



## GARRISON CORELLIA

### West Virginia's Chapter of the 501st Legion

#### Official Press Kit

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### About the 501st Legion

Garrison Corellia is the West Virginia chapter of the **501st Legion**, an international costuming organization dedicated to portraying the iconic “Dark Side” characters of the *Star Wars* universe.

With more than **13,000 members worldwide**, the Legion's volunteers create and wear **screen-accurate costumes** representing characters from *Star Wars* films, television series, books, video games, and comics. Members appear at conventions, charity events, community gatherings, and other public appearances, helping bring the galaxy far, far away to life for fans of all ages.

The 501st Legion is operated entirely by Star Wars fans and volunteers. While the organization is **not sponsored by Lucasfilm Ltd.**, it follows generally accepted guidelines for Star Wars fan groups.

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## Organization Background

Garrison Corellia traces its roots to **Garrison Carida**, which originally served Pennsylvania, Delaware, and West Virginia.

In **December 2012**, West Virginia members formed a smaller regional unit called **Squad Corellia**. Ten founding members met to discuss establishing the squad, determining that the state had enough interest and activity to support its own organization.

By **November 2015**, membership had grown sufficiently to establish a full Garrison within the 501st Legion.

By 2018, the group included more than **50 members located throughout West Virginia**, from the Eastern Panhandle to the southern coalfields.

Today, **Garrison Corellia proudly participates in charity and nonprofit events throughout the Mountain State**, volunteering their time to help bring joy to communities while celebrating the legacy of Star Wars.

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## Mission of the 501st Legion

From Article I of the 501st Legion Charter:

“...The Legion is an all-volunteer organization formed for the express purpose of bringing together costume enthusiasts under a collective identity within which to operate. The Legion seeks to promote interest in Star Wars through the building and wearing of quality costumes, and to facilitate the use of these costumes for Star Wars–related events, as well as contributions to the local community through costumed charity and volunteer work...”

The Legion’s mission can be summarized in three core principles.

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## Promote Interest in Star Wars

As new generations discover the Star Wars saga, longtime fans and newcomers alike continue to celebrate the stories created by George Lucas. The 501st Legion brings these fans together, strengthening a global community of enthusiasts and helping ensure the enduring legacy of the Star Wars universe.

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## Facilitate the Use of Costumes

Some fans collect action figures—others become them.

Members of the 501st Legion construct detailed costume replicas of iconic Star Wars characters. Through appearances at public events, conventions, and community gatherings, members bring the galaxy far, far away into the real world.

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## Contribute to the Community

Although originally created as a costuming organization, the 501st Legion has become a powerful force for community service.

Members volunteer thousands of hours each year supporting:

- Charity fundraisers
- Hospital visits
- Community festivals
- Educational events
- Nonprofit fundraisers

The Legion **does not charge appearance fees**, though donations to the charities and organizations we support are always encouraged.

Organizations we frequently partner with can be found on our **Charity Page**.

To request an appearance from Garrison Corellia members, please visit our **Request an Appearance page**.

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# The 501st Legion in Star Wars Canon

In recognition of the dedication and contributions of the organization, **Lucasfilm incorporated the 501st Legion into official Star Wars canon as Darth Vader's personal legion of stormtroopers, known as Vader's Fist.**

**The 501st Legion has appeared in numerous official Star Wars materials, including:**

- Timothy Zahn's novels *Survivor's Quest* and *Fool's Bargain*
- *Episode III Visual Dictionary*
- LucasArts' *Star Wars Battlefront II* video game
- Various Star Wars toy lines
- *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* animated series
- *The Mandalorian* live-action series

For more information on the 501st Legion in canon, visit:

[https://starwars.fandom.com/wiki/501st\\_Legion](https://starwars.fandom.com/wiki/501st_Legion)

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## Leadership Team

### Commanding Officer (CO)

#### Amy Higgs

Serves as the chief policymaker and administrator for the local unit of the 501st Legion. The Commanding Officer oversees all Garrison operations and ensures the unit functions in accordance with Legion policies and standards.

### Executive Officer (XO)

#### J.R. Petsko

Assists the Commanding Officer with administrative and operational duties and helps coordinate the day-to-day activities of the Garrison.

### Garrison Guard (GG)

#### Chris Harless

Facilitates regional membership requests, reviews costume submissions for approval, and maintains local unit member profiles.

### Garrison Membership Liaison (GML)

**Jay Parsons**

Processes regional membership requests, reviews costume submissions for approval, and maintains local unit member profiles.

**Garrison Event Coordinators (GEC)****Tyler Bell****David Voron**

Serve as the primary contacts for event booking requests and coordinate appearances for Garrison members at approved events.

**Garrison Webmaster (GWM)****T.J. Jones**

Manages Garrison web services and ensures official websites and online resources remain operational and up to date.

**Garrison Web Liaison (GWL)****T.J. Jones**

Collects, organizes, and formats member photos for official Garrison use.

**Garrison Public Relations Officers (GPR)****Jenny Dixon-Jacobs****Bree Hartzell**

Serve as the Garrison's primary representatives for media relations, public outreach, and communications.

**Garrison Charity Representatives (GCR)****Bree Hartzell****Jenny Dixon-Jacobs**

Serve as the primary statewide contacts for charitable organizations and coordinate charitable appearances and outreach efforts.

**Garrison Merchandising & Branding Officer (GMB)****Ron Davis**

Serves as the primary statewide contact for merchandise projects within the Garrison and liaises with the Legion Merchandising and Branding Officer to ensure compliance with Legion guidelines regarding branding, pricing, and distribution.

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## Contact Information

For media inquiries, event requests, or general information, please contact Garrison Corellia through the following channels.

### Email

<mailto:garrisoncorellia@gmail.com>

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/GarrisonCorellia>

### Twitter / X

<https://twitter.com/501stCorellia>

### Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/501stgarrisoncorellia>

