

## 2024 - OFFICIAL PARADE RULES & REGULATIONS

### PARADE FORMATION

1. Divisions shall march at a distance of one hundred (100) feet from the Grand Marshall, or from the preceding Division.
2. Units shall follow each other at a distance of thirty (30) feet.
3. Formation of respective units shall be as follows:

Music  
(Band, Drum Corps, Etc.)

Twenty (20) Feet  
Color Guard

Ten (10) feet  
Unit Identification  
(Banner or flag)

Ten (10) feet  
Chief  
(or Officer in Charge)  
Assistant Chiefs  
Unit Officers  
Firefighters

Twenty (20) feet  
Officers of separate Unit (if any)  
Firefighters of Separate Unit

Twenty (20) feet  
Auxiliary (if any)

Twenty (20) feet  
Autos for Ladies Auxiliary (if any)

Twenty (20) feet  
Autos for Firefighters (if any)

Twenty (20) feet  
Chief's car (if any)

Twenty (20) feet  
Fire Apparatus (if any)  
A space of twenty (20) feet between Apparatus  
If there is more than one (1)

1. All Units must display the American Flag. Any Unit without the Flag and will be DISQUALIFIED.
2. All Units with less than 40 (forty) Firefighters in the Line of March behind the Unit Officer shall march at least two (2) abreast. When the number is over forty (40) they must march at least three (3) abreast.
3. The SOUNDING OF SIRENS, RINGING OF BELLS, or any other noise making device, while in the line of march, or while the Parade is in progress, shall subject the offending Unit to be DISQUALIFIED from receiving any Parade Trophy that day and may be disqualified from participation in future parades. To be determined by the OCVFA Executive Board.
4. All Fire Department apparatus, including Chief's Car along with all other vehicles entered in the Line of March MUST meet and conform to New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Laws governing the proper display of Emergency Lights. **All warning lights must be on during the course of the parade. The use of lights will be judged.**
5. Any Unit or Member thereof, conducting themselves during the Parade, in such a manner as to bring discredit to themselves, or to the Volunteer Fire Service as a whole, shall subject themselves to being DISQUALIFIED from receiving any Parade Trophies that day.
6. Fire Police Units shall march as a separate unit if their uniform differs in any way from the rest of the Unit.
7. Each Unit participating in the Annual Parade MUST have their current years dues paid in full in order to be eligible to receive any trophies on Parade Day.
8. ANY FIRE COMPANY THAT ACTS IN A DISORDERLY MANNER OR BRINGS DISGRACE UPON ITSELF OR THE OCVFA, BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE PARADE MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM FUTURE PARADES. THIS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE OCVFA EXECUTIVE BOARD.

## **JUDGING OF PARADE**

1. No more than two (2) firefighters shall ride on the fire apparatus. (one driver and one firefighter). No one shall ride on the back step of the apparatus; the offending unit will be disqualified.
2. Units arriving AFTER the parade has started shall fall in at the END of the parade, REGARDLESS of the Division to which they have been assigned. In the event a Unit falls into a Division while the parade is in progress they shall be considered as being in the wrong division in line and shall receive demerits accordingly. (See Section 3. A.)
3. Demerits shall be charged as follows:
4. Five (5) Demerits each for – Lack of Color Guard, Colors out of place, Colors not guarded, Wrong formation, Wrong division, Non-Sobriety, Maneuvers to hinder following units. Dipping of American Flag in salute, Chief or Officer in charge not saluting Reviewing Stand. Each firefighter over two on apparatus.
5. Three (3) Demerits each for – Wrong spacing of: Band, Colors, Unit Identification, Officers, Firefighters, Separate Unit (if any), Auxiliary (if any), Cars for firefighters (if any), Cars for Auxiliary (if any), Apparatus (if any).

6. One (1) Demerit each for – Open buttons, Non-uniform use of gloves, Non-identical uniforms, Talking, Waving, Laughing, Smoking, Gum chewing, Out of step, Carriage of body, Improper arrangement of hat, Improper arrangement of insignia, Precision of movement. Lines off right to left, Lines off front to rear, Breaking of ranks, Sloppy uniforms, Jewelry (other than watches and rings).
7. Shoes – lace type shoes of the same color.
8. One (1) Demerit each for – Buckles, tassels, pointed shoes, perforated shoes, boots,
9. high heel on shoe, or dirty shoes.

## **JUDGING OF AUXILIARIES**

Auxiliaries shall be judged as follows:

Color Guard (if any)

Ten (10) feet

Banner (if any)

If no Color Guard or Banner, twenty (20) feet from the firefighters

Ten (10) feet

Officers

Ten (10) feet

Auxiliary Members

Auxiliary Cars (if any) will follow twenty (20) feet behind the Auxiliary Members

Vehicle windows must be open for occupants to be counted toward total members in line of march.

Demerits shall be charged as follow:

Five (5) Demerits each for – Wrong formation, Wrong division, Non-sobriety, Maneuvers to hinder the following units, Colors out of place. President in charge not saluting Reviewing Stand.

Three (3) Demerits each for – Wrong spacing of: colors, unit identification, Officers, Auxiliary members, Auxiliary cars (if any).

One (1) Demerit each for – Open buttons, Non-uniform use of gloves, Non-identical uniforms (stocking will not be criteria unless in extremity of color), Talking, Waving, Laughing, Smoking, Gum chewing, Out of step, Carriage of body, Improper arrangement of hat, Improper arrangement of insignia, Precision of movement, Lines off right to left, Lines off front to rear, Breaking of ranks, Sloppy uniforms, Jewelry and accessories (other than watches and rings).

One (1) Demerit each for - Mixture of ties, loafers, pumps or dirty shoes Shoes– Entire Auxiliary must wear shoes uniform in COLOR and STYLE. (Slight variation in trim on shoe permissible).

## JUDGING OF APARATUS

All apparatus to be judged will report to the designated apparatus inspection area as its scheduled time. Only the driver/operator and one officer may be present during the inspection. Only one in-service apparatus per department/company will be permitted to be entered for judging. Antique apparatus must be out-of-service.

Driver/operator and officer are to be in full uniform during the apparatus inspection.

APPARATUS BEING JUDGED MUST BE IN THE LINE OF MARCH

**\*\*TO QUALIFY FOR A TROPHY – APPARATUS MUST BE IN SERVICE ONE YEAR\*\***

Apparatus must have a 8 ½” by 11” white card in windshield (right side) indicating year and type of apparatus, i.e.: 2008 pumper, tanker, etc.

Demerits shall be charged as follows:

Five (5) demerits each for – Dirty glass or windshield, dirty or scuffed tires/unchecked, Dirty/chipped painted tools, lights not working, missing extinguishers/out of date, cabinets/compartments unorganized, dirty wheel wells and under carriage.

Ten (10) demerits each for – dirty cab/interior, seat belts not working, dirty/improperly displayed gear, dirty/unpainted/splintered ladders, defective/missing SCBA/outdated, dirty/messy hose bed/lays/suction, cleanliness of apparatus (running boards/bumpers)

## MISCELLANEOUS

1. Any Badge that has been earned, such as Past President, Life Membership or Honorary Member may be worn along with the Company Badge. Convention Badges may also be worn. There will be no demerits assessed for the wearing of ANY EARNED BADGES or Convention Badges.
2. No demerits for Auxiliary not having a Color Guard. Must be carried in a military style.
3. The attached RULES AND REGULATIONS of the marchers also applies to all of the occupants in the cars. Members in cars must be in full uniform, sit in a straight, upright position with their hands folded. No arms or hands extending out of the windows.
4. All Flags shall be carried unfurled at all times, except during rainy weather.
5. The American flag shall NOT be dipped in salute at any time.
6. In the event of an Alarm of fire or an Ambulance call, while the Parade is in progress, All Units shall move over to the **RIGHT SIDE** of the road upon the approach of the Emergency Vehicle and remain halted until the Emergency Vehicle has proceeded past the Unit.
7. No demerits for men in Military Uniform.
8. No demerits for the placement of the Fire Company Chaplain in the Parade Formation.
9. Any Fire Company wearing non-firematic clothing will be disqualified from participation in the OCVFA parade. Non-Firematic clothing shall include Tee shirts, sweatshirts, sweat pants, shorts, sneakers, any casual or sport type clothing.

**ORANGE COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION, INC**

**TROPHIES**  
**IN COUNTRY TROPHIES**

**MEMORIAL TROPHIES - OCVFA**

**BEST APPEARING OVERALL MEN'S UNIT** w/Apparatus and w/the most points.

**Best Overall Trophy for the parade will be awarded based on total points for Color Guard, Firefighter Marching Unit and Apparatus score.**

The Barry Marshall Memorial Trophy BEST APPEARING OVERALL MEN'S UNIT w/Apparatus w/the most points, donated by New Windsor Fire Department; New Windsor, New York is for The Men's Unit to win three (3) "legs" on this Trophy shall retain the Trophy.

**RULES:**

1. All Men's Rules will apply
2. Men's unit MUST have Apparatus, judged.
3. Men's unit MUST have Firematic Color Guard
4. Only 1 (one) color guard per unit permitted
5. Ladies Auxiliary or lack of Ladies Auxiliary will not affect the judging.
6. The Host Company will not be eligible for this trophy
7. The Winner of the Best Overall trophy will not be eligible for any other County Trophy.

**BEST APPEARING ORANGE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT  
COLOR GUARD**

**Sponsored by: Ryan Arciero**

- RULES:**
1. All Men's Rules will apply.
  2. Each person must be an Active or Exempt Member of the Company or its Benevolent.
  3. Cannot be the Overall Winner

**BEST APPEARING ORANGE COUNTY IN-SERVICE  
APPARATUS**

**Sponsored by: Winona Lake Engine Company**

- RULES:**
- 1: Apparatus must be one year or older
  - 2: Does not include Chief Cars, Antiques or Fire Police Vehicles
  - 3: Cannot be the Overall Winner

# **LADIES AUXILIARY**

## **Pocatello Ladies Auxiliary**

The Pocatello Ladies Auxiliary sponsored Best Overall Ladies Auxiliary Trophy will be presented to the Best Appearing Overall Ladies Auxiliary with the most points. The Ladies Auxiliary to win three (3) "legs" on this Trophy shall retain the Trophy.

Rules:

1. All Ladies rules will apply.
2. The Host Auxiliary will not be eligible for this trophy.
3. UNIT MUST BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE OCVFA Ladies Auxiliary to compete for this trophy
4. The winner of the Best Overall Trophy will not be eligible for any other County Trophy.

## **Orange County Ladies Auxiliary**

<b>"Class A"</b>	<b>Ten (10) or more</b>	<b>1st Place</b>
<b>"Class B"</b>	<b>Five (5) to Nine (9)</b>	<b>1st Place</b>

Ladies Auxiliary marching units must have a minimum of four (4) marchers on the ground to qualify for a trophy. All members in attendance will count toward the overall number

**NOTE:** Ladies Auxiliary Members in cars also count. No more than two (2) cars with a TOTAL of four (4) Auxiliary Members per car in Full Uniform. All windows must be rolled down so that all the occupants can be seen.

# **OCVFA (MENS)**

Please note that Trophies will be awarded in three (3) different classes. The number of men in the Line of March shall determine the class.

(Fire Police working the parade will be included in the overall count of their company, not in line of march.)

### **"Class A" Twenty-one (21) or more Firefighters**

1st Place Unit  
2nd Place Unit  
3rd Place Unit

### **"Class B" Thirteen (13) to Twenty (20) Firefighters**

1st Place Unit  
2nd Place Unit  
3rd Place Unit

### **"Class C" Five (5) to Twelve (12) Firefighters**

1st Place Unit  
2nd Place Unit  
3rd Place Unit

**NOTE:** Class is determined by the number of marchers on the ground, firefighters in cars count toward the departments overall number. No more than two (2) cars, with a TOTAL of four (4) firefighters per car in Full Uniform. All windows must be rolled down so that all the occupants can be seen.

## **APPARATUS TROPHIES**

Chiefs Car  
1<sup>st</sup> Place  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Antique (Non-Motorized)  
1<sup>st</sup> Place

Antique (Motorized)  
1<sup>st</sup> Place  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Aerial  
1<sup>st</sup> Place  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Tanker  
1<sup>st</sup> Place  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Brush/Rescue  
1<sup>st</sup> Place  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Engine  
1<sup>st</sup> Place  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place

## **MUSICAL TROPHIES**

Musical Organization:  
the Inter-County Judges Association rules for Musical Units will be used to judge all musical units

1<sup>st</sup> Place  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place

## **COLOR GUARD**

Orange County Firematic Color Guard  
1<sup>st</sup> Place  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Orange County Non-Firematic Color Guard  
1<sup>st</sup> Place

## **BEST OVERALL IN COUNTY TROPHIES**

Orange County Best Appearing Men's Unit  
Orange County Best Appearing Ladies Auxiliary  
Orange County Best Appearing In-Service Apparatus  
Orange County Best Appearing Firematic Color Guard

# OUT OF COUNTY TROPHIES

## Men's Best Overall - Out of County

### Rules:

1. All Men's Rules will apply
2. Men's unit MUST have Apparatus, judged
3. Men's unit MUST have Firematic Color Guard
4. Only 1 (one) color guard per unit permitted
5. Ladies Auxiliary or lack of Ladies Auxiliary will not affect the judging.

### Men's Unit

1st Place

2nd Place

**Color Guard** Best Appearing Firematic Color Guard

Best Appearing Non-Firematic Color Guard

\*In-County rules apply and are the same for out-of- county units\*

Judging will be held at:

**Maple Hill Elementary School – 491 County Rd 78, Middletown NY 10940**

Parade Judges- All parade judges are approved by the Officers of the OCVFA.

Parade Results- **JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL.** Results of the parade will be made available upon request to Ken Gordon at [flashofd@aol.com](mailto:flashofd@aol.com) within 30 days of the parade or a website submission can be made at [www.intercountyjudges.org](http://www.intercountyjudges.org)