

The 2D New Jersey Brigade

An American Civil War Living History Organization

Preserving Our Heritage

7th NJ Infantry, 2nd NJ Cavalry, 1st NJ Artillery, 22nd USCT

7th NJ Signal Corps, 7th NJ Field Music, 7th NJ Field Hospital

Society of Jersey Blues



Rich Walker

Recruiting Officer

973-208-9603

Recruiting Booklet

2D NJ Brigade

Our Brigade Today

The 2D New Jersey Brigade is an American Civil War historical organization established for the purpose of educating the public regarding the contributions and sacrifices made by all Americans in ultimately creating one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Through historical portrayals of Union soldiers, nurses, musicians, black troops, army staff, and civilians the organization provides a visual impression as to how the people lived and the events occurred during the most cataclysmic time of our American history. The purpose of the 2D New Jersey Brigade is not only to honor those brave people whose deeds and commitments created a free and unified nation, but to teach by recreating the life and time surroundings of the Civil War soldier. We strive to bring awareness to the contributions made by those 19th Century Americans towards the preservation of our Union and the freedom of all Americans.

The Regiment shows the camp life of the Union soldier as he would appear during the years of 1862 and 1863. Our portrayals of life within a military camp include the commander, his NCO's, field hospital, musicians and, of course, the volunteer soldier. We not only reenact battles but portray routine functions within the military community such as Roll Call, Dress Parade and Drills. We also depict camp life including cooking, weapons maintenance and soldier's pastimes.

To more effectively recreate the past the 2D New Jersey Brigade has created a series of military impressions including the 7th New Jersey Infantry, 1st New Jersey Artillery, 2nd New Jersey Cavalry, 22nd United States Colored Troops, 7th New Jersey Signal Corps, 7th New Jersey Field Hospital, 7th NJ Field Music and Civilians. The Infantry Regiment is assigned to Company "A" of the 7th New Jersey Volunteers, a unit raised the first summer of the war and whose survivors fought the Eastern Campaigns through to Appomattox with the Army of the Potomac. The Cavalry Company represents company "A" of the 2nd New Jersey Cavalry (32nd Volunteers) raised in 1863. Though arriving late on the scene, it was not spared the horrors and reality of war. Assigned to western Tennessee, the 2nd New Jersey Cavalry acquired a fine record in the continual guerrilla operations of that theater. The Artillery Battery depicts the 1st New Jersey Artillery Battery "A" which currently uses an original smoothbore 6 pound Napoleon barrel. The 22nd United States Colored Troops (USCT) represents Black Jersey men who fought from 1864 in campaigns from Petersburg to the fall of Richmond. Adding to these military impressions are the fife and drum Field Music, Field Hospital, Signal Corps and a Headquarters Staff organization.

The camp of the Regiment is a snapshot of the vast armies that were raised for the war and quickly disappeared when it was over. The members bring diversity equal to their predecessors but with enthusiasm and knowledge that erases the passage of time. Each member is dedicated to preserving the memory of our ancestors, be they black or white. Through living history, battle reenactments, parades, commemorations and lectures, our members can spark a new or renewed understanding of our national heritage.

An Overview of Reenacting

The members of our Regiment are dedicated to the preservation of our Civil War heritage and the memory of all who fought and sacrificed during this traumatic period in our nation's history. We all have a great interest in understanding the war, and the many stories, issues and facts left by its legacy. We are committed to accurately portraying the life and times of the Union soldier and insuring that generations to come will never forget what part he played in forging a strong, free and indivisible nation.

In order to convey the many aspects of the American Civil War, we are involved in various types of events:

- **Living History:** Setting up living history encampments for the public to examine and question. Such portrayals are often done at historic sites, but can also be done at schools, shopping centers or any public or private facility.
- **Battle Reenactments:** Various engagements of the Civil War are reenacted in scripted battles utilizing 1860 military tactics and black powder weapons. These reenactments depict Rebel as well as Union Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery units and give the public a good indication of what a civil War battle looked like.
- **Parades:** The Regiment marches in a number of parades each year. Most notable are the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Gettysburg Remembrance Day. Most parades are paid events in which the Regiment is given a small donation for its efforts.
- **Commemorations:** The Regiment will participate in historic commemorations honoring those men and women who gave their utmost during the war. Such commemorations could include monument dedications, cemetery services and holiday celebrations.
- **Socials:** The Regiment encourages family participation in both the Living History and Social sides of our hobby. An annual holiday awards dinner is held in December. You will discover that our members have developed friendships on both a social and reenactment basis.



Guidelines for Members under 18 years of age

1. All members of the 2D NJ Brigade who are under the age of 18 cannot attend an event without a parent or designated guardian present. The form entitled **“Parents of Participating Members Who Are Minors”** which appears on the 2D NJ Brigade website must be completed and on record before any minor can attend an event. If the same parent or guardian is in effect for every event, the form needs to be completed just once at the beginning of the year.
2. All minors must have a designated role within an existing Brigade impression. If the minor is 16 or older and portrays a military impression, the minor should be prepared to function within that role. The same holds true for musicians, signalmen, hospital staff and civilians.
3. All minors must be dressed in period clothing and have all appropriate equipment for the role portrayed. If a musician, they must have their instruments, if an infantryman, they must have a rifle, etc.
4. Minors can only remain in camp after the close of an event only if the parent or guardian is present. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to monitor the minor’s activities.
5. While an event is open to the public, all minors are under the command of the leader of the given portrayal. If a musician, the minor takes direction from the Principal Musician, if an infantryman, the minor takes direction from designated officers, etc.
6. Under no circumstances will a minor be permitted to reenact or remain in camp without a parent or guardian present.

2D NJ Brigade Enlistment Form

7th NJ Infantry, 2nd NJ Cavalry, 1st NJ Artillery, 22nd USCT, 7th NJ Signal Corps

7th NJ Field Music, 7th NJ Field Hospital, Society of Jersey Blues

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____

Blood Type: _____ Medical Conditions: _____

Medications: _____ Allergies: _____

Married: _____ Single: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Parent or Guardian's Name (if under 18): _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Contact's Address: _____

Military Service (Branch): _____ From: _____ To: _____ Rank: _____

Type of Discharge: _____ Special Skills: _____

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Yes: _____ No: _____

Interest: 7th NJ Inf. ___ 2nd NJ Cav. ___ 1st NJ Art. ___ 22nd USCT ___ 7th NJ Signal Corps ___

7th NJ Hosp. ___ 7th NJ Music ___ 7th NJ Headquarters ___ Soc. Jersey Blues (Civilians) ___

Dues are assessed at \$35.00 per year per family. Make check payable to 2D NJ Brigade and mail to Steff Poli-Zilinski at 741 Limecrest Rd. Newton, NJ 07860. Event registration fees for each season of participation are additional and are collected by each impression group on a yearly basis. In order to participate in the Brigade's events you are encouraged to acquire your uniform/period outfit and related equipment within 6 months of your enlistment. If your impression requires a weapon you should acquire it within the first year of enlistment. Basic training for Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery must be accomplished before you can carry a weapon and participate in the reenactments. The first year is a probationary period during which time the recruit and the Brigade can assess the recruit's ability to meet the standards of the Brigade.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____