

We have the opportunity to participate in a program that will be administered by the National Park Service, Wilson's Creek Battlefield, on the anniversary date of the Wilson's Creek battle. The superintendent of the park has granted permission for those persons wishing to arrive early in the week to take part in ceremonies that will occur within the Wilson's Creek Battlefield proper. I will provide below the framework for this portion of the event weekend. Participation is completely voluntary and will be limited to five hundred participants.

1. THE MARCH – The Confederate and Federal army members present on the event site on Wednesday, August 10, 2011, and interested in participating will muster at 3 p.m. in each of the commands respective camps. At 4 p.m. sharp both armies will proceed to march in column into the Wilson's Creek National Park Service property. Each column will be comprised of Infantry, Mounted Cavalry, Mounted Artillery and Supply Wagons. The columns will proceed on a designated path to the vicinity of the Ray House where it will bivouac for the night. On Thursday morning the column will form and proceed back to the 150th Anniversary Battle of Wilson's Creek event site.
2. LOGISTICS – We will present a column of Confederate and Federal forces on the move, therefore the following will be in effect. Each man will carry upon him a knapsack or blanket roll. Tentage for the Bivouac will not be allowed. Each man will be required to have on his person the necessary items to spend a night in the field and will camp utilizing gum blankets and bed rolls only. No tentage of any kind will be utilized including dog tents. We will sleep on the ground with what we carry with us. It is possible that cook fires will be permitted on property but they will be closely managed and will be at a minimum company fires. The Wagons which will accompany the columns will carry the necessary supplies to sustain the army on the march, mainly water. No personal equipage will be hauled by any of the wagons.
3. RATIONS – Plans are being made to include a ration issue for each man who participates in the march and subsequent activities at the Ray House. Issuance of prepared rations will eliminate the need for numerous cookfires on the property.
4. EXPECTATIONS – All participants should understand fully that your participation will be at a full campaign level. You carry what you need, leave behind what you don't. You will be marching at a normal pace and it will be hot. Prepare yourselves accordingly. There will be no light provisions made. This will be a test of your ability to function in the field without the creature comforts of a normal static camp.
5. AT THE RAY HOUSE – Once the respective armies arrive at the Ray House the command will be given to make camp for the night. We will participate in a program that the National Park Service will administer for the general public at that location. As such, our armies will be a living history presentation in first person. We will make our best attempt to accurately present a strong first person impression for the general public. The park service has plans to hold an illumination ceremony to honor those who fell at the Battle of Wilson's Creek in which we will also participate heavily.

More information will follow soon in detailed form. Any Company or Battalion interested in committing themselves to this part of the event would need to RSVP the respective command staff as soon as possible. It may be necessary to brigade together, only for the purpose of the march, those units who participate in order to present a more accurate portrayal for this vignette. Cavalry participants will need to ensure that they carry sufficient forage and all of the accoutrements normally related with the care of their animal while in the field. There will be NO WATER TROUGH at the Ray House. Use of the collapsible period water bag will be mandatory for watering your animal.

This part of the event weekend may not be for everyone and thus the participation is voluntary. Participants who would like to take part in this part of the event as well as moving tacticals on Thursday and Friday, much like Twin Rivers, are highly encouraged to come early. Those who wish to attend solely for the Saturday and Sunday scripted battles are encouraged to be on site by Friday evening at the latest, if at all possible. Your participation in the weekend scripted battles is in no way contingent on the early week events.