



## “INDEPENDENT GREYS” CONSTITUTION-BYLAWS-GUIDELINES

### **I. GROUP NAME:**

The name of this Living History Organization shall be “Independent Greys”.

### **II. PURPOSE OF GROUP:**

The purpose of “Independent Greys” is to help educate and provide the public, through living history, an accurate portrayal of soldiers from Maryland who served in the Confederate Army from 1861-1865.

### **III. AFFILIATION:**

“Independent Greys” is an independent living history organization. The divisions under the “Independent Greys” are as follows: Company D 2nd Maryland Infantry, Company D 1st Maryland Infantry Regiment, Maryland Cadets, The Monument Street Girls, The Plug Uglies, and The True Marylander magazine. The “Commander” of “Independent Greys” shall have final say in any decision made for “Independent Greys”

### **IV. AUTHENTICITY:**

“Independent Greys” shall follow authenticity to the utmost possible detail using all historically accurate known facts, research, and knowledge about the impression to provide an accurate portrayal. Any deviation from this directive due to void in research and known facts must be approved by the Commander of “Independent Greys”. This is necessary to preserve appearance and historical integrity of the unit and time period that we portray. Anyone who joins “Independent Greys” as a civilian shall also observe authenticity standards in accordance that is appropriate for their impression. The Captain (commander) of Company D (“Independent Greys”) be the final say and enforcer of authenticity and any standards.

### **V. LEADERSHIP AND RANK STRUCTURE:**

A) The unit/group commander shall hold the highest rank within “Independent Greys” at any given point and that rank shall be sensibly justified. Per historical accuracy, “Company D” (“Independent Greys”) shall not have any rank over the rank of Captain and that rank shall be the unit/group’s “commander”. Officer and NCO ranks shall be adjusted or modified to adhere to the present Company membership to prevent a “Rank” Top Heavy unit. It is the Captain’s (commander) discretion on adding, subtracting, adjusting rank within the Company.

B) Officer ranks -1st and 2nd Lieutenants: Due to the expense and burden of acquiring an officer kit; Any 1st and 2nd Lieutenant officer rank shall be permanent until removed or deemed not necessary by Captain (commander). “Not Necessary” is defined in terms of Company membership fluctuating to a point that does not support having the rank (to prevent a rank top heavy unit). The Lieutenant shall be appointed by Company commander and ratified first by a majority vote of all NCOs. Once appointee is approved by majority vote of NCOs, the appointee is presented to full Company vote. The Majority rules. Should no vote be carried or is tied, then the “Commander” shall have the overriding vote and decision. The “Commander” of “Company D” (“Independent Greys”) shall have final say over every aspect of “Independent Greys”. Any Lieutenant must have a full enlisted uniform as standby uniform.

C) NCO Ranks: The rank of 1st Sergeant, Sergeants, and Corporals shall constitute the definition of NCO Ranks within Company D 2nd Maryland. Each NCO position shall be a term of 2 years in duration. There shall be a rotating NCO election every year to be held in person during the last event in October (of each year). Starting effective October 2018 (last event of that month) a Company election shall be held for the positions of 1st Sergeant and 2nd Corporal. Those elected for positions shall serve 2 years until the next voting cycle and then



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cycle continues every 2 years. The following year (2019); a Company election shall be held for Sergeant and 1st Corporal. Those elected for positions shall serve 2 years until the next voting cycle and then cycle continues every 2 years. Leap frogging the elections in this manner shall preserve and maintain veteran NCO rank leadership within the Company at all times while offering new members opportunity to obtain ranks. There is no term limits on any NCO positions held. A current NCO could be voted on for higher NCO rank. If this happens; That NCO position shall be vacant which will require an immediate Company election to fill position. If an NCO resigns position or leaves Company; an immediate Company election shall be called by the commander (Captain) to fill vacancy for remaining term of that position. The NCO rank structure shall fluctuate in accordance to the membership numbers. If there is a decline in Company membership, NCO ranks may need to be adjusted or deleted to prevent the appearance of a rank top heavy unit. This shall be at the discretion of Captain (commander). Adding new NCO ranks shall be justified and based on membership growth. This shall be at the discretion of Captain (commander). Any new NCO rank positions shall be added to the next election cycle.

D) The unit Commander (Captain): is permanent until Commander steps down at which point the current Commander will appoint his successor. The named successor to Company Commander position shall first be voted on by the existing NCO staff. The voting options are either NAY or YAY. The appointed successor shall need the majority vote from NCOs to be carried to final vote by the membership of Company D. Once carried through the NCO vote, the appointee shall be presented to the the whole membership for Company vote (excluding the nominee and existing Captain). The NCOs will be allowed to vote during this election. Should there be a tie; the existing Company Commander (Captain) shall cast the tie breaking vote. The voting options are either NAY or YAY. The majority of votes carry the election. Should the nominee not carry majority of votes at any level; then a new nominee shall be selected by the current Commander (Captain) and the process starts over again.

E) “Failsafe”: to protect the integrity of Company D 2nd Maryland Infantry/“Independent Greys”and it’s intended direction/purpose per it’s founder, Jake Duda; Any future Commander (Captain) that fails to guide or lead Company D/“Independent Greys”in the manner or direction as intended by it’s initial founding or his leadership is against the overall good of the Company; the NCO’s shall have right to call for a full membership vote of “Confidence”. This vote is either NAY or YAY in confidence of the current commander. If the majority votes NAY, the commander shall be removed and a general Company election shall immediately take place. The senior NCO shall act as election judge and collect written names of nominee (from each company member). The member who has the most tallies shall be the new Commander. If a tie, the senior NCO ranks shall act as tie breaking vote. If at any time no resolution is reached or something arrises that is not covered here in bylaws; the existing Officer and NCO staff shall decide course of action.

F) Field Surgeons: Only one position of Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon exist as an extension and or enhancement of “Company D” 2nd Maryland Infantry CSA. Those impressions are welcome, but their rank is not recognized as leadership of “Company D” 2nd Maryland Infantry CSA and“Independent Greys”. Military courtesy shall be observed for those ranks during public hours but the surgeon and assistant surgeon rank is symbolic for impression and has no authority with Company D operations.

### **VI. JOINING AND MEMBERSHIP:**

“Company D” 2nd Maryland Infantry CSA/“Independent Greys” is a Campaigner themed group. Although our primary focus is a military impression; we welcome men, women and children as “civilians”. Civilians must adhere to authenticity standards to maintain a period



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correct impression. Some events may exclude civilian members participation.

At events that welcome both military and civilian impressions; the civilian camp shall be separate from military camp. Men who join as soldiers (military impression) must adhere to the established military standards set forth by “Company D”/ “Independent Greys”(and supported by our research). To join “Independent Greys”, one must contact us and ask to join. We (“Independent Greys”) hold and reserve the “right of refusal”. This means just because you want to join us; we don’t have to accept you. We have no probationary period. Probationary periods create division. That said, you are a member of Company D/ “Independent Greys”(one of us) upon the day the Captain (commander) welcomes you to group. Once welcomed to the Company, you have several obligations to fulfill as member. 1) You need to pay dues by January 1st of every year 2) You will be required to obtain proper kit (your uniform, accoutrements, and rifle) by end of your 1st year with group. We (the Company) have some loaner gear, uniforms, and rifles we can loan you temporarily, but it is your responsibility to get the proper items you will need. 3) Attend at least three (3) Company events per year.

Please read our uniform/gear/rifle guidelines. You must adhere to our recommendations/guidelines in regards to items needed and vendors. Please contact a Company member prior to making any purchases. We are here to help you. We will assist you in any way to make sure you obtain the right items needed. Failure to comply may result in wasting your money and or removal from Company. This may sound stringent but such is needed to protect our Company’s appearance and adherence to authenticity per our research pertaining to impression.

There are no age limits for being a member of “Independent Greys”, however laws prohibit anyone under the age of 16 yrs to carry a rifle/musket. So for “military combatants” (those who carry a rifle) the minimum age shall be 16 years of age and “military non-combatants” (musicians) shall be over 12 years of age. There is no age limit on civilian members.

### **VII. COMPANY “GOLDEN” RULES:**

We, as a group, are a team. Anything that breaks down or damages the harmony of our group will not be tolerated. NO drama, NO “hobby” politics, NO internal clicks, and NO “horse shit” will be tolerated by “Independent Greys”. These are factors that detract from a unit, group, family, and team environment. Violators will be warned once. If issue(s) persist; the Captain will bring an expulsion vote to membership. Majority rules.

### **VIII. DUES:**

We have an annual \$10 Company dues for insurance only. No other dues as all the company items have been bought and paid for. Dues are due “January 1st” of every year to pay for the insurance of that year. Failure to comply will result with your membership expulsion. No exceptions.

### **IX. MILITARY REQUIRED ITEMS:**

Men of the 2nd Maryland Infantry/1st Maryland Infantry were relatively better equipped than most Confederate units. Below is a list of required items that you will need to be properly “kitted” out. We do not expect

you to obtain all these items at once and we may have extra items amongst the group that you can borrow until you can purchase your own. We do ask that you be fully kitted out after your



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1st year with us. Please take note that it's the little things that you do when building your impression (military or civilian) that really set your bar higher than the rest. Sometimes paying more for craftsmanship and quality far outweighs a few \$\$ you save from getting a cheaply made product. It's the little things like adding a pocket watch (wristwatches are forbidden to be worn in this group at an event) or buying a pair of period spectacles (modern eyeglasses are forbidden in this group as well) that make a difference. Before you start buying uniforms and gear, please speak with a unit member first. We can assist and help you in the right direction so you do not waste your hard earned money on items that may not be correct. New members who are joining from other units and new members to the hobby shall have 1 year until they are required to have the proper uniform for that of “Company D” 2nd Maryland Infantry CSA. (For Co.D 1st Maryland Infantry Regiment or civilian requirements, please refer to the uniform section on that webpage)

### **X. RIFLES:**

Please CONTACT a unit member BEFORE you buy

You will need a reproduction percussion cap type rifle or musket, preferably an 1853 British Enfield 3 band rifle. Other rifles accepted are 1861 Springfield rifle, 1842 Springfield Smoothbore, 1862 Richmond rifle, and 1841 “Mississippi” Rifle (in limited numbers only). We have supporting evidence for all rifles listed being used by 2nd Maryland. There Manufactures of the muskets/rifles available. Due to safety concerns, NO rifles made in Pakistan or India will be allowed. Please CONTACT a unit member BEFORE purchasing a musket/rifle. You will also need a bayonet with scabbard to fit your particular musket.

### **XI. GEAR AND ACCOUTREMENTS:**

Please CONTACT a unit member BEFORE you buy (also refer to our regulations on webpage)

- Black leather waist belt (quality made) with Maryland State seal belt plate
- Leather cartridge box (shoulder strap and brass Maryland state seal box plate is optional)
- Black leather cap box (quality made)
- Black leather bayonet scabbard to fit your bayonet (quality made-either stitched or 2 rivet)
- Canteen (Confederate wooden drum, Union smoothed, and Confederate Tin styles are all acceptable)
- Haversack
- Eating utensils
- Tin plate
- Tin cup
- Grey wool blanket (Other variants and styles acceptable. Please ask unit member before buying)
- Knapsack (optional)
- Tent (optional)

### **XI. UNIFORMS:**

Please CONTACT a unit member BEFORE you buy (also refer to our regulations on webpage)

- Kepi (in British Army blue-grey kersey wool) 2nd Maryland pattern kepi
- RD2 shell jacket in blue-grey kersey wool with Maryland Bottony Cross badge/pin and Maryland state seal “muffin” buttons
- Trousers (British Army blue grey kersey wool)
- 2 Shirts
  
- Trouser braces (suspenders)
- 2 pairs of plain grey wool socks (no modern socks)
- 1 pair of black Brogans (shoes)
- Period correct underwear (optional)
- Overcoat (optional) NO LIGHT GREY SUTLER ROW GREATCOATS PERMITTED

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- Vest (either civilian or military style acceptable-this item is optional)
- Period style wool mittens/knitted gloves (optional)

**XII. ADENDUMS:**

The Captain and or leadership reserve the right to alter By-laws as needed but changes must be ratified by Company.