

# Clothing Standards

## Basic Clothing Standards

The Fair at New Boston™ represents the period 1780-1810. No clothing or other items of a style created after 1810 are acceptable. It is reasonable that some clothing, and other items, which pre-date 1780, may still be in use. Clothing of a style which pre-dates 1775 is not acceptable, unless a particular character aspect requiring clothing of that style (theatrical performer, age, poverty, emergency, etc.), and that clothing should reflect its own age.

In our never-ending quest for increased authenticity, we ask everyone to take a good look at their period clothing each year. The majority of the participants at the Fair are middle and lower class Americans. The following standards are directed toward these characters and are good guidelines for new participants. For those portraying upper classes, fashionable characters, foreigners, people of a particular ethnic heritage or geographic location, and the military, there may be different or alternate items and guidelines that are appropriate for the 1780-1810 period. Any questions regarding items and guidelines for those types of personas, and any documentation to be presented supporting such characters, should be directed to the appropriate Committee Chairperson.

Please submit photographs of yourself and family in your period clothing with your first application and for any changes made of your clothing or camp in the future.

If there are any questions concerning these guidelines please contact GRCHA at 937-882-9216 or [fairmaster@grcha.org](mailto:fairmaster@grcha.org). The proper person will get back to you as soon as possible.

*Special Needs:* Exceptions for medical needs may be made, and we are willing to offer suggestions for adaptations and/or refer you to others who have experience in dealing with (and interpreting) disabilities in the living history field. Please do not hesitate to approach the jury committee regarding such issues.

Remember: From 9:00 AM Saturday until after 5:00 pm Sunday all participants should remain in period clothing, behavior, and character while in the entire juried area of the Fairgrounds! (The Gathering House and the Modern Camping areas are not included.) This means that even when the public is gone from the grounds, the participants within the juried area must continue within the guidelines.

## For All Characters

- Modern eyeglasses are not acceptable. Please use contacts or period spectacles, if required. (For medical exceptions see Special Needs)
- Modern cigarettes or other modern smoking methods are not to be used by anyone in period clothing. Only smoking materials of a type in use in North America 1780-1810 are acceptable.
- Only jewelry and accessories of a type typically in use by your character during 1780-1810. No wristwatches or modern jewelry should be worn. Non-Native characters should avoid wearing Native trade beads and facial piercing.
- Modern tattoos must be covered. Visible tattoos should be character based, and accurate to the period.
- Ladies and gentlemen should wear only makeup appropriate to the 1780 to 1810 period, and colored finger or toenail polish must be avoided.
- Come prepared with period rainwear and warm clothing for the evening. It can be chilly.
- Period eating utensils must be used and provided by participants in camp, on food row, and during the Saturday evening dinner.
- Participants in period clothing must have period drinking vessels to be served at the taverns and coffee house.
- All items used by participants at the Fair should be authentic to what would be found in the pre-1810 period, including the items used and visible within living quarters located within the juried area.

- Those in period clothing are to avoid the use of cameras, cellular telephones, or any other modern electronic devices while on the grounds of the Fair. GRCHA has staff members, readily identifiable by their shirts, who travel around the grounds during the Fair taking photos. Photos will be available for viewing on the GRCHA websites and on the GRCHA-affiliated social media pages after the Fair. Cellular telephone and electronic device usage should be limited to the modern camping areas and the Gathering House, both of which are outside the juried grounds of the Fair.
- Civilians should avoid the use of white or unbleached linen haversacks. Haversacks were issued ration bags used by the military for campaigning and are not appropriate for civilian use. Please use the means to carry personal items, such as pockets, period wallets, leather bags, large handkerchiefs, or baskets.
- Please use modern safety and health considerations for child participants, especially infants. It is often a hot event. Dehydration and sunburn happen quickly and can be life threatening.

## Civilians

Civilian guidelines include general fairgoers, artisans, food vendors, merchants, mongers, blanket traders, volunteers, tavern and coffee house workers, those with livestock and rolling stock, and most entertainers. Military, militia and longhunters will find these guidelines helpful.

### **Civilian Men**

Men's clothing should be typical in the style of the late 1700s through 1810, as would be seen in North America. A man's clothing should take his character's trade into consideration. Policies under For All Characters (above) apply. Clothing of a style which pre-dates 1775 is not acceptable, unless a particular character aspect requires clothing of that style, and that clothing should reflect its own age. A man's clothing should include the following:

- Collared shirt of period appropriate material and style.
- Waistcoat of period material and style. Waistcoats of a style between 1780 and 1810 are preferred, but consider the trouser/breeches waistline to avoid "gap." It is reasonable that in extremely hot working conditions the waistcoat is left off to work in shirt only,

but the waistcoat must be put on for dealing with the public or leaving the booth to walk in the street.

- Breeches or trousers. Trousers are preferred, as they become more common after 1780.
- Neck stock or neck cloth. Lace jabots and long cravats are out of style and should not be used.
- Hat of felt or straw in a period style suitable for the character and for the 1780 to 1810 timeframe.
- Stockings & shoes, period boots, center seam moccasins, or barefoot. Modern style moccasins are not acceptable.
- A coat or jacket, generally worn over a waistcoat, is preferred when walking in public, and should be of material and a style in use between 1780 and 1810 (frock coat, round jacket, rifle frock, etc.). Based on the character, other over garments, such as a workman's shirt, rifle shirt, waggoner's shirt or smock (not "smocked"), of period material and style, are acceptable.

The following garment types and materials are strictly prohibited: modern Calico prints, "Mountain Man," long fringed buckskins, generic "pre-1840" or western clothing, American Civil War, or capotes of a style created after 1810.

### **Civilian Women**

Women's clothing should be typical in style of the late 1700s through 1810, as would be seen in North America. Keep in mind the fashions have reached higher than normal waistlines. Shoulders must be covered during the day, as would be appropriate for the time period.

A woman's clothing should take her character's status and trade into consideration. Policies under For All Characters (above) apply. Clothing of a style which pre-dates 1775 is not acceptable, unless a particular character aspect requiring clothing of that style (theatrical performer, age, poverty, emergency, etc.), and that clothing should reflect its own age. A woman's clothing should include the following:

- Shift (or "chemise") of period appropriate material and style.
- Foundation garment (stays/corset or suitable substitute), preferably of a style to create the silhouette common between 1780 and 1810.
- An under petticoat & a petticoat (skirt), or under petticoat and gown (see below).
- Neck handkerchief or fichu

- Short gown, Jacket, or Gown of period appropriate material and style. Women’s clothing of a style between 1780 and 1810 is preferred, but clothing of a style after 1775 is acceptable.
- Apron, especially when working.
- Day cap (white, no prints) or hairstyle appropriate to the 1790 to 1810 timeframe.
- Hat or bonnet when walking in public.
- Stockings & shoes, center seam moccasins, or other period appropriate footwear, or barefoot. Modern style moccasins are not acceptable.
- Over garments for warmth or protection from weather might include appropriate period style woven shawl, a cloak, or a long coat, such as a “Pelisse” or “Redingote”.

The following garment types, materials and accessories are strictly prohibited: modern Calico prints, gathered circle style caps (these are not documented to the pre-1810 period), lace parasols, American Civil War, fringed buckskin clothing, generic “pre-1840” or western clothing, or anything of a style created after 1810. Exposed sleeveless bodices are strictly prohibited. If sleeveless bodices are used as a foundation garment, they must be covered with a period appropriate outer garment. The exception is when a bodice is used as part of a full ethnic dress of 1780-1810 era and must be appropriate to the character.

**Civilian Children:** Infants and toddlers have distinctions from adults. Non-Native children over the age of 4-5 should generally be dressed similar to adults in their family. Boys see Civilian Men. Girls see Civilian Women.

**Civilian Toddlers:**

- Shift or shirt (linen recommended, it tends to be cooler).
- Gown and/or Pin-cloth (i.e. period pinafore)
- Cap (white), hat or head covering.
- Stockings & shoes (or period style moccasins), or barefoot (with caution)
- Small boys may wear a “Skeleton Suit” (trousers attached to jacket, over a shirt with collar).

**Civilian Infants:**

- Shirt (baby style, open in front, linen recommended as it tends to be cooler)
- Blanket, period style and material.
- Cap (white).

- Cloth diaper cover or period diapers.
- Bedgown or gown.
- Period basket, with cloth to cover, for infant and supplies.

## Woodland Indians

Only Eastern Woodland style wear is accepted. We strongly recommend contacting the GRCHA Native American chairperson before acquiring clothing (if in doubt), or before submitting first time applications. Policies under For All Characters (above) apply.

### **Native Men:**

- Scalp lock or head covered with kerchief or turban
- Clean shaven
- Trade shirt of period style, in solid or period print or woven pattern, if worn.
- Breechcloth – width to be mid-thigh to mid-thigh, length must be no more than mid-thigh
- Leggings – snug fitting, mid-thigh height, wool or leather
- Moccasins should be center seam pucker toe.
- Bead and ribbon work – straight geometric designs, no florals
- Trade silver – needs to be time appropriate
- Hunting bags – should be no larger than 9 inches, finger woven or leather or wool.
- Battle participants must have small cartridge bag with flap for safety reasons!
- All sashes and knee garters must be finger woven – no inkle loom woven pieces
- Paint – documentable and reasonable, try to limit use of exclusive black for battle only.

### **Native Women:**

- Trade shirt of period style, in solid, woven pattern, or period print (no large floral prints)
- A bedgown or short gown may be worn over trade shirt
- Wrap skirt, worn under trade shirt
- Leggings, gartered
- Moccasins – same as men's
- No hunting bags. Twined bags are acceptable.
- No neck knives

- Hair – no bangs, pulled back and clubbed (queued), may be greased back.
- Paint – reasonable vermillion red face painting (hair part, forehead, cheeks and top of ears)

**Native Children:** In imitation of adults.

## Military

Military and militia personnel need to provide documentation for their uniform and accoutrements. These must be appropriate to the period of the event and have a reason to have been in the United States, and in use, between 1780 and 1810. Policies under For All Characters (above) apply. Please contact the Military Chairperson with any questions or for clarification.

All participants attending with military and militia personnel must meet the above criteria for Civilians.