

## **Interested in Joining a Unit?**

ALL military and civilian reenacting units want to recruit new individuals who have a good attitude and are interested in the history of the American Civil War. You will find plenty of enthusiasm for your interest upon talking to our members as you travel through the camps.

We advise looking at all military units and/or civilian groups, both blue and gray, before joining any unit. Talk to the people in each group and see if you would like them as friends. Decide if you would enjoy their "living history philosophy" before you sign up. If you are intending to join as an individual without your family, your options are open to get into any unit. If you intend to get your family involved too, make sure the unit you join is interested in helping your family portray the era as well. There are no military company units who allow family members to camp with them on the military street, however, some do have camps located nearby that your non-military family can set up in as civilian members. There are also civilian units portraying refugees or townspeople available to join if your interest is non-military.

Getting started is confusing, but your chosen unit should provide you with knowledgeable mentors to ensure you get outfitted correctly and give you the training you need to be safe. Several military units have loaner uniforms and gear to help you get on the field to experience the battle and camp aspect before you spend your hard-earned money. Many of these units also have training away from events where you will be able to learn the art of drill by competent NCO's and officers.

Once you decide on a unit you will need to fill out the application form and pay your dues. Dues amount to a small fee per year and you must join your adopted unit first before joining the SWCWA. You will then have to join the Southwest Civil War Association (SWCWA) by filling out our membership form and paying our yearly dues (\$20 single membership or \$30 household membership). These forms are turned in by the commanders of the units with their signature. All forms go to the company commander or his clerk.

See our lists of member units to visit their websites and see contacts. We hope you will join us and experience living history!