

# Rules for Using the NCWC Online Forum

## Feb 2011

This forum is run by the Northwest Civil War Council. As such, please familiarize yourselves with our Rules and sections 8 and 9 of the Code of Conduct. They apply to your postings on the forum. You are held accountable for your postings here. The NCWC-appointed moderator or forum administrator can delete unsuitable postings without warning, and even ban users from the forum for abuse. Posting on this forum is a privilege, not a right.

### FORUM RULES:

**1. Illegal topics:** No spam, pornography, modern politics or religion (constructive discussion of *period* religion and politics are okay, without actually attacking another religion or political view). We are here to discuss reenacting and living history only.

**2. No outright hostility or abusive conduct:** -- this includes malicious, inflammatory and threatening posts, flaming and ranting. Discrimination based on nationality, ethnicity, sex, race, religion, sexual orientation, etc. is also abusive. Do not characterize other members or reenacting groups with negative labels.

**3. Sales and Want ads are welcome** for items relevant to Civil War reenacting or history. The NCWC, the Forum, its Moderators and Administrators are not responsible for these items and are listed on a "buyer beware" basis.

### 4. Dos and Don'ts:

- **Don't** use profanity, excessive punctuation, all capitals (this is considered yelling), excessive smilies, or font colors or types that are difficult to read.
- **Do** be polite and courteous. Healthy disagreement over ideas or facts is allowed, but direct your arguments at another person's *logic* -- not *at* the person.
- **Do** support newcomers and help them to become a member of our reenacting community. Take the time to explain things to them -- we were all new once!
- **Don't** post empty complaints or rants about events, the NCWC, or about the format or nature of this forum. Constructive criticism *with the intent of initiating change* is allowed.
- **Don't** use the forum for personal messaging. The forum is for group conversations and questions.

- **Do** think before you type. Remember that you are dealing with real people, and only type things that you would actually say in person.
- **Do** make announcements about your reenacting unit's activities, if you wish.
- **Do** use your name and email in case someone wants to contact you. Inappropriate "anonymous" postings will be deleted and may result in a blocked IP address.
- **Don't** re-post a message or restart a topic that was previously locked or deleted. Direct questions to the moderator or administrator via private messages please. Flooding the forum with questions or complains about a removed topic may result in a blocked IP address.
- **Do** report abusive content to the forum moderator and, if necessary, to forum host Bravenet. We want such material removed as soon as possible, and you can help that happen. Watching the forum is not our moderator's full time job!

### **Locked threads:**

The moderator may lock topic threads that he feels have worn out their usefulness or are "going nowhere". Please do not open a new thread on the same topic.

### **CONSEQUENCES:**

The forum moderator(s) and administrator(s) will use their discretion in dealing with inappropriate postings. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> minor offenses will most likely result in the offending post being deleted. The moderator or administrator will leave a message in the thread or attempt to contact you to address the problem. *Inappropriate anonymous posts will simply be deleted.* A 3<sup>rd</sup> minor offense or any major abuse of the forum can result in your computer's IP address (and any future IP addresses) being blocked from the forum, either temporarily or permanently depending on the severity of the abuse. Severe abuse may result in NCWC Board sanctions against the author. Separate and/or additional action may be taken by our forum host, Bravenet.

Please note that blocking an IP address may result in blocking your entire household from using the forum, depending on your internet setup. Due to the nature of our forum, this is our only option to keep abusive users off of the forum.

\*\*These **Rules for Posting** are subject to the interpretation of the site owner and may be changed without notice.