

NEW JERSEY STATE ELKS PARADE COMMITTEE

2026 Rules and Regulations for Annual Reunion Parade

Parade Line-up:

STATE ASSOCIATION:

- Miracle Run Committee – Step off 11:45 A.M.
- Police Escort – Step off 12:00 Noon
- Color Guard
- State Parade Chairman
- State Band
- Grand Lodge Sponsor
- Newly Installed State President
- Retiring State President
- Past State Presidents – New State Officers
- Host Lodge

State President's Region Leads Parade, State President's District is first within the Region

District Line-Up

- 1- District Banner
- 2- District Officers Car – Vice President, State Trustee, and DDGER
- 3- District Line-up is arranged by mutual consent of the District and Lodge Chairman

Districts rotate within their Region each year:

Example 1st Year

East

East Central

North Central

Northwest

Northeast

North

Example 2nd Year

East Central

North Central

Northwest

Northeast

North

East

The previous year lead off District drops to the last position. All other Districts move up one position.

NOTES:

- From here on forward all units will be referred to as lodges.
- All lodges in the parade encompass all participants marching in the parade under that lodge. Music is part of the marching unit
- Music (non-members) not included in over-all lodge numbers

Section A

General Rules and Regulations

- 1- Vice Presidents will be responsible for getting their own vehicle, a convertible is preferred (No golf carts). The State Trustee and DDGER will ride in the same vehicle. The signs for the vehicle should be ordered through the District Parade Chairman, so they are all uniform 18" long by 24" wide. The Vice President, State Trustee, and DDGER must review their District from the Reviewing Stand.
- 2- A Lodge or Region that sponsors a Poster Child will be responsible for providing a vehicle and informing the District Parade Chairman, so that proper signs may be ordered.
- 3- Each Lodge is allowed 6 Vehicles (not to exceed 6000 pounds per vehicle) in the parade single file. Their occupants are only counted as Participants. There is a minimum of 2 people per vehicle. The District Chairman should be notified as to how many are in each vehicle. Each vehicle must have a sign with the Lodge Name and Number. There will be a 5-point penalty for no signs or only 1 sign. Vehicle are in single file and signs are required on both sides. They must be 18" long by 24" wide. Signs can be purchased from the Parade Committee.
- 4- Buses are not permitted in the Parade. They should discharge their passengers at least one half-hour before step-off time on . The Bus proceeds to the Bus Parking Area, at the Convention Center.

SECTION A (continued)

5 – All marchers must be an Elk member in good standing to participate in the parade. **No children are allowed in the parade. Antlers are the only minors allowed to march.**

6 - To keep the Parade moving, we ask you to keep these distances:

1- Between Districts – 100 Feet

2- Between Lodges – 25 Feet

3- Between Units in the Lodge – 15 Feet

These distances are required in order to assist with the judging process. This will avoid Lodges being split as police direct cross traffic.

7- A Lodge leading the District is required to have a band. A Vice

President's Lodge must conform to this rule.

8- No Band vehicles are permitted in the Parade, with the exception of Handicapped Bands. Special request will be considered.

SECTION A (continued)

9- Sunglasses are permitted in the Line of March. Hats, if worn, must match and be worn by all marchers.

10- Sneakers are permissible as long as they are the same color.

11- If a Lodge is not participating in the Parade, and a Member of that Lodge wishes to participate. That member may march with another Lodge.

12- If a Lodge or Members breaks the published Parade Rules or behaves in Conduct Unbecoming an Elk, this will be noted, and the Lodge maybe disqualified from the Parade. After a review by the State Chairman and Advisors, that lodge will then be put on probation.

13- Trophies will be awarded early Saturday Evening (Time to be announced). Duplicate awards will be given at a later date. Names inscribed on the awards, are names of the donor, not the winner.

14- Anyone desiring to be a Parade Marshall, should advise their District Chairman, who will report this to the State Parade Chairman for approval.

16 – In the event of a rain delay, contact your District Chair

Section B

GOVERNOR'S TROPHY (BEST OVERALL-STATE AWARD)

To be eligible for this Trophy, a Lodge must have an entry in each of the following Categories: Banner Carriers, Color Guard, Esquire, Music, Exalted Ruler, Float, and Marching Unit will be judged separately for Marching Ability and Appearance. The total score of these 8 categories will determine the winner of the Governor's Trophy. The Exalted Ruler and Esquire can have a substitute, (must be a Member in Good Standing from the same lodge) which will result in a 5-point penalty.

WILDWOOD CUP-MEMBERSHIP GROUP AWARDS

To qualify for this award, a Lodge must have an entry in at least 6 of the following Categories: 1-Banner Carriers, 2-Color Guard, 3-Esquire, 4-Music, 5-Exalted Ruler, 6-Float, and Marching Units will be judged separately for 7-Marching Ability and 8-Appearance. The combined score of each of the categories entered, will determine the total score.

BEST BANNER CARRIERS

- 1- Must be Lodge Members
- 2- Must be carrying Banner, bearing Lodge Name and Number
- 3- Must be uniformly dressed, same as Lodge Unit.
- 4-Must march the entire Parade.

Failure to comply is a 5-Point Penalty

COLOR GUARD

- 1- Minimum of 3 Members: American Flag, and a Guard on the right and left side of the Flag Bearer.
- 2- A Color Guard entered as Special Dress (Military Style) Uniform that doesn't meet this description.
- 3- A Color Guard entered and dressed the same as the Lodge Marching Unit, which in fact is dressed in (Military Style) Uniform.
- 4- If a Color Guard does wear special (Military Style) Uniform, they may bear rifles and side arm.
- 5- If a Color Guard does not wear Special (Military Style) Uniform, they cannot bear rifles or side arm.
- 6- A Color Guard may be a Professional (Armed Forces).
- 7- The American Flag is not to be dipped. It should always be at the far right of all flags, from the Marching Units view, and have a guard.
- 8- All Color Guard will be judged in the Color Guard category.
- 9- Military Guard will be judged in the Military Guard category

Failure to comply is a 5-Point Penalty

BEST ESQUIRE

- 1- Duly appointed and installed for this Fraternal Year.
- 2- Must march the entire Parade route.
- 3- Must carry in the Members left hand the Grand Lodge approved Baton

with no broken parts.

Failure to comply is a 5-Point Penalty

MUSICAL UNITS

- 1- Band must play in Designated Area, and continue to play past the Reviewing Stand. Signs to alert the Musical Unit to play, will be posted.
- 2- Bagpipers must maintain at least 80 beats per minute. (was subject to a 5-Point Penalty)
- 3- Band members must march the entire parade route.
- 4- Concert or exhibitions anywhere along the Parade route or drilling not in a forward motion, will result in a 25-Point Penalty. Unless they are requested to do so by the State Chairman or Advisor

BEST EXALTED RULER

- 1- Must be duly elected for this Fraternal Year.
- 2- Must march the entire Parade route.
- 3- Must wear mandatory sash with Lodge Number.
Failure to comply is a 5-Point Penalty

MARCHING UNIT – ABILITY

- 1- Marchers in step with music.
- 2- Eyes and heads looking straight ahead.
- 3- Straight line of march vertically and horizontally.

4- Conducting self in a ladylike and gentlemanly manner. Best

Dressed – Bill Scanlon Trophy

The Bill Scanlon Trophy for the Lodge with the best display of uniform or dress, will be decided by the State Committee. This has no point value.

FLOATS - APPLIES TO BOTH LODGE AND ANTLER

1- A typed and sealed Resume, along with 3 one-page highlight sheets

(Cover page with lodge information and 2 page informational on the float.

Must be pdf and emailed to the Parade Chair by noon on Thursday prior to the parade.

FLOATS (continued)

2- Floats must be at the Judging area between 7:30 A.M. and 9:30 A.M. on Saturday morning. Judging is on a first come, first serve basis.

3- Anyone assigned to the float, must be there in costume for judging.

4- 3 Judges will evaluate the following points:

A- Theme: The Theme of the Parade must appear on the float, exactly as presented by the State Parade Committee, and as printed on the Parade Entry Form. Theme must be displayed on both sides and either front or back, (must be on 3 sides of the float) (Failure to comply 25 Point Penalty)

B- Complexity and Completeness of workmanship

C- Originality

D- Effectiveness and Appeal to the general public

E- Size: Height not to exceed 14 feet, not to interfere with overhead wires and length (not to exceed) no restriction and width (not to exceed)

F- Display Lodge name and number either in the front (and or back) or both sides. No political or advertising slogans permitted.

G- No extra points will be given for self-propelled floats.

5- Reasons for disqualification of the Float:

A- If built by a non-member for a fee or donation, it will be considered professionally built.

B- Resume not submitted on time, or not having the required 3 one-page highlight sheets.

C- Any interference with the Judges performance of their duties.

D- Horseplay by people on the float of persons not properly attired.

OLDEST MARCHER

1- March the entire Parade route.

2- The form containing name, age, and date of birth (Example: John Doe, age 90, 5/10/10) must be turned into the Vice President prior to the District stepping off. Failure to comply is reason for disqualification.

OLDEST PARTICIPANT

May ride the entire Parade route or partially march and ride, whichever they choose. Name, age, and date of birth, see Oldest Marcher example, must be turned into the Vice President, prior to the District stepping off.

Failure to comply, is a reason for disqualification

MEMBERSHIP GROUP AWARDS

Will be presented for both Highest Percentage of Marchers and also, the Highest Percentage of Participants. In each of the following Membership Groups: 250 Members and less/251-500 Members/ 501 – 1000 members/ 1001 Members and above.

Section C

General Reasons for Disqualification

- 1- Not returning Questionnaires or Revolving Trophies, and not answering correspondence by required dates.
- 2- Drinking alcoholic beverages in the line of march, or concealing alcoholic beverages in vehicles. Drinking alcoholic beverages at the beginning or end of the Parade. This includes the staging area.
3. Throwing any objects, candy, gum, balloons, etc. from the ranks, cars, or floats, during the course of the parade.
- 4-Any actions or gestures, which will reflect adversely on the Order of Elks.
- 5- Solicitations of any kind by Parade Participants.
- 6- Wearing of Lodge Jewels by Officers, not in Tuxedos.
- 7- Having Non-Members in the Marching Unit.

Non-Members may only participate as part of the Musical Unit, or be

assigned to the float.

8- Lodge Unit not uniformly dressed. Wearing T-Shirts, shorts or jeans, without written approval of the State Parade Committee.

9- Passengers not seated safely in vehicles.

10- Any lodge that does not march the entire Parade route from assigned starting point, to the finishing point. Not dispersing where directed to by the Police Officers or Parade Marshall.

SECTION D

Understanding the Parade Awards

The majority of the awards, are presented as State Awards and Membership Group Awards.

STATE AWARDS

These awards are presented for the highest scores achieved throughout the Parade. For example, we will use the State Award for the Best Esquire. The Esquire who has achieved the highest score among all the qualified Esquires in the parade, wins the State Award for the Best Esquire. The 2nd place Best Esquire State Award is given to the qualified Esquire with the second highest score. Once an individual captures a State Award, they are eliminated from receiving a Membership Group Award, in that particular category. (In this example Best Esquire) Membership Group Awards:

250 members or less

251-500 Members

501 – 1000 Members

1001 Members and above

Membership Group Awards

These Awards are presented for the highest score achieved among the Lodges in their Membership Category. Again, let's take the Esquire. An Esquire who has the 10th lowest score in the parade, but the highest score in the 250 Member or less group. Will win the Membership Group Award for the Best Esquire. The highest award is the State Award. Individuals and Lodges who win

the State Awards, are no longer eligible to win membership Group Awards.

SECTION E

ANTLER RULES

General Rules and Regulations for Antler Lodges

- 1- Section A of Rules and Regulations for Annual Reunion Parade
(Revised March 2021) where applicable apply.
- 2-Antler Marching Unit should line-up immediately following the Elk
Marching Unit in front of the Lodge Float or Antler Float. If an Elk
Lodge does not have a float.
- 3- If an Elk Lodge and Antler Lodge each have a float, the Antler Float
should be positioned behind the Elk Float, in the line of March.