guidelines and I agree to abide by these conditions. I understand that Wilderness Road State Park reserves the right to inspect attire and merchandise. Items not meeting authenticity requirements will need to be changed or will be removed. All approval must be obtained through the Chief Ranger of Visitor Experience or the Park Manager. Non compliance will result in removal from the event and event grounds.**

Signature:

Date: