

## **1861 Clothing Guidelines for Children—Town of Norfolk, Missouri**

Children grown quickly and play hard. We want them to enjoy their time living in the past. The clothing can be quite comfortable when properly done, but may challenge modern ideas of proper clothing norms.

Children need to be appropriately dressed any time they are outside of their tent – including at night.

Children's clothing needs to be in the same socio- economic class as their parents. Prints (documented to the period) and plaids in cotton, wool or linen are appropriate for children of all ages. White outfits may be appropriate for very small babies. All materials must be of either cotton, wool, linen or silk.

All children should be wearing drawers of some kind.

We are aware that period reproduction shoes for children are not affordable for many families. Please do your best to have shoes that present a period appearance, including paddock boots, black Mary Janes or elastic gusseted Jodhpur boots.

Period eyeglasses also present a difficulty—if your family is active in living history, please think carefully as you chose your child's eyewear. We'd prefer their eyewear be correct, but it's not something we are going to get all heated up about.

Your children are your responsibility while they are in camp. You should not leave them unattended. Towns are contiguous to military action, and may see direct fighting in the area. You are responsible for managing your child around open fires, water troughs, horses, firearms, and other items that may be both attractive to them and not safe for them.

Your children should practice basic manners such as not going into other's tents. Please choose period appropriate toys for your children. Electronic toys should be left in your vehicle.

Some children do not respond well to portalets, and find them dark and scary. Consider a period correct chamber pot in your gear, to be used inside your tent.

### **Babies:**

Babies of either gender wear dresses which may be white of period prints of woven cotton or wool with sunbonnets, caps or hoods. All children should be wearing drawers or period correct diaper covers and period leggings.

Children still in diapers may wear modern disposable diapers provided they are covered by period correct drawers or diaper covers. Modern diapers should be bagged and concealed during disposal. Please be considerate of your neighbors and dispose promptly. Period correct cloth diapers, soakers and pilchers, are of course allowed as well. Please provide your own period correct pail for soaking and create your own method of drying. Again, please be considerate of your neighbors and clean them promptly.

Bag diapers and place them in trash receptacles. DO NOT PUT THEM IN THE PORTALETTS. This will clog the portatlet outlets and disable the pumper trucks, making it difficult for portalets to be serviced.

### **Girls and Small Children**

Dresses with open necklines (bateau) are very common in warmer weather. High necklines (jewel) may be worn, as well as necklines between the two extremes. Dresses should be back fastening. Dresses may have long or short sleeves. Zouave jackets, sheer white waists with dark skirts in wool or silk may be worn by upper class girls and teenagers. No other skirt/blouse combinations are appropriate.

Dresses for older teenage girls may follow the guidelines of adult women except in regards to hemlines.

13-14 years old hemmed at mid-calf

14-15 years old hemmed to lower calf to mid shin

15-18 years old hemmed within a hand span of the ankle bone

17- 20 or married women hemmed at adult women's length.

Girls younger than 16 years old should be wearing back fastening bodices with appropriate supportive undergarments for their figure.

Girls should wear petticoats and chemises under their dresses. Corded petticoats or small hoops are acceptable for all girls who are walking.

Slat bonnets, corded bonnets, fashion bonnets, quilted bonnets or hats are appropriate for girls and small children.

Pinafores or smocks in period correct fabric maybe worn, this allows the children to play and get dirty.

### **Boys**

Boys who have not been toilet trained are to be dressed in frocks, smocks, or dresses and petticoats. These same frocks and smocks may be worn over trousers for toilet trained boys.

Dresses are appropriate for boys until about age 5.

Trousers with a shirt, coat and hat or cap are appropriate for boys of all socio economic status, once fully toilet trained.

Tunics and trousers are also recommended for elementary aged boys.

Boys past the age of 10 may wear sack coats and trousers of civilian cut and material, the same as men. Caps or hats of appropriate construction and materials are recommended for all boys.

No military uniform items or miniature uniforms are to be worn by children.