

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF REENACTING?

ASK ANY REENACTOR why he or she does what they do and you'll get an assortment of answers. Some do it because they believe their actions honor those men and women who came before us. Others do it as a token of respect to a relative or loved one. Still others do it because of their interests in a particular historical era, occupation, or event. The reasons vary from person to person, but nearly all would agree that reenacting is both a fun and educational hobby in which to be involved.

In effect, every reenactor serves two roles. First, they are your ambassador to a long-lost era. Most people are only exposed to historical eras through books, their local museum or films. All three can be educational, but rarely allow for people to experience this life from "the front row." Reenactors often provide the general public with their first real exposure to the lifestyle and hardships that our ancestors experienced. Second, reenactors serve as educators, using every opportunity to teach the general public how things actually were, without romanticism or myth.

This pamphlet is your introduction to the exciting, fun and educational hobby of Spanish-American War reenacting. This brochure isn't meant to be an authoritative guide. Rather, it's designed to answer a few immediate questions about the hobby of Spanish-American War reenacting.

SUPPLIERS

There are several merchants that offer quality equipment for the Span-Am War reenactor, the following are especially recommended:

Frazer Brothers
www.frazerbrothers.com

Quartermaster Depot
www.quartermasterdepot.com

Quartermaster Shop
www.quartermastershop.com

Regimental Quartermaster
www.regmqm.com

River Junction Trading Company
www.riverjunction.com

S & S Firearms
www.ssfirearms.com

Gear and equipment can also be found on Ebay, at gun and militaria shows, and local antique shops.



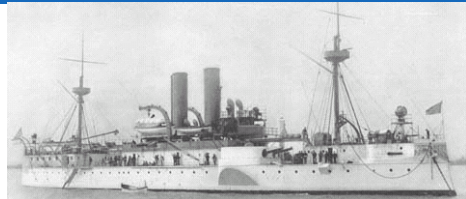
For more information on Span-Am reenacting or the hobby of reenacting, visit our online forum:

**THE SPLENDID LITTLE WARS:
REENACTING THE GILDED AGE, 1867-1919**
www.shorttimer.proboards58.com/index.cgi

Or, contact a member of this unit:



So You Want to be a REENACTOR?



ON FEBRUARY 15, 1898, the *USS Maine*, an American battleship stationed in Cuban waters, was destroyed in a night-time explosion that left over two hundred crewmen dead.

Within days newspaper headlines placed blame for the act on the Spanish Empire. Angry citizens, convinced this act was a slap in the face of American sovereignty, demanded that President William McKinley and the Congress act swiftly.

On April 25, after weeks of political posturing, the United States declared war on Spain. American soldiers fought in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. By the time this "Splendid Little War," and the subsequent conflicts ended eight years later, the world had changed forever: the Age of European Colonialism had started its decline, and the United States had emerged as a new world power.



Reenacting the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection

Between 1898 and 1906, American servicemen and their auxiliaries served around the world. Today, we honor those men and women by striving to recreate the world as they knew it for a new generation. For those new to reenacting, this can seem overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be. *Take a look -*

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Anything and everything! One of the primary goals that all reenactors hope to achieve is an accurate recreation of period life.



Like the real military, reenacting offers many different areas on which one can focus. This is known as "*creating an impression.*" Your impression is who, or what, you portray. Not every person was a soldier or sailor, and not every serviceman was involved in front-line combat. While some opt to model themselves on actual people like Teddy Roosevelt, most reenactors depict the average soldier. Many reenactors specialize in combat support roles. Interested in communication? Then consider representing either an Army or Navy signalman. Is criminal justice an interest of yours? Consider being a Judge Advocate, circa 1898. Like to cook? Try your hand with actual period recipes as a military cook.

And your choices aren't limited to just American soldiers or sailors. You can also create an impression of a Spanish soldier, Cuban Freedom Fighter or Filipino Moro. Non-combat impressions such as medical personnel, quartermasters (supply), or non-military impressions such as Red Cross workers, war artists, war correspondents, and even civilians, are also needed.

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

The key here is **RESEARCH**. We can't say that enough.

Do it thoroughly and often! Reenactors research every aspect of life as it occurred during this period. From what packaging labels looked like in 1898 to the color of a uniform's trim, no detail of daily life goes unnoticed.

Get additional help by joining an established group (or "unit"). This is the best method to help you developing your impression and getting familiar with the world of 1898. Use your unit members to help you round out your impression, to buy your kit, or to even get to events.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

As a hobby, reenacting is not cheap. The men and women who are involved in Living History spend hundreds—in some cases, thousands—of dollars on clothing, equipment and gear in order to accurately depict this era. Most uniforms, hats, dresses, and equipment are a one-of-a-kind items, specially ordered and made by hand. Original items are available, but are not recommended for use in a reenacting environment.



What does it cost to depict a turn-of-the-century soldier? The following list should provide you with a general idea of the costs involved for a basic kit.

This list is not meant to be all-inclusive. Specific groups may require specific articles of clothing or gear not listed here. Furthermore, these figures are approximate. In some cases, many of these items can be had for less than

the price indicated.

For a generic US soldier impression, circa 1898:

UNIFORM	
Hat, "trooper" style, khaki	\$ 75
Shirt, military-style, blue wool flannel	60
Trousers, military-style, blue wool	85
Suspenders, white canvas or cotton	15
Socks, wool	10
Leggings, tan canvas	60
Boots, black leather	100
GEAR	
Canteen with leather strap	\$ 85
Haversack with leather strap	50
Military wool blanket	60

GRAND TOTAL \$ 600

It's important to note that not all impressions require weapons, but should you opt for one, you should expect an additional expense of about \$1200, which includes the rifle, bayonet, cartridge belt and blank rounds.

Moreover, you should also include any peripheral items that are central to your impression—manuals, special equipment, tools, and etc. Nearly all of this will be original, so the costs will be determined by how much you choose to spend.