

Company K “School Day” Comes to Evansville

The Civil War reenactors of Company K, 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment, will be bringing their “School Day” event to Evansville as part of this year’s annual “Rally ‘Round the Flag” Civil War Living History Weekend. The “School Day” will take place in Evansville’s historic Lake Leota Park on Friday, May 18, 2012, and the living history event will continue on May 19 and 20.

More than 1600 middle school students from throughout south central Wisconsin are registered to attend. Docents will lead them through as many as 24 different instruction stations staffed by uniformed or costumed Civil War reenactors. The students will receive up-close-and-personal demonstrations of many aspects of Civil War camp life, the instruction of new recruits in the “manual of arms” and the firing of musket volleys, live-fire of artillery, the care of cavalry horses, and the treatment of sickness and wounds by surgeons. Direct participation will be provided in Victorian dance and in infantry drill, among other activities.

The original Company K was part of the famous Iron Brigade, and participated in numerous battles from the First Battle of Bull Run through the Wilderness Campaign of 1864. The Iron Brigade’s soldiers were the “shock troops” of the Army of the Potomac. They were the first infantry unit sent into the Battle of Gettysburg on the Union side, and their bravery and sacrifice on the first day of the battle allowed General Meade to bring up the additional Union forces that turned the Southern tide and won the largest battle of the war.

Today’s Company K will be joined by many other groups of Civil War reenactors for the “School Day” and the remainder of the weekend, including the Historical Timekeepers, Battery B of the 4th U. S. Light Artillery, the 2nd and 3rd Iowa Cavalry Regiments, and the crew of the ironclad *Carondelet*.

Attendance and participation in the “School Day” is by invitation.