



# *WHAT DOES IT MEAN* **TO ATTEND AN APPLESEED** **WINTERSEED?**

---

## **Summer Soldiers**

During the 1770's, as the American War of Independence developed, soldiers who joined the Continental Army during the spring or summer but went AWOL in the fall or winter were known as "summer soldiers."

Many of the summer soldiers were farmers who would join up with the Army when their crops were planted, fight with them during the summer, and go back home to help with the harvest. So, some had quasi-reasonable excuses...

Others would stay with the Army through the harvest, but sneak off in the middle of the night once the weather got cold.

## **Sunshine Patriots**

Meanwhile, the people who supported the revolutionaries when the revolution was going well—but not otherwise—were called "sunshine patriots".

## **What It Means**

So in the famous passage from *The Crisis*, where Thomas Paine wrote:

*"The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country."*

He was talking—quite quite literally in the former case—about the fair-weather friends of the revolution.

**So YOU, just by showing up at a Winterseed, proffer yourself as a true patriot and Appleseeder of the *highest caliber*.**

**WE RESPECT YOU GREATLY FOR THAT.**

— Fred, Founder of the Revolutionary War Veterans Association (RWVA) and the Appleseed Project