

ULSTER COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL PARADE SATURDAY JULY 25TH, 2026

LINE UP AT 12:00 NOON STEP OFF AT 1:00 PM

GENERAL RULES

1. EACH MARCHING UNIT WILL CONSIST OF A COLOR GUARD (DOES NOT HAVE TO BE FIRE-FIGHTERS) AN OFFICER AND A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) FIREFIGHTERS MARCHING ON THE STREET WITH A TOTAL OF FIVE (5) TO BE IN COMPETITION FOR A TROPHY.
2. IF A FIREMATIC COLOR GUARD IS USED, IT MAY BE DRESSED IN A DIFFERENT HEAD GEAR. THE USE OF GLOVES IS OPTIONAL, BUT ALL MUST WEAR THE SAME TROUSERS AND/OR SHIRTS AND/OR COATS AS THE FIRE COMPANY AND THE SAME COLOR FOOT GEAR TO BE COUNTED AS MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY. IT MUST CONSIST OF THREE (3) OR MORE PERSONS WITH THE AMERICAN FLAG GUARDED ON BOTH SIDES. THE FLAG MAY BE GUARDED WITHOUT ARMS OR FIREMATIC TOOLS.
3. THE LACK OF AN AMERICAN FLAG, COLOR GUARD OR COLORS NOT GUARDED, WILL AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFY ANY FIRE COMPANY. THE AMERICAN FLAG WILL BE UNFURLED AT ALL TIMES EXCEPT IN RAINY WEATHER.
4. THE AMERICAN FLAG WILL NOT BE DIPPED IN SALUTE AT ANY TIME.
5. PROPER FLAG ETIQUETTE SHALL BE FOLLOWED IF MORE THAN ONE (1) FLAG IS CARRIED BY THE COLOR GUARD.
6. ALL APPARATUS MUST HAVE BEEN IN SERVICE AT LEAST SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO THE PARADE DATE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A TROPHY.

FIREFIGHTER RULES:

1. TO BE COUNTED IN THE LINE OF MARCH, ALL MEMBERS MUST WEAR THE SAME MATCHING UNIFORMS (EXCEPT COLOR GUARD: SEE RULE #2 UNDER GENERAL RULES) SHOES MUST BE OF THE SAME COLOR, LOAFER OR TIE SHOE WITH MATCHING SOCKS. GLOVES ARE OPTIONAL, BUT IF USED ALL MUST WEAR THEM. (APPARTUS DRIVER WEARING OF GLOVES IS OPTIONAL)
2. MEN AND WOMEN IN SERVICE UNIFORMS WILL BE COUNTED AND NO DEMERITS GIVEN WHEN IN THE BODY OF FIREFIGHTERS.
3. THERE WILL BE NO DEMERITS FOR LONG HAIR, HOWEVER ALL PARADE PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE CLEAN AND NEATLY GROOMED.
4. WHEN COMPANY OR DEPARTMENT BANNER IS IN USE, COMPANY MEMBERS MUST CARRY IT.
5. A UNIT OF FORTY (40) OR LESS IN LINE BEHIND THE COMPANY OFFICERS, MAY MARCH TWO (2) ABREAST. FORTY-ONE (41) AND OVER MUST MARCH THREE (3) ABREAST.
6. ANY COMPANY WISHING THE USE OF A DRILL SERGEANT OR DRILL INSTRUCTOR MAY DO SO. THIS PERSON WILL BE COUNTED IN THE LINE OF MARCH AND JUDGED FOR HIS OR HER MARCHING ABILITY.
7. ANY UNIT CONDUCTING THEMSELVES DURING THE PARADE IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO BRING DISCREDIT AGAINST THE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE AS A WHOLE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION.
8. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE MUST SALUTE THE REVIEWING STAND.

9. MEMBERS RIDING IN VEHICLES MUST BE IN FULL UNIFORM.

10.THERE WILL BE NO SOUNDING OF SIRENS, FLASHING LIGHTS, RINGING OF BELLS OR ANY OTHER NOISES IN THE LINE OF MARCH. ANYONE DOING SO WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

11.NO MORE THAN TWO (2) FIREFIGHTERS SHALL RIDE ON THE APPARATUS, INCLUDING THE DRIVER AND ONE NEXT TO THE DRIVER. EVERYONE RIDING IN VEHICLES MUST WEAR SAFETY DEVICES.

12.NO MORE THAN TWO (2) CARS PERMITTED PER UNIT.

13.ALL APPARATUS WILL BE JUDGED AT THE TOPPS PARKING LOT BETWEEN 9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM, FIRST COME, FIRST JUDGED.

14.ALL APPARATUS MUST BE COMPANY, DEPARTMENT OR DISTRICT OWNED AND BE IN SERVICE AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS PRIOR TO THE PARADE DATE TO BE JUDGED FOR COMPETITION.

15.ALL APPARATUS MUST BE JUDGED AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A TROPHY.

16.EACH COMPANY IS LIMITED TO TWO (2) FIRE APPARATUS. (CHIEF'S VEHICLES WILL BE COUNTED AS A CHIEF'S CAR – NOT APPARATUS.)

17.ANY DEPARTMENT OR COMPANY THAT SUPPLIES FIRE POLICE FOR THE PARADE, THOSE PERSONS CAN BE INCLUDED TOWARDS THE COUNT FOR MEN IN THE LINE OF MARCH. THE CHIEF OR OFFICER IN CHARGE IS RESPONSIBLE TO CONTACT THE PARADE COMMITTEE WITH A COUNT PRIOR TO THE START OF THE PARADE.

18.**SHOES:** EITHER LACES AND/OR LOAFERS OF THE SAME COLOR ARE ACCEPTABLE. ONE (1) DEMERIT EACH FOR BUCKLES, TASSLES, BOOTS, DIRTY SHOES, HIGH HEELS OR SNEAKERS.

LADIES RULES:

1. OFFICER IN CHARGE MUST SALUTE THE REVIEWING STAND.
2. NO DEMERITS WILL BE GIVEN FOR NOT HAVING A COLOR GUARD OR BANNER.
3. THERE MUST BE A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) LADIES OF AN AUXILIARY MARCHING TO QUALIFY FOR A TROPHY
4. MEMBERS RIDING IN VEHICLE MUST BE IN FULL UNIFORM.
5. ALL FOOT WEAR MUST BE UNIFORM.
6. OTHER DEMERITS WILL BE THE SAME A FIREFIGHTERS RULES.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. ALL MEMBERS RIDING IN APPARATUS AND CARS MUST BE IN FULL UNIFORM.
2. IN THE EVENT OF AN ALARM OR EMERGENCY CALL WHILE THE PARADE IS IN PROGRESS, ALL UNITS WILL MOVE TO THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD AND **STOP** UPON THE APPROACH OF ANY VEHICLE.
3. DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL.