

GCVFA & GCVFA Auxiliary Parade Rules

2023-2024 Parade

Host: Round Top Fire & Ladies Aux

GENERAL:

1. Within a Half an Hour before the parade starts, any fire company or department NOT in line will go to the rear of the parade or as directed by the host committee.
2. The host company shall supply ample room for each company or department at the line-up area.
3. The host committee will have complete charge of the parade as per the parade rules and regulations.
4. Host units CANNOT compete for trophies or prizes.
5. No advertising of any type will be permitted in the parade and any breaking of this rule will mean Disqualification. Truck Manufacturer or any Apparatus Associated advertising will be acceptable. Any Questionable Advertising will be left to the discretion of the Parade Rules and Regulations Committee.
6. The host company/department will be allowed to invite as many guest companies to the parade. 3 honored guest companies will march in the escort division while the rest are dispersed throughout the parade lineup. Associate and guest companies or departments will compete as "Out of County" units.
7. NO WRITTEN SCORES WILL LEAVE THE JUDGING AREA UNSEALED. They will be placed in 2 sealed envelopes and signed by the Chief Judge, Men's and Ladies Parade Rules Rep, and Host Representative. One will be for the trophy presentation and the other will go with the Parade Rules chairperson or representative
8. In Case of Emergency traffic, units will move to the right and stop.
9. Line up will be left to the discretion of the company or department. (See attached suggested lineup sheet).

10. County Officers, dignitaries, Counters, Firefighter of the year, Scholarship winners, and Fire Police in uniform will be counted as Members in Line. To be eligible for this, a letter must be submitted by the Chief or President of the respective company asking for this before the Saturday Morning Meeting
11. Members in vehicles (Apparatus and Cars) must be clearly visible to counters and judges. (Open Dark or Tinted Windows).
12. Any Fire Unit may compete without music or apparatus.
13. No unauthorized vehicles or participants will be allowed in the parade.
14. Junior Firefighters/Explorers/Restricted Members that March as a separate unit will only be judged using the Marching and Uniform Category of the Rules and Regulations.
15. Any Member or Unit conducting themselves in such a manner during the week of Convention as to damage Convention Host or Properties in the area (both Public and Private) will be disqualified. The incident must be submitted in writing and signed to the President and/or Parade Rules and Regulations Co-Chairpersons
- 16 Rings (Wedding and Engagement) and Plain Studed Ear Rings are the only Jewlery that will be considered acceptable. Medical Devices (Pumps / Oxygen Packs) are acceptable

MARCHING:

1. Any organization with men and women in line other than members will be ineligible for any trophies. Members will be classified as Associate, Honorary, Active, or any firefighter carried on the company's or departments rolls as a member.
2. Any intoxicated marching or riding firefighter or auxiliary member will cause the entire unit to be disqualified from competition automatically.
3. Any Fire unit must have at least FIVE (5) Members in line to be eligible for a trophy, other than an apparatus trophy. This is from the beginning of the unit to the end of the last apparatus of the company. County Officers and Counters are eligible to qualify for this too if a letter is submitted

4. Anything that hinders the forward movement of the line of march will not be allowed in any part of the parade or the unit will be assessed a five (5) point demerit.
5. All members in line will be dressed in a company or department designated uniform.
6. Dress Uniforms and Regulation Uniforms will compete for the same trophies.

COLORGUARD:

1. All Units must have a guarded American Flag and failure to do so will result in an automatic disqualification of the entire unit. The American Flag will be guarded by 1 person on each side of the flag, not carrying any other flag.
2. The staff of ALL American Flags carried by GCVFA Member Companies must display an EAGLE. All eagles must face forward and be carried as straight as possible.
3. If another flag is carried, it must be lower in height than the American Flag and should be dipped in salutation at the reviewing stand.
4. Do NOT dip the American Flag.
5. Any unit not guarding the American Flag will be disqualified.
6. Only the Officer in Charge will Salute at the reviewing stand
7. Proper Colorguard Flag Etiquette will be from Right to Left as your unit is going down the road – American Flag, POW Flag, State Flag, County Flag, Company Flag. You do not need all of these in your colorguard.
8. Rules of the Colorguard are based off of US Flag Display Rules

UNIFORM:

1. Personal Appearance of marching firefighters will be appraised by the judges and one (1) demerit will be taken for each infraction such as hats, jackets, pants, etc. not the same. Uniformity will prevail. (See Attached Demerit Sheet).
2. Company or Department badges must be worn appropriately. Earned Fire Badges are allowed. Mourning Bands are allowed on Company Badges as long as they are the same material (ie – Fabric / black tape and Solid Black or Red Line through)

APPARATUS:

1. Carriages and Hose Carts are exempt from line-up guidelines.
2. All members on the apparatus must be in full uniform. Gloves are optional for the driver(s) of the apparatus/vehicles.
3. A minimum of TWO (2) members must be on the apparatus in the front positions of the cab. Where there is approved seating on the apparatus (jump seats, crew cab, etc) more than one member may ride.
4. All apparatus must have a sign placed in the lower right side of the windshield, if equipped, showing the year of the vehicle. Signs should be no more than 12" wide by 9" High.
5. Any siren blown or bells rung or lights lit (other than full time headlights) on any apparatus before, during, and/or after line of march, other than in an emergency situation will be disqualified.
6. Apparatus shall conform to Section 375, Parts 2,4, and 41 of the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Laws (pertaining to red, white, blue, and green lights) The only exemption is that the Blue Light must be visible to the Rear only as the new law states.
7. There will be no riding on the exterior of the apparatus. If so, this will result in an automatic disqualification of the entire unit.
8. All Lights/Warning Devices on the apparatus that are NFPA requirements are exempt. (Blue Lights for Ladders, Green Lights for Command Post).
9. Apparatus judging before the parade will be set by the Host Company of the Convention. The trucks will be at the area specified by the time the host company states. You will be allowed to bring the truck early and clean it up to the time the judging starts. Anyone cleaning their truck after judging starts will be assessed a 50 point demerit. If your truck is on an emergency call the night before, you will be allowed extra time to clean it before judging. Notification needs to be made by an officer of the company to the Chairman of the Parade and/or any member of the Parade Rules and Regulations Committee. This will be verified by a call to the 911 center of the county or a copy of the CAD report.
10. American Flags on the BACK of apparatus are not allowed unless guarded. Decals on the trucks are acceptable.

JUDGING:

1. Judging will be done on the demerit basis. (See attached Score Sheet). ALL Scores will start with a 100 and demerits will be taken from there. No General Appearance / Initial Impression Scores will be used.
2. The judges will be instructed to judge the parade over its entire length, from the Start Line to the Finish Line, except that no judges are to be in the immediate area where the residents of the Fireman's Home are assembled to view the parade. Judges will not interfere with the line of march. The judges will be supplied with a copy of the parade rules and regulations at least one month in advance and the decisions of the judges will be final.
3. Judges will come from Outside the County and serve no more than three (3) consecutive years. The Judges will have NO affiliation with Greene County Member Companies, but can have Honorary Member Status with the Organization.
4. All judges must circle their judging category, sign their judging sheets with their full name, and must indicate on their sheets reasons for demerits and disqualification.
5. Upon completion of the tabulations of scores, all papers will be turned over to the Parade Rules Committee Chairperson or Designee.
6. There will be no less than five (5) or more than (8) judges.
7. Judges will be selected by the Parade Rules Committee and Officers of the Association and Auxiliary. They will need to be approved at the next regular scheduled meeting. They will be dispersed throughout the parade. A minimum of 3 counters shall be selected by the parade rules committee and approved by the officers of the association. They will be counted as members in line if they are in the Uniform of the Day.
8. If trucks are to be judged during the parade, in motion, NO ONE will touch a truck, open any compartments, or reach in hoses or tools while the truck is in motion for the duration of the parade (start to finish).

TROPHIES:

1. In case of a tie, it will be broken by the total "feet on the ground." Meaning the number of Marchers (not people riding).
2. Any company or department whose dues are not paid by the August Meeting will be ineligible for any trophies.
3. Any unit who wins a trophy in its Best Appearing Category shall not be eligible for Best Appearing Co./Dept without Music Trophy.

4. Trophies will be awarded to Active County Company Members first, and in the event of no winners for that category, it then can be awarded to an Associate and/or Guest Company. If the trophy is listed as an Out of County Trophy, it goes to an Associate and/or Guest Company and is not eligible for Active County Company Members.
5. SEE ATTACHED for Millennium Memorial Award requirements.

Any Variation of these rules will require a letter or phone notification to be submitted to the Rules Committee Chairperson of the GCVFA by the start of the Day of the Dress Parade so it can be discussed at the Morning Meeting. The GCVFA Co-Chairperson(s) are PJ Pugsley and Kevin Lennon. Email for both co-chairpersons are pjpugsley@yahoo.com and mdfan@aol.com. PJ's phone number is (518)488-2230 and Kevin's is 518-291-0990.

Millenium Memorial Award (rev for 1/1/24)

The Millennium Memorial Award shall be awarded to only Greene County Units.

The Millennium Memorial Award shall be awarded to the Greene County Unit with the Highest Score obtained by averaging the scores of all judges for all categories within the unit.

Required Categories

Color Guard

Marching

Uniform

Apparatus (Has to be on time for scoring)

If one of these Categories is not scored a Zero will be added in place of a score.

Auxiliary's marching, and uniform scores (if the auxiliary marches)

Junior Firefighters (if they march as a separate unit).

Music Score (If Department musical unit, if in Department Uniform)

If more than one apparatus is judged, it shall be considered an additional category and be calculated accordingly.

A unit may earn this trophy without an auxiliary; however, if they have an auxiliary, the auxiliary scores will be included in determining the highest score.

Also, to be included in the score is one half (1/2) point for attending the Mardi Gras parade to be added after scores are calculated.

The unit that scores the highest will also be eligible for awards in all the normal Greene County Trophies awarded in all other categories they qualify for during the Greene County Convention Parade.

At no time shall points be added to this score for any reason other than what is stated above without approval from the parade rules and regulations committee and the Palenville Fire Dept.

The Millennium Memorial Trophy will be returned to Palenville Fire Department the following year if no Greene County Convention is held that year.

GCVFA Auxiliary Parade Rules

GENERAL:

1. Auxiliary units march at the rear of their company or department, but they shall not intermingle with the men while marching. Auxiliary shall march as a separate unit through the designated parade route to be judged. If either unit does not abide by all rules, disqualification of the WHOLE unit will occur.
2. Any intoxicated marching firefighter or auxiliary member will cause the entire unit to be eliminated from competition automatically. Carrying of alcoholic beverages on anyone's person and/or any fire apparatus or vehicle shall disqualify the offending unit.
3. If carried, the American Flag must be guarded by one (1) member of the unit not carrying a flag. This guard must be on the American Flag's own right. Eagle must face forward and flag carried as straight as possible. If another flag is carried, it must be lower than the American Flag and should be dipped in salutation at the reviewing stand. DO NOT DIP THE AMERICAN FLAG. Non-compliance shall result in Disqualification.
4. No laughing, waving, talking, chewing gum, or smoking in the line of march.
5. No drilling or performing that hinders the forward movement of the line of march will be allowed in any part of the parade line or march or unit will be assessed five (5) demerits.
6. Officer in Charge MAY (but it is not necessary) salute at the reviewing stand with military salute. NOTE: Improper salute will result in 3 demerits.
7. There shall be no less than four (4) or no more than five (5) judges, preferably female. The Judges will come from outside the county, with no Greene County affiliation and to serve no more than three (3) consecutive years.
8. Judging shall be done on a demerit basis; judges shall award an overall score from which demerits shall be subtracted.

9. For the category of “Up to 4” Trophy, 2 Members must be in uniform on the road. The other 2 can be in a vehicle, a County Officer, or helping at the Convention in the Uniform of the Day.

APPEARANCE – UNIFORMITY MUST PREVAIL

1. Uniforms must be identical in style and color. The length of the uniform shall conform within the unit. Any Auxiliary having a male member(s) shall provide a comparable uniform (slacks/shirts) for the men as closely resembling the uniforms worn by female members of the Auxiliary. **THERE SHALL BE NO DEMERIT(S) ISSUED BY THE JUDGES.**
2. Shoes must be uniform in color and style. Hose must appear similar in color and must be the same style.
3. Hats, if part of the uniform, shall be worn in a uniform manner and at the same angle. Length of hair is optional, but neatness must prevail.
4. Use of gloves is optional, however, uniformity must prevail.
5. Auxiliary pins or badges shall be worn uniformly. All earned Fire Auxiliary Badges/Pins may be worn.
6. Necessary rings, medical jewelry, and watches are the only permitted jewelry.
7. No unnecessary paraphernalia should be carried on persons. (Nothing should cause bulges in pockets, etc.) Medical Necessities, such as an inhaler, are acceptable, but host committee must be notified before the parade starts.
8. Prescription Sunglasses will only be allowed.

LINE-UP:

1. Lineup (single file, 2 or 3 abreast), shall be left to the discretion of the auxiliary. All members in body are to march at arm’s length from member in front and arm’s length from member beside. This does not apply to the Color Guard and Officer-in-Charge.
2. If units march two (2) abreast, the extra member should march at the end of the right column. If marching three (3) abreast, the extra member should march at the end of the right column(s) (Two members – Right and Center).
3. The American Flag should be carried approximately 10 feet behind the preceding unit. The banner should be carried approximately 10 feet behind the American Flag. If no American Flag is carried, the banner should follow the preceding unit by approximately 10 feet.

4. The Officer-in-Charge shall march in the Center approximately 10 feet behind the banner and approximately 5 feet in front of the body of the unit. If no banner is carried, she shall march approximately 10 feet behind the American Flag. If no American Flag is carried, she shall march approximately 10 feet behind the preceding unit
5. Officer in Charge may carry memorial trumpet or wreath.
6. Life, honorary, and incapacitated members may ride in cars to the rear of the unit. Members must be in FULL Uniform. To honor a deceased member, by lying of hat and gloves on back deck of car, or last member in line carrying hat, is acceptable. Judges must be notified before the start of the parade.
7. Members in vehicles must be clearly visible to the Counters and Judges. (Open dark or tinted windows).
8. In Case of illness during the line of march, two persons may leave with the member who is ill. Unit should fill in and continue line of march.
9. One designated member may call cadence. One calling shall not be in Color Guard, Officer in Charge, or carrying the banner.

Any Variation of these rules will require a letter or phone notification to be submitted to the Rules Committee Chairperson of the LAGCVFA by the start of the Day of the Dress Parade so it can be discussed at the Morning Meeting. The LAGCVFA Chairperson is Denise Taber and her phone number is (518)756-3769. Her email is busmom155@yahoo.com.

TROPHIES TO BE AWARDED BY THE GCVFA & LAGCVFA

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Best Overall IN – COUNTY (Millenium Award) w/ cup – 1st Place

Best Appearing Unit 1st Place – 5 to 8 In Line (In County Company)

Best Appearing Unit 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place – 9 to 15 In Line (In County Company)

Best Appearing Unit 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place – 16 to 24 In Line (In County Company)

Best Appearing Unit 1st & 2nd Place – 25 and Over in Line (In County Company)

Best Appearing Unit 1st Place – 5 and Over In Line WITHOUT Music (In County Company)

Best Appearing Apparatus 1st & 2nd Place – 1 to 5 Years (In County Company)

Best Appearing Apparatus 1st & 2nd Place – 6 to 12 Years (In County Company)

Best Appearing Apparatus 1st & 2nd Place – 13 to 20 Years (In County Company)

Best Appearing Apparatus 1st & 2nd Place – 21 Plus Years (In County Company)

Best Appearing Motor Driven Antique Apparatus OUT OF SERVICE 1st & 2nd Place (In County Company)

Best Appearing NON Motor Driven Antique Apparatus 1st Place (In County Company)

Best Appearing Out of County – 1st & 2nd Place

Firematic Colorguard – 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place (In County Company)

Non Firematic Colorguard – 1st & 2nd Place (includes all Musical Units)

Best Overall Musical Unit – 1st & 2nd Place

Best Overall Drum Line – 1st & 2nd Place

Best Appearing Overall Auxiliary (**Winner is not eligible for any other Appearance Trophy**)

Best Appearing Out of County Auxiliary

Best Appearing Auxiliary 1st & 2nd Place – 2 to 4 in Line

Best Appearing Auxiliary 1st & 2nd Place – 5 to 7 In Line

Best Appearing Auxiliary 1st & 2nd Place – 8 to 10 In Line

Best Appearing Auxiliary 1st Place – 11 and Over in Line

Best Appearing Auxiliary WITHOUT Company Music 1st Place – 5 and over In Line (**Winner shall not have qualified for any other appearance trophy**)

The Host Company may provide Additional Trophies