

***1st Annual
North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation***

Honor Guard Competition



Friday, August 14, 2026
Raleigh Convention Center
Raleigh, NC
0900

General Rules and Guidelines

1. Teams wishing to compete shall consist of Fire/EMS/Law agency employees; either paid, civilian or volunteer. This competition is currently only comprised of one division for all teams regardless of size or agency orientation.
2. All participating team members must be minimum 18 years of age; there is no maximum age limit.
3. Each team will be comprised of no more than (6) members and no less than (4) members including the Team Leader/Commander.
4. Participating teams shall submit a roster identifying the Team Leader/Commander and the names of all members participating in any element of the competition. Any changes to the team roster must be declared prior to the team assembling for Team Inspection. Submit roster to 2ndVicePresident@ncfff.onmicrosoft.com
5. All team members will be present for Team Inspection. This also includes the inspection of all appliances, weapons, harnesses, etc. that will be used during any portion of the competition. The Flags will not be inspected and can be held off to the side by others assisting the team while the Inspection phase is being conducted.
6. During active judging and competition, the only teams permitted to be in the competition area are those who have been officially notified to prepare and present their team for competition and those who have officially completed their competition tasks. A ready area will be provided for teams to prepare and await their turn in the competition order.
7. Once a team has reported for judging, all members must remain on the competition course until their performance is completed. Anyone who leaves the course for any reason not cleared by the Lead Judge may not complete further in the competition.
8. Teams will move efficiently and with purpose between tasks on the competition course. They will dismiss from each task and reassemble at the next one in a timely manner. Should a team require more than 2 minutes between tasks, their score for that event will be impacted. Variances to this requirement will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and the decision of the judges is final.

9. Awards will be presented to the first place team only once all scores have been tabulated, immediately following the competition. All teams will be given a copy of their teams score sheets following the awards presentation. Once tabulated, the judges' decisions are final.

10. During the Awards presentation, it is requested that all teams remain in uniform and all teams that participated in the competition be present. If a team that participated in the competition early in the morning can not stay until the conclusion of the event, the Team Leader must notify the NCFFF/NCSFA liaison prior to their start time.

11. All teams participating must register via the registration on the NCFFF website, no later than July 31, 2026.

12. Teams can register at <http://www.ncfff.org/2026-honor-guard-registration-form/> . Entry fee can be mailed to: NCFFF PO Box 144, Mocksville, NC 27028. Note : Honor Guard Competition

Sequence of Competition Events

Team Inspection Phase.

1. Teams are to arrive and report in at the staging area, no later than 30 minutes prior to their schedule time. All team members need to be present upon arrival and a designated Team Leader in place.

2. There will be a staging area away from the competition area where teams can practice, inspect uniforms and equipment and be ready to report to the inspection line once notified by the judges.

3. Once the team has been called to report to the inspection line, the Team Leader will move the team to the line. No more than 5 minutes will be allowed for the Team Leader to position and do a final check of all team members uniforms and equipment. Equipment used such as flag carriers, pike poles, axes, etc will be inspected as well. If the team is using rifles, they **MUST** be inert, (Can not be loaded or fired). Certified Law Enforcement Teams that participate must inform Judges/ Staff personnel prior to arriving if the weapons they use are active weapons. Staff personnel will ensure any active duty weapons used are empty and safe before the team enters the competition area. Flags that will be used for the Color Guard will not be inspected and can be retrieved prior to the Color Guard event.

4. The team shall fall-in at the position of attention and will be properly aligned and spaced at normal interval for inspection. The team shall remain at attention until dismissed. The Team Leader will then take a position in front of the team and inform the judge that the team is ready for inspection. (***Sir, NAME OF TEAM, is ready for inspection.***)

Teams will be under evaluation from the time the Team Leader initially takes a post in front of their team until the time the Lead Judge directs the Team Leader to dismiss their team.

5. The Leader will then be inspected for neatness, cleanliness, and military bearing. The remaining team members will then be inspected. The judges may decide to inspect all or part of the team and will be looking for conformity to the leader's uniform.

6. Prior to the beginning of the competition, teams must notify the judges of any uniform variations within their team. Variations in uniform that will not warrant demerits are those that designate rank, different company/agency

patches, or any variations that the team has disclosed prior to competing. It should be noted that if a joint color guard team is assembled, members will be judged individually, thereby potentially necessitating more scrutiny and increasing the chance for penalties.

7. Once the Team Leader has been inspected, the judges will notify the Team Leader inspection has been completed. The Team Leader may then accompany the judges during the inspection of the remainder of the team. The Team Leader is not to make any comments to the judges, but is allowed to answer any questions the judges may have regarding their team.

8. When the inspection portion for each team is completed, the judge will instruct the Team Leader to take command of their team. The Team Leader will instruct the team to FALL OUT and prepare for the COLOR GUARD event.

Presentation and Posting of Colors phase.

1. The Team members participating in the Color Guard will move to the start line and prepare for the Color Guard event. Flags can be gathered or brought to the team by others members. Flags carried will be limited to only (2) two flags with one being the US Flag. The other flag can be State or Organizational Flag. Guards will continue to carry the rifles, pike poles, axes or whatever tool they had during the inspection phase.

2. The Team Leader may accompany and give commands to the Color Guard. If the Color Guard will do their own commands, only one Color Guard member will call commands during the entirety of the event.

3. The Color Guard will march single file or abreast from the start line to the designated area for the PRESENTATION of Colors. Presenting Colors as you would for the National Anthem or Pledge of Allegiance. Guards will come to “Present Arms”. The Color Guard will remain at “Presentation of Colors” until instructed by the Judge to continue. Color Guard must follow proper protocol when performing as a Color Guard according to military protocol and standards as referenced in Army Manual Drills and Ceremonies. To access the complete and current regulations, you can download the complete [TC 3-21.5 Drill and Ceremonies Guide](#). [1]

4. Once the judge has instructed the Color Guard to proceed, the Team Leader will instruct the Color Guard to return the Colors to the Carry position and then instruct the Color Guard to **POST** the Colors. Flag Stands will be

preposition-ed at a location behind the Color Guard at a distance of four (4) paces out, and three (3) paces in.

5. The team Leader will give commands to the Color Guard to place the flags in the flag stands and render proper honors according to military standard and protocol.

6. Once the Flags have been “posted” the Team Leader will reform the Color Guard and maneuver the Color Guard to the designated “End” line. Once the Color Guard has reached the “end” line, the Team Leader will dismiss the Color Guard and direct the team to the Casket Carry event.

Casket Carry Event

1. A full size casket with a standard 5’x9.5’ US flag draping the casket, will be provided and utilized for this event. The Team Leader will form the team in a manner that the team will approach the casket from the head end of the casket,(Blue Union of the Flag). The team will march and take a position on both sides of the casket in even number, on each side. The Team Leader will give the commands to center face. The Team Leader will give commands to the team to take possession of the casket. The Team will then move the casket in a proper military manner to a location that simulates a graveside, approx 50-100’ away, with a least one 90 degree turn.

2. Once the team has the casket over the simulated grave site, the team will maintain possession of the flag and prevent the flag from touching the ground or the casket again once removed while placing the casket. The Team may elect to fold the flag over the casket or move with the flag away from the casket. The Flag must be kept taught and level at all times once the team removes it from the casket.

3. The Flag can be folded by all team members or by a single team member with the others keeping the flag level and tight.

4. Once the flag has been folded and inspected by the team, or team leader, the flag will be presented in a proper military manner to the receiving judge for inspection. The Team Member presenting the flag to the judge does not need to speak or say anything specific to the judge. The presenter must salute the flag once it is passed to the judge. The Judge will take the flag for inspection, looking for tightness, smoothness and no red showing.

5. Once the Team Member has presented the flag to the judge, the Team Member will return to the group and the Team Leader will maneuver and

march the team away from the casket area back to the starting line following the same route out as they followed in with the casket.

6. Once the Team has returned to the Starting Line, the Team will be dismissed by the Team Leader and this will conclude all competition events.

7. Once Teams have completed all events, Teams will return to the staging area and will check in with the NCFFF/NCSFA rep. If the Team can not stay until the end and the Awarding of the Trophy, the Team must notify the staging officer. Teams will be able to go to the SAFRE check in booths and obtain a free pass to the Expo area of the Convention Center while waiting for other teams to finish. If Teams wish to stay and watch, they can gather with the audience in a manner that does not interfere with other teams. All personnel are requested to remain silent and respectful as the other teams complete the competition events.

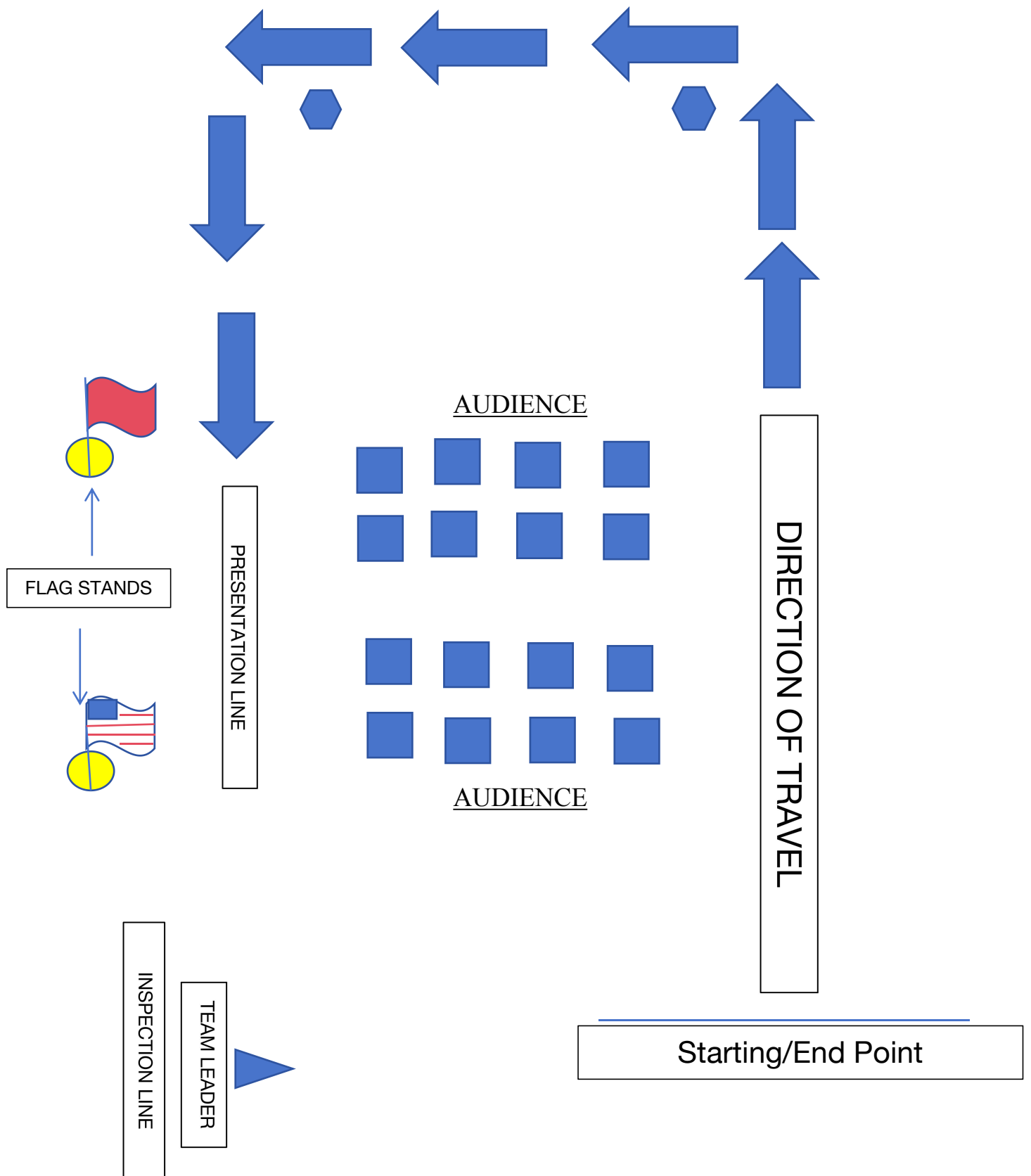
Audience members, guests, event staff and teams who are observing the competition are exempt from rendering honors to the National Colors during event performances. Proper care and handling of the National Colors shall be maintained at all times by the teams while they are competing.

The NCFFF will provide flag stands, casket and 5'x9.5 flag. It will be each teams responsibility to bring Flags, Carriers, (if worn) axes, pike poles, inert rifles, or whatever tool or equipment they are accustomed to carrying for Flag Details

Again, Teams that are made up of CERTIFIED Law Enforcement Officers, may use active weapons as Guards with the Color Guard, but those weapons MUST be free and clear of any ammunition and will be checked by staff and judges prior to entering the competition area. Sidearms carried by LEO personnel will not be checked but must remained holstered at all times during the competition.

This event will be held indoors and the rendering of a firing detail, TAPS or bell ceremony will not be included for this event. Any questions, can be referred to the NCFFF Liaison prior to the start of the event. Suggestions or comments regarding the competition can be given to the NCFFF Liaison at the conclusion of the competition.

Presenting and Posting of Colors



CASKET CARRY/FLAG PRESENTATION

