

CMLHA Authenticity Standards

Adopted 4/8/2018

For each event, authenticity level and specific authenticity standards will be established by the Event Host. All participants will meet at least that level. Over time, all members of the CMLHA should strive to meet higher levels of authenticity.

Authenticity Levels are Mainstream, Hard Core, and Museum Quality. Some events will also specify what items are best, acceptable, and not acceptable. "Authenticity Police" will be designated for Hard Core and Museum Quality events; they will require that inappropriate items be hidden or removed.

Mainstream:

This is the Continental Line's standard for authenticity, and is sometimes called the "five-foot rule." It applies during the entire time that the camp is open to the public.

- All clothing and equipment must be produced from natural materials rather than man made materials.
- All clothing and equipment must be from the correct period AND from the correct location.
- All clothing and equipment must be supported and justified by at least two primary sources.

The five foot rule is defined as:

A person will be considered authentic if the spectator, from a distance of five feet,

1. Can not identify or observe any items that are not reproductions of articles of clothing, weapons or equipment from the time period.
2. Can not identify or observe any article of clothing that is not cut and fit in the proper manner for the time period.
3. Can not identify or observe any anachronisms, including, but not limited to, modern shoes, modern eye-glasses and modern wristwatches.

Please keep in mind that under the five-foot rule, the "spectator" is considered to be an experienced reenactor who is able to identify and observe what does or does not look authentic.

Hard Core:

The intent is to be more authentic, and to better immerse ourselves in the past.

Inspections will be conducted before and during each event. "Authenticity Police" will require that inappropriate items be hidden or removed.

- Members are expected to be in period attire for the entire duration of the encampment, whether the camp is open to the public or not.

- All non-period items will be hidden or disguised at all times whether the camp is open to the public or not. This includes:

- No modern jewelry, wristwatches or eye-wear.
- No obviously modern footwear.
- No modern packaging or serving containers for food or drinks.
- No modern cooking equipment or eating utensils.
- No obviously modern food.
- No obviously modern furniture.
- No modern lighting. (Members are encouraged to carry small flashlights for emergency purposes, and for getting from point a to point b in safety, but flashlights are never to be used for general lighting.)
- No obviously modern gun cleaning equipment.
- No modern toys or games. (Period toys and games are encouraged.)
- No cigarettes. (Period- appropriate tobacco use is permitted.)

- In the interest of safety, some items will be required which are not authentic in nature; for example musket flash-guards and hammer-stalls. These items are specified by the Continental Line Safety Guide to Black Powder.

- Members should strive to portray actions and attitudes consistent with their impressions during public hours. Military members should respect military protocols and the chain of command. Civilian members are expected to exhibit behavior and attitudes prevalent in the colonial era.

- First person impressions are not required. However, discussions between members, and between members and the public should not focus on current topics unless it is required to answer a question from the public or make a point related to colonial living.

Museum Quality:

The primary purpose of the event is to educate the public. Remember that “a picture is worth a thousand words” and try to be as “real” as possible.

- All impressions will be age-, race-, and gender- appropriate for the time and place portrayed.
- All clothing and equipment must be approved before the event. No members will be allowed to participate in the event with questionable articles of clothing or equipment.
- Inspections will be conducted before and during each event. “Authenticity Police” will require that inappropriate items be hidden or removed, and if not remedied, they may make the offending participant leave the event.