

Gold Camp Victorian Society

Policies and Procedures

Smokin' Guns Club

1. Purpose.

This document outlines the policies and procedures to be used by the Gold Camp Victorian Society (GCVS) over and above those stipulated in Articles II and IV of the GCVS By-Laws (as amended June 19, 2011). It seeks to eliminate questions and misunderstandings regarding the use of firearms during GCVS activities.

Smokin' Guns club is made up of members (both men and women) of the Gold Camp Victorian Society who wish to celebrate the life and times of the gold camp district from 1860-1910. The members of Smokin' Guns represent, through reenactments and costuming, what it would have been like to live in the Victorian era in Cripple Creek when firearms were commonplace.

2. Definitions

- A. **Blank cartridge:** A cartridge that contains a primer and powder, but no projectile (bullet, or shot). Blanks as used by the Smokin' Guns contain either black powder, or a black powder substitute. Blank cartridges may cause injury if fired at another person.
- B. **Clean firearm:** A firearm that does not have any fired powder or lead residue in the cylinder (of a revolver), barrel, or chamber.
- C. **Dummy cartridge:** A cartridge that contains neither a primer, nor powder. Dummy cartridges are inert and typically consist of only the brass case and the projectile (bullet). The primer pocket is left empty so that they are readily recognizable as dummies. Smokin' Guns members typically carry these in their cartridge belts to simulate loaded ammunition.
- D. **Unloaded firearm:** Not having a cartridge or shell in either the cylinder (of a revolver), or the chamber and/or the magazine (of a rifle or shotgun).

3. Chairman.

A. Position.

1. The Chairman will be the central point-of-contact for all matters involving the use of firearms by GCVS (Smokin' Guns) members.
2. The Chairman position is an elected member of the GCVS Board of Directors (Article II).
3. The Chairman shall be an ACTIVE member in good standing.
4. The term of service will typically be one-year.
5. The Chairman may designate an Armorer to assist in the preparation of blanks for parades, skits, and other performances. The Armorer shall have the same membership requirements as the Chairman. The Armorer and the Chairman may be the same person.
6. In the event that neither the Chairman, nor the Armorer are available, the president of the GCVS shall act as Chairman.

B. Duties and Responsibilities.

1. Certify participation by reviewing all Smokin' Guns Club applications and Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) background checks. Colorado Bureau of Investigation Records Check located at the following: <https://www.cbirecordscheck.com/Index.aspx?CLS=N>
2. Maintain an active roster of Smokin' Guns Club members together with their applications and CBI background checks.
3. Perform all safety inspections prior to any events in which members will participate. This includes inspecting individual firearms for cleanliness and cartridge belts to ensure no live ammunition is present at the event(s).
4. Obtain authorization from any municipality or law enforcement entity prior to any event in which shooting will take place.
5. Enforce all of the regulations of the Smokin' Guns.
6. Oversee directly or indirectly all the activities of the Armorer and the reloading of blank cartridges that will be used in performances and/or reenactments. Certify that blank cartridges are loaded in compliance with

Smokin' Guns safety standards. NOTE: ONLY GCVS-loaded blanks will be used in Smokin' Guns performances.

4. Equipment

A. Firearms.

1. Used by the Smokin' Guns Club shall be correct for the period being portrayed (1890-1910). They may be either original guns, replicas, or faithful likenesses (such as the Ruger Vaquero).
2. Firearms will be kept functional and in good repair.

B. Leather

1. Holsters and belts should be true to the period. Fast-draw Hollywood-style Buscadero belts/holsters are discouraged.
2. Holsters used should have a retention device for the firearm, such as a hammer thong.

5. Safety.

- A. Firearms are to remain holstered with the hammer thong in-place except when participating in a shooting event. Firearms may not be drawn until they are ready to be fired. Drawing firearms during "ambiance" days is not permitted.
- B. Absolutely NO live ammunition may be present at any Smokin' Guns event. Violation of this rule will result in the participant being expelled from the Smokin' Guns Club.
- C. The Chairman and/or Armorer will physically inspect each firearm to be used in that event in order to determine that it is both clean, and empty. This will include assisting local law-enforcement officials to do the same, if requested.
- D. Participants may not load blanks until told to do so by the Chairman or Armorer.

- E. Firearms will not be discharged toward any other Smokin' Guns member, or any spectators. During skits, firearms may not be aimed directly at another reenactor.
- F. If a blank cartridge is dropped on the ground during a performance, it is considered "dead" and may not be used. The dropped cartridge should be picked-up and returned to the Armorer.
- G. If a participant drops his/her firearms during a performance, it must be holstered and not used until it can be inspected and cleaned.

6. Armorer

- A. The Armorer is appointed by the Board of Directors, but is not a member of that body. The duties of the Armorer may be assumed by the Chairman if so appointed by the Board.
- B. The Armorer is the direct assistant to the Chairman of the Smokin' Guns Club and may function as the Chairman in his/her absence.
- C. The Armorer is responsible for loading the blank cartridges used by the Smokin' Guns members during their performances. These include both handgun, rifle (if used) and shotgun ammunition.
- D. Collects and cleans the fired brass after each performance.
- E. Maintains all reloading equipment and ensures that all such equipment is safe.
- F. Keeps an active inventory of all reloading supplies and materials.
- G. Prepares and submits requests for supplies to the Chairman, Smokin' Guns Club, for approval by the Board of Directors.
- H. Upon approval, orders, receives, and inventories shooting supplies.
- I. Ensures any and all explosive materials are safely stored.

7. Applicants

- A. Must be over 21 and able to purchase and possess firearms.
- B. Must be an ACTIVE member of the Gold Camp Victorian Society (GCVS).
- C. Must complete a Smokin' Guns membership application.
- D. Must obtain a Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Records Check at the applicant's expense. A records check may be obtained at:

March 3, 2012

<https://www.cbirecordscheck.com/Index.aspx?CLS=N> The cost is approximately \$6.85 and is non-reimbursable.

- E. Submit completed application and a copy of the CBI records check to the Chairman, Smokin' Guns Club. The Chairman will retain both documents in the Smokin' Guns membership file.

8. Suspension/Termination of Membership

- A. Any member who is convicted of a felony or a domestic violence offense shall have his/her membership in the Smokin' Guns Club terminated.
- B. Any member who consumes alcohol or illegal drugs while in possession of firearms shall be suspended from the Smokin' Guns Club pending review by the Chairman and the Board of Directors to see if termination is warranted.
- C. Any member who injures another member or spectator with a firearm during a performance shall have his/her membership suspended and/or terminated as determined by the Chairman and the Board of Directors.
- D. Any member who introduces live ammunition into a performance shall have his/her membership terminated as determined by the Chairman and Board of Directors.