

Genesee County Association of Fire Chiefs Recommended Operating Guideline

Effective 12-20-06
Revised June 2017
Review June 2026

SUBJECT: Honor Guard 06-1

The Genesee County Honor Guard will be a standing committee of the Genesee County Association of Fire Chief's (GCAFC). The President of the GCAFC will select the committee chairperson. The chairperson or their designee will report to the Association at its regular monthly meetings. The Chairperson will sit on any Honor Guard committee.

MEMBERSHIP

1. The Honor Guard will consist of firefighters or officers who are members with GCAFC member departments, having a minimum of five (5) years seniority. Retirees from the fire service are eligible for membership.
2. Honor Guard members will be State of Michigan Firefighter 1 & 2 certified.
3. All members will be well groomed. Hair must be off the shirt collar and may not touch the ears. Female members may pull back longer hair and place it on top of the head. Facial hair that would come in contact with an SCBA face piece is prohibited. Mustaches must be neatly trimmed. The chairperson will reserve the right to address all grooming issues. The chairperson will have discretion over any visible jewelry or tattoos.
4. The Honor Guard committee will screen applications for membership on the Honor Guard. The chairperson will interview applicants. The chairperson may include other committee members in the interview, as he/she deems appropriate. Applicants must also submit a letter of recommendation to the committee, from their fire chief, stating that they are a member in good standing of their department.
5. The chairperson will recommend appointment of new Honor Guard members to the GCAFC Executive board for approval.

PARTICIPATION AND COMMITMENT:

Genesee County Honor Guard members are expected to:

1. Participate in minimum number of parades, ceremonies, funerals, or other activities as set by the chairperson.
2. Attend scheduled committee meetings.
3. Maintain their complete uniform in good condition at all times.
4. Be in complete uniform when participating in events.

A firm commitment is required to be a member of the Honor Guard. Members are called upon to stand guard on very short notice. At times, this may be inconvenient. However, the members are still expected to participate unless it is absolutely impossible.

When called on, Honor Guard members are required to contact the chairman as to their availability. An annual review of participation will be completed. Members who do not meet these requirements may be suspended or terminated from the Honor Guard.

Appointment to the Honor Guard will require a long term commitment to the team. The investment in time and money is too great for short-term membership. High turnover would put a substantial strain on the very existence of the unit.

The Honor Guard may participate in activities within local communities (50 mile radius of Flint). Activities outside this limit will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Donations to cover expenses for activities will be accepted. Organizations requesting the Honor Guard for parades are encouraged to provide mileage expenses.

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All pagers and cell phones will be turned off or placed on vibrate upon entering a funeral home. If in a standby room at the funeral home, pagers and cell phones will be off or set on vibrate. All unit members will remove all pagers and cell phones while standing guard.

The uniform issued to the members of the Honor Guard is the property of the GCAFC and all service parts of the uniform will be returned to the GCAFC upon resignation/termination of membership from the Honor Guard.