



# **VASSAR Color Guard Workshop**

**February 16, 2023**

Zoom presentation  
Post-2023 Annual Conference

Version 1



# Workshop Agenda

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- **VASSAR Color Guard Annual Report summary (Melhuish)**
- **Medals and Awards (Corey)**
- **Liability Insurance (Rankin)**
- **Training Workshops (Bonner)**
- **Q/A**



# Status of the Guard

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## 119 VASSAR Compatriots\* From 24 Chapters

Region	Guardsmen
North	62
East	18
Central	14
Southwest	24

\*As of January 22, 2023



# VASSAR CG Support

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**VASSAR Guardsmen supported 127 events in CY 2022**

Event Level	Number
National/District	44
State	11
Chapter	62
Other	10

**VASSAR-Sanctioned Black Powder Firing Events - 51**



# Color Guard Highlights CY-22

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- **Refined online Color Guard Schedule**
- **Obtained CG relevant General Liability Insurance Policy**
- **Developed Accident-Incident (A/I) procedures**
- **Developed & issued A/I Wallet Cards**
- **Established training qualifications and Cockade identification**
- **Supported the creation of professional training videos**
- **Incorporated Active-duty French military in a SAR CG (first time)**
- **Completed CG files & data transfer to Member Clicks**
- **Developed a Junior Color Guard**
- **Established the Color Guard Quartermaster position**



# Color Guard Medals and Awards

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- Record keeping considerations
- Point or Event based award criteria review
- Color Guard Medals
  - Billy Flora
  - Bronze
  - Silver
  - Von Steuben
  - Virginia State Chapter Service
- Certificates of Appreciation



# Insurance Caveat

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- VASSAR insurance coverage does not extend to non-VASSAR members, such as DAR, CAR, or non-VASSAR re-enactors.
- Event Color Guard Commanders should decline any non-VASSAR individual participation in our color guards (**especially for a black powder firing event**) if the individual does not have a valid Certificate of Insurance (COI) from an insurance company that confirms coverage for the specific member(s).
- The COI must be emailed to the VASSAR Color Guard Commander no later than three (3) business days before the event.



# Requesting a Certificate of Insurance (COI)

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- **Email Compatriot Richard Rankin, copy VASSAR CG Commander, with:**
  - ✓ Name of the Party requesting a Certificate of Insurance (COI)
  - ✓ If Requesting Party wants COI receipt by Email or Fax, please provide same
  - ✓ Scheduled Date of the Event
  - ✓ Event location (street address, city/town & state)
  - ✓ If location is a state park, federal battlefield or regional park, list the full name
- **Requests must be received no later than three (3) business days before the event to allow sufficient time for Lockton to process the request and transmit the COI to the party**
- **In the event of a major holiday, like Memorial Day, July 4th or Veterans Day, please submit the request four (4) business days before the event. Weekends do not count as business days, nor federal holidays falling on Mondays.**

Richard Rankin email: [Brandywinecreek@aol.com](mailto:Brandywinecreek@aol.com)





# Training Workshops

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## Objective

- Mature best practices and procedures
- Emphasize safety: first and always
- Promote safe use of black powder firelocks

## Qualification Levels

- Musketman/Rifleman
- Safety Officer
- Firelock Squad Commander

## Approach

- Primary: In person workshops
- Secondary: On-line media (e.g., training videos, etc.)
- Sustained proficiency: regular use of firelock

The National Society  
of the  
Sons of the American Revolution®



VASSAR Musketeer/Rifleman

This certificate is presented to

Baron Von Steuben

For satisfactorily demonstrating proper firelock handling and firing procedures



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Date

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Edward K. Thompson II, Eastern Region Color Guard Commander



# Certification Card

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## FIRELOCK SAFETY CARD

COMPATRIOT \_\_\_\_\_

NSSAR Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Has successfully demonstrated knowledge of safe firelock firing.

Front

Certified safe to fire muzzleloading blank charges for one year.

1. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Certified by: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Certified by: \_\_\_\_\_

VASSAR Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Back



**Questions?**



**Back up slides**



# Training and Certification

## Qualification Level – Musket/Rifle Man

To be certified to fire a black powder musket or rifle at a Virginia SAR sanctioned event, the Musket Man must be able to satisfactorily demonstrate the following:

Item	Skill	Certified by	Organization	Date
M.1	Conduct a firelock safety check. Describe what safety features are required for your firelock (e.g., hammer stall, flash guard, half cock check, and material condition).			
M.2	Demonstrate 'Secure Firelock,' 'Search Firelock,' and 'Poise Firelock' during safety check.			
M.3	Demonstrate the common movements and sequence for 'Shoulder Arms,' 'Present Arms,' and 'Advance Arms.'			
M.4	Describe the maximum powder load for your firelock and caliber.			
M.5	Demonstrate the proper rolling of a cartridge.			
M.6	Demonstrate the proper sequence through 'Prime and Load,' 'Make Ready,' 'Take Aim,' and 'Fire,' and 'Recover' in a safe manner.			
M.7	Demonstrate correct misfire procedures (e.g., flash in the pan, or other fail to fire examples).			



# Training and Certification

## Qualification Level – Safety Officer

To be certified to command a musket squad at a Virginia SAR sanctioned event, the Safety Officer must be able to satisfactorily demonstrate the following:

Item	Skill	Certified by	Organization	Date
O.1	Demonstrate competencies M.1 – M.7			
O.2	Demonstrate knowledge by conducting a firelock safety check			
O.3	Describe, with examples, how to approach site safety inspection, including obstructions, event observers, aiming point, etc.			
O.4	Demonstrate knowledge of firelock misfire procedures (e.g., flash in the pan, or other fail to fire examples).			
O.5	Demonstrate knowledge of Annexes A and B of the Virginia SAR Color Guard Handbook.			
O.6	Describe the roles of Color Guard Commander and Musket Squad Commander, related firelock firing.			



# Training and Certification

## Qualification Level – Firelock Squad Commander

To be certified to command a musket squad at a Virginia SAR sanctioned event, the Firelock Squad Commander must be able to satisfactorily demonstrate the following:

Item	Skill	Certified by	Organization	Date
C.1	Demonstrate competencies M.1 – M.7			
C.2	Demonstrate knowledge of period commands and maneuvers related to 'Prime and Load,' 'Take Aim,' 'Fire,' and 'Recover,' in accordance with Annex C of the Virginia SAR Color Guard Handbook.			
C.3	Demonstrate knowledge of firelock misfire procedures (e.g., flash in the pan, or other fail to fire examples).			
C.4	Demonstrate knowledge of Annexes A and B of the Virginia SAR Color Guard Handbook.			