

USS HORNET HISTORICAL REENACTMENT LEAGUE



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LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear Actors and Participants,

Thank you so much for signing up to be part of the USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League. This has been a passion project of mine since I began working at the Museum, and I hope you find as much enjoyment in it as I do. This ship has seen war, peace, scientific achievement, and now stands as a monument in her retirement. She's been through a lot, but we here are passionate about keeping her afloat and making the guest experience as amazing as possible.

I, myself, am a cosplayer and, while I do attend reenactment events, this is my first foray into organized reenacting. If you have suggestions, I'm all ears and would love your input. I see this group as almost a working document, bringing in the expertise of every member. I am also a food historian who focused on the interwar period, so I might not be as knowledgeable as some of you. All I ask in return is patience as I find my way.

I look forward to seeing you in person either as a guest of the Museum or on the day of the reenactment event. Thank you for helping me bring this museum to life.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eli Beutel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Eli Beutel
Development and Membership Manager
aka Seaman First Class Leiland Townsend

HANDBOOK POLICIES

All the policies in the USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League's Participant Handbook are subject to change. Upon any changes to the handbook, all participants will be notified via email. We ask that you do not distribute the Participant Handbook outside of the League.

HISTORY OF THE SHIP

USS *Hornet* is an Essex-class aircraft carrier—at 894 feet long, 191 feet wide, and 19 decks tall. Commissioned on November 29, 1943, she became the 8th ship to bear the Hornet name. She then joined World War II on the Pacific Front and served until the end of the war. She brought back thousands of soldiers as part of Operation Magic Carpet. *Hornet* underwent a 27-month renovation starting in 1951, after which she sailed on a few world cruises over the next decade. In 1966, *Hornet* served as the Prime Recovery Ship for Apollo AS-202's suborbital space flight. The unmanned capsule was recovered 300 miles north of Wake Island. In 1969, *Hornet* recovered the Apollo 11 astronauts, Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, and Mike Collins. She then recovered the Apollo 12 astronauts. She was decommissioned in 1970.

HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM

The USS Hornet Sea, Air and Space Museum opened in 1998. She is a National and California State Historic Landmark.

ADDRESS

The current address of the Museum is:
707 W Hornet Ave, Pier 3, Alameda CA 94501

MUSEUM MISSION

Our mission is to utilize USS *Hornet* and the collections, exhibitions, and educational programming to promote awareness and understanding of history, science, technology, and service.

LEAGUE DESCRIPTION

The USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League aims to bring the History of the USS *Hornet* to life through theatrical recreation. This is a volunteer organization adjacent to the USS Hornet Sea, Air and Space Museum, and graciously thanks the Museum for their support and use of museum facilities.

LEAGUE MISSION

The USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League encourages education through experiences via acting, costuming, and historical reenactment.

EDUCATION STATEMENT

The USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League is both an acting troupe and an educational asset of the Hornet Museum. The goal is to not only create an immersive living museum experience but educate the public about life and conditions in World War II.

COMMUNICATION POLICIES

For any questions not answered in this handbook please email hornetreenactment@gmail.com .

Communications from the League will be sent via email. Please whitelist hornetreenactment@gmail.com and receive the emails to an inbox that you check on a semi regular basis.

Please note that communications and information about reenactment events will be sent by email. Please consider all information sent by email to be formal and final unless otherwise stated in the email.

Informal communications between organizers and participants can be found on our official Discord server. This is meant to be a place for other actors in the League and in your chosen Division to discuss World War II history, Hornet history, and costuming history. Joining the Discord server is highly encouraged but not required. The server link will be provided to you upon joining the League. Please note that the Discord server is where the organizers will discuss new ideas and workshop new plans. Ideas are not final on the Discord server unless also discussed in an email. We ask that you do not discuss ideas proposed in the Discord server publicly until they are officially announced.

GETTING INVOLVED/RULES OF INVOLVEMENT

We ask all members to provide their own costumes and participate in at least one reenactment event per year. All events will take place aboard USS *Hornet* in the museum spaces.

Members must join a Division within one month of application and complete their costume within six months of application. Approval of division and costumes will come from the League. Participants must participate in at least one reenactment event per year. This will require travel to the Hornet Museum in Alameda.

Members wishing to change Divisions must email hornetreenactment@gmail.com with their Division change and indicate which Division they wish to be for upcoming events.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

While the history of USS *Hornet* is filled with many notable and inspiring achievements, we at the Hornet Museum acknowledge that many groups were victims of social disenfranchisement. We also acknowledge that becoming truly inclusive and equitable is an ongoing process. We hope to

educate about these issues to help society not repeat the injustices of the past and continue to change our current society to reflect our vision of social equity.

Social discrimination caused disenfranchised groups to be discriminated against in the Navy, including the roles of the many men who served aboard USS *Hornet*. However, we at the USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League will not adhere to these past societal rules, nor discourage any person of any race, gender identity, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation from portraying a role they wish to portray.

This is not to say; however, the Museum or League will shy away from the tougher discussions about discrimination in the military. If any member of the League wishes to educate the public about events and policies that discriminated against a group or groups of people, the Museum and League will assist with facilitating these conversations.

RIGHT TO REFUSE STATEMENT

The USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League does not tolerate any racism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, religious discrimination, sexism, or other harassing behavior. The League reserves the right to remove and ban any participant who partakes in any of these behaviors.

The USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League will not tolerate any reenactment of Nazis, Japanese Imperialists, or fascists. Suggestion of reenactment or reenactment of any of these groups will result in an immediate ban from The USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League. The League reserves the right to reject any application for participation.

ADA STATEMENT

Our ship is a designated National and State Historic Landmark, and most of our spaces are accessible only by steep stairs or "ladders." This, unfortunately, means that those with mobility issues may have difficulties participating in the USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League. Please see the Museum's website on accessibility for further information: <https://uss-hornet.org/accessibility-information>. This link also includes a picture of one of our ladders as an example.

We ask that you make the best judgement about your ability to move around and navigate the ship. We ask that if you have any questions or concerns about your ability to move around the ship and participate, please email us and we can describe in further detail the space and see if we can find accommodations.

MINOR PARTICIPANT POLICY

We here at the USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League welcome participants under the age of 18, as minors were equally affected by the War. However, to ensure the safety of those under the age of 18, we ask participants to agree to several policies:

- All participants under the age of 18 during your first reenactment event must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is also a participant of the USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League.
- Those groups with participants under 36" tall are not recommended to join for the night aboard the ship. Recommended hotels will be provided, as well as discounted rates to these hotels.
- Participants must be at least 4 years of age.
- Participants ages 4-12 are required to join the Civilian Division. They are required to be supervised at all times by a Civilian Division guardian or a dedicated education staff member.
- Participants ages 14-17 are required to join the Civilian Division but may join in special youth dedicated jobs if they wish. Those roles are Newsie, Teacher's Assistant, or Farmhand. If the minor participant is a member of the Boy Scouts of America or the Girl Scouts of the USA, please email us directly to inquire about participation in our special Scouts Division.
- Participants ages 17-18 are welcome to join any division they may choose, but still require a guardian participant.
- Guardian participants must be on site and participating at the same event as the participant under the age of 18.

Please fill out the Minor Participant Application form when registering as a minor with the USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League. This is a separate application from the application for adult participants.

If the Minor Participant has reached an age that allows them to change role and the participant wishes to do so, please have the Guardian email the official email at hornetreenactment@gmail.com.

DIVISIONS AND SPECIALTY ROLES

These are the suggested divisions when joining the USS Hornet Museum's Historical Reenactment League. There are, within these categories, many subcategories. If there is a role here that you wish to portray but do not see here, please see the section on Creativity in Creating a Character. Each Division has its own supervisor that will be on site for the reenactment event in addition to the organizers of the events.

- Home Front
 - Civilians
 - Riveters and other Home Front industries
 - WAVES and other Reservists

- Frontline
 - Enlisted Sailors
 - Marines
 - Naval Aviators
 - Officers

Civilians

Civilians would not normally have been aboard USS *Hornet* while she was active, but we as a League wish to teach about the efforts and experiences of those who were not enlisted. Civilians will take a more direct educational role, with different groups having tables in Hangar Bay 3. Participants in the Civilian Division are allowed to join whichever groups they wish as well as propose groups. We hope that we have groups that discuss your personal interests and encourage you to talk about your passions and how they relate to WWII.

If you do not wish to join a group, there will be acting positions available.

Specialty roles might require specific uniforms, special qualifications from the organizers, or have limited spaces. If you are interested in joining one of these roles, please email us and we can discuss availability and qualifications.

Current Available Groups to Join

- Victory Garden Education
- Knitting for the Enlisted
- Grief, Mourning, and Loss in WWII
- Information and Education about the Japanese Internment
- Cooking with Rations
- Art and Propaganda in WWII

Specialty Roles

- Daycare Teacher
- Policeman

Riveters and other Home Front Industries

Rosie, the face of Home Front industries, became a national icon representing the important work of those who stayed States side and the contributions of women during WWII. This Division is not exclusive to women and discusses more than just the Riveters but will educate both about the work done and values that Rosie herself represents. This division will also mostly be in Hangar Bay 3 with tables discussing various industries and working conditions. Participants in the Riveters and other Home Front Industries Division are allowed to join whichever groups they

wish as well as propose groups. We hope that we have groups that discuss your personal interests and encourage you to talk about your passions and how they relate to WWII.

If you do not wish to join a group, there will be acting positions available.

Current Available Groups to Join

- Rosies and Riveters
- Port Chicago and Racism in the Navy
- Farmers and Farm Work
- Railroads and Train Networks

WAVES and other Reservists

The WAVES, or Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, is one of the most remembered branch of the reserves, although many people joined the reserves in other areas. This Division is not exclusive to women and will discuss more than just the WAVES but given how prominent the WAVES were at this time and in media, we will be referring to all reservist groups under this category. Participants who wish to be reservists will participate in several tasks, including giving tours, helping the information desk, and educating the public about reservists and the efforts of the United States to recruit. If you wish to join a reservist group that was separate from the WAVES, please email the organizers.

Enlisted Sailors

Enlisted Sailors make up the bulk of the people aboard the ship. They did almost every job, from working in the mess deck to the engine room to the flight deck. Participants portraying enlisted sailors have the widest variety of options of what you can portray and will be seen in almost every part of the ship that is open to the public. In addition, enlisted sailors have the widest variety of outfit options out of any uniformed position. Often, your outfit will reflect which job or acting role you wish to portray. For convenience, we have organized the various jobs by outfit that can be worn. If you have a particular desire to portray a specific job or acting role, we recommend you pick your outfit based on that.

The highest-ranking sailor in this Division is Seaman First Class. If you wish to portray a rank higher than Seaman First Class, please see the Officers Division

Please note that there are no special requirements to fill any of the following positions. Positions will be filled by need and participant's desire for a role. The job "walker" was not a Navy job but will be for participants who wish to fill the space and talk to guests more often than other actors.

Dungarees

- Engineer
- Machine Shop

- Flight Deck
- Aircraft technician
- Sickbay Patient

White t-shirt/ work shirt and dungaree pants or sailor's pants

- Engineer
- Machine Shop
- Flight Deck
- Aircraft Technician
- Corpsman
- Baker
- Cook
- Walker
- Sickbay Patient
- Gedunk Patron
- Person serving Brig time

Shirtless with dungaree pants or sailor's pants

- Engineer
- Sickbay Patient

Undress Blues

- Corpsman
- Flight Deck
- Baker
- Cook
- Walker
- Sickbay Patient
- Gedunk Patron
- Person serving Brig time

Dress Blues

- Walker
- Flight Deck
- Combat Information Center
- Assistant to an Officer
- Sickbay Patient
- Gedunk Patron
- Hangar Deck Performers
- Chapel Patron
- Person serving Brig time

Specialty roles might require specific uniforms, special qualifications from the organizers, or have limited spaces. If you are interested in joining one of these roles, please email us and we can discuss availability and qualifications.

Specialty Roles

- Ice Cream Man
- Admiral's Band Members

Marines

The United States Marine Corps is a division of the United States Navy. They serve as the infantry unit aboard naval vessels and were responsible for the security of the ship. While they no longer serve as the security of the ship, they did back in World War II. In layman's terms, they were the police force of the ship that wrangled the three thousand 19-year-old sailors.

Participants wishing to portray a Marine will partake in a few acting roles, such as doing patrols, educating the public about the role of the Marines on *Hornet*, supervising the Brig, raising and lowering the flag, and attending ceremonies.

Naval Aviators

Naval aviators were the core of the aircraft carrier, doing the dangerous job of flying planes off the ship and engaging in air battle. Because of the danger presented with the job, aviators were allowed better commendations and more leeway on *Hornet*. All participants will be part of a fantasy squadron.

Each Naval Aviator participant will be assigned to a specific aircraft aboard the ship. We recognize that not all the aircraft aboard the Museum were WWII aircraft. Participants will be asked to spend time in the Ready Room, talk to the public about their chosen aircraft, attend ceremonies, and act through other various scenes.

Aviator roles are limited to the number of aircraft we have aboard the ship.

Aircraft

- FJ-2 Fury
- TA-4J Skyhawk
- F8U-1 Crusader
- S-3B Viking
- F-14A Tomcat
- F-11 Tiger
- HUP-1 Retriever
- SH-2 Sea Sprite
- SH-3H Sea King
- T-28B Trojan

- TBM-3E Avenger
- UH-34D Seahorse
- US-2B Tracker
- F-4J Phantom II
- FM-2 Wildcat

Officers

Officers were in command of the ship and all its operations. The ultimate officer on board was the Captain, however, we are portraying a time when a higher ranking officer was also on board: the Admiral. While the Admiral did not have power over *Hornet* herself during while on board, his presence was an important event for those residing on the ship.

Officer roles are limited, as there weren't more officers than sailors. Higher ranking officers had only one person per role, while lower ranking officers might have had a few people with that title. Typically, the sailor/officer ratio was 10:1. Officer roles will include talking with guests, attending ceremonies, and walking in officer designated spaces.

Officer Roles

- Admiral
- Captain
- Helmsman
- Chief Engineer
- Surgeons
- Petty Officers; First Class, Second Class, Third Class
- Chief Petty Officers
- Mini Air Boss

CREATIVITY IN CREATING A CHARACTER

We encourage creativity within these categories as you create your character. If there are any questions about any division or if you would like to reenact a role not seen here, please contact us and we will be more than happy to discuss.

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

The USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League plans to host two reenactment events per year (with only one event in 2023). Those joining before the August 2023 event must participate in the August 2023 event unless of reasons discussed with the organizers of the League. The events will consist of arrival aboard the Hornet Museum on a Friday afternoon. Participants are required

to participate in the provided safety briefing, New Volunteer Orientation, tours, and general training.

Dinner will be provided to all participants, and then Friday Evening will consist of a full dress rehearsal of the event. Participants must attend the full dress rehearsal. Lights out will be at 2230.

Saturday will be the day of the reenactment event. Breakfast will be announced and served from 0800-0900. The Museum will open to the general public at 1000, and all actors are expected to be in costume and in their places at opening. Participants will be provided with a meal ticket for lunch and a green room for breaks.

The Museum will close at 1700. Participants are expected to have all of their belongings off the ship by 1900.

PARTICIPANT ACCOMODATIONS

Participants are invited to stay the night aboard the ship for free, if they wish to stay at the Museum overnight in anticipation of the reenactment event. Information about staying aboard the ship, including what to bring, will be provided closer to the date of the reenactment event. If you do not wish to stay aboard the ship overnight, we have several hotels that work with the Hornet Museum and will offer a discounted rate for your stay. Please look out for an email about hotels and discounted rates closer to the date of the event.

SETTING THE SCENE

The reenactment events will always recreate the same “day” in *Hornet* history. The activities of the League will not be completely historically accurate but will create a holistic view of life and ship operations in World War II while also creating interesting and engaging activities and scenes for the public.

The day being recreated is October 4, 1944. The United States had already been at war for almost three years, affecting every aspect of American life, and the War wouldn’t end in the Pacific for almost another year. However, for USS *Hornet*, this is a day of celebration.

October 4, 1944, saw the day that *Hornet* celebrated her 10,000th successful aircraft landing. Events and milestones like these were celebrated across the ship.

In addition, we are adding several events to allow for more acting opportunities, the largest being that the Admiral will be aboard.

ACTING RULES

All Participants are required to create a character for themselves that they will present to the public. This includes a name and background that is reasonably believable for the era. You may choose a stage name or use your real name, but we will not require you to use real name. We encourage creativity in these names and backgrounds.

We ask all participants to stay in character in front of the general public. Green Rooms will be provided in case any participant wishes to take a break.

Participants may keep their personal electronic devices on their person in costume, but these devices must be able to be hidden from view from the general public.

An example of this is the head of the reenactment league is Eli Beutel from San Francisco, who works at the Hornet Museum as the Membership Manager, but their stage name is Seaman Leiland Townend from Monterey, who gave up his sardine packing job to join the Navy.

POLICY ON SMOKING

Many sailors aboard *Hornet* when she was active were avid smokers. However, due to allergies and modern preservation of the ship, we ask that you do not smoke or vape while on the ship. Smoking areas on the pier will be available. However, please note that the founder of the Reenactment League is extremely allergic to all kinds of smoke, but especially cigarette smoke. We ask that you take the time to air out after smoking as secondhand smoke can trigger this allergy.

It is the actor's decision if they wish to recreate smoking aboard the ship for historical accuracy. However, this must be done with novelty, toy, candy, or prop cigarettes. These cigarettes cannot produce any vapor, as the vapor can affect the ship herself.

VIDEO/FILM PERMISSIONS

The Hornet Museum's marketing team and the USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League are likely to film and take photos of the event to use in promotional materials. By applying to the League, you understand and consent to having your image posted on Hornet Museum social media platforms.

Filming and taking photos will only happen in character during times that the Museum will be open and actors are in character. The Hornet Museum and the USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League will not film or post videos or images taken of participants not in character.

Participants have full permission to post information and pictures about:

- Their role in the League
- Their outfit(s)
- Information about the League that is already publicly available
- Official times and dates of reenactment events they are participating in after the USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League publicly announces that event.
- Pictures or videos from an event after the event has happened
- Pictures or videos of the ship that the participant took as a guest of the Museum.

Participants may **not** post information or pictures about:

- Dress rehearsal (images from the meal during dress rehearsal are permitted so long as any persons in the image give express consent to be in the image)
- The image or personal information of another participant (without express consent of the other participant)
- Participants changing or getting ready for an event
- Volunteer safety briefings
- Official times and dates of reenactment events they are participating in before the USS Hornet Historical Reenactment League publicly announces that event.
- Pictures or videos from an event during or before the event
- Images of museum guests (without express consent)

Continued violation of these rules will result in being banned from the League.

COSTUMING RECOMMENDATIONS

While we are a historical institution, we do not demand 100% historical accuracy in costumes. Finding accurate fabrics and exact embellishments is difficult and we understand it might not be financially feasible for every member. We ask that costumes look historically accurate to the untrained eye.

Costumes can be either purchased or handmade. For recommendations on patterns and guides on which uniforms to wear, please see the document "Costume Guidelines and Pattern Recommendations".

CLOSING

If you have any questions about anything in this handbook, please feel free to contact us at hornetreenactment@gmail.com. We want to make this as fun of an experience as possible, so please do not hesitate to contact us with any concerns. Thank you so much and we can't wait to see you aboard.