



OLD FORGE

FIREFIGHTERS DRILL SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 17TH-20TH, 2026

WHERE THE
MOUNTAINS
— MEET THE —
MISSION



THE ADIRONDACKS' PREMIER AND LONGEST-RUNNING
FIRESCHOOL - PROUDLY TRAINING FIREFIGHTERS FOR **59** YEARS

On behalf of the committee, it is my honor and privilege to welcome you to the 59th Firefighters Drill School. Each year, firefighters from near and far gather here in the heart of the Adirondacks to sharpen their skills, strengthen their knowledge, and continue the proud tradition of service that defines the fire service. This event is more than training - it is a time to learn from one another, build lasting connections, and renew our commitment to protecting the communities we serve. This year's theme, where the mountains meet the mission, reflects both the beauty of our surroundings and the purpose that brings us together. Old Forge offers a setting unlike any other - surrounded by mountains, rooted in tradition, and united by a shared mission of preparedness, professionalism and dedication. As we come together for this 59th year, we recognize the instructors, organizers, departments, sponsors, and volunteers whose hard work and support make this school possible. Their commitment ensures that this event continues to grow and provide meaningful opportunities for firefighters of all experience levels. To all who are attending, thank you for being a part of this long-standing tradition. We hope your time here is educational, rewarding and memorable. Welcome to Old Forge and welcome to the 59th Firefighters Drill School - Where The Mountains Meet The Mission. Be Kind,

Dawn

Dawn Schweinsberg Committee
Chairwoman

OLD FORGE

EVENT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2026

12:00P -12:00A	FIRE STATION OPEN
3:30P-8:30P	REGISTRATION
6:00P-9:00P	PUMP & PUSH MOUNTAIN CARTS /CORNHOLE
8:00P-11:00P	BLOCK PARTY & MUSIC BY JAMIE LOSON

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2026

7:30A-7:30P	REGISTRATION
8:30A-9:00 A	MEMORIAL SERVICE
9:00A-10:30A	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ISSUES FACING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE
10:45A-12:15P	NATIONAL GRID: ELECTRICAL SAFETY
10:45A-12:15P	IT'S OKAY TO LOVE THIS JOB
10:45A-12:15P	UNDERSTANDING FIRE DYNAMICS
10:45A-12:15P	LEADERSHIP FOR THE COMPANY OFFICER
12:15P-1:15P	LUNCH
1:00P-3:00P	RESIDENTIAL SEARCH OPERATIONS
1:30P-3:00P	HERO MAINTENANCE
1:30P-3:00P	FIRE SERVICE ROUND TABLE
4:30P-5:30P	JUNIOR PUSH BALL
5:30P-6:30P	ADULT PUSH BALL
8:00P-12:00A	BAND: UNCLE CHARLIE & THE MEATBALLS





INTERESTED IN BEING A FEATURED PRESENTER AT THE 2027 OLD FORGE FIRE SCHOOL?

As we gear up for another great year at the Old Forge Fire School, we're already looking ahead to 2027 (our 60th year)! We're seeking experienced and passionate instructors to be featured presenters at next year's event.

If you have valuable knowledge, skills, or experiences to share, this is a great opportunity to contribute to firefighter training, connect with others in the fire service, and make an impact.

Scan the QR code below or visit this link:

<https://bit.ly/3FI15u1>

to learn more and express your interest. We'd love to hear from you!



OLD FORGE EVENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2026

- 7:30A-3:30P REGISTRATION**
- 8:00A-12:00P CNY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION YOUTH DAY**
- 8:30A-10:30A RIDING SHOTGUN**
- 8:30A-12:00P DOWN & DIRTY AERIAL OPERATIONS**
- 8:30A-12:00P CAR OVER THE EMBANKMENT**
- 10:45A-12:00P TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT**
- 3:00P-4:00P PARADE**
- 6:00P-12:00A MOTLEY CHEW FOOD TRUCK**
- 7:00P-8:00P AWARDS CEREMONY**
- 8:00P-12:00A BAND: SHOWTIME**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2026

- 12:00P OLD FORGE FIRE DEPARTMENT BIG BUCKS
DRAWING**





OLD FORGE DRILL SCHOOL 2026

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER TRAINING SCHOOL

★ **LEARN. TRAIN. SERVE.**  **BE THE NEXT GENERATION.**



TRAINING STATIONS



1
**VEHICLE
EXTRICATION**
OTTER LAKE FD



2
FIRE ATTACK
CICERO FD



3
**SPECIAL OPS
TRAINING**
BARNEVELD FD



4
**LIFENET
LANDING ZONE
& PATIENTS**



5
**OLD FORGE
AMBULANCE**
EMS / STOP THE BLEED

MASTER SCHEDULE

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:30 – 8:00 AM	REGISTRATION & LITE BREAKFAST
8:00 – 8:15 AM	INSTRUCTOR INTRODUCTIONS
8:15 – 9:05 AM	ROTATION 1
9:05 – 9:15 AM	BREAK
9:15 – 10:05 AM	ROTATION 2
10:05 – 10:15 AM	BREAK
10:15 – 11:05 AM	ROTATION 3
11:05 – 11:15 AM	BREAK
11:15 AM – 12:05 PM	ROTATION 4
12:05 – 12:15 PM	BREAK
12:15 – 1:05 PM	ROTATION 5
1:05 – 1:15 PM	LUNCH & CLOSING

5-GROUP ROTATIONAL TRAINING FORMAT

Participants will be divided into five groups that rotate through each training station throughout the day.



GROUP ROTATION SCHEDULE

GROUP	ROTATION 1 8:15 – 9:05 AM	ROTATION 2 9:15 – 10:05 AM	ROTATION 3 10:15 – 11:05 AM	ROTATION 4 11:15 AM – 12:05 PM	ROTATION 5 12:15 – 1:05 PM
GROUP 1	1 VEHICLE EXTRICATION	2 FIRE ATTACK	3 SPECIAL OPS TRAINING	4 LIFENET	5 EMS / STOP THE BLEED
GROUP 2	2 FIRE ATTACK	3 SPECIAL OPS TRAINING	4 LIFENET	5 EMS / STOP THE BLEED	1 VEHICLE EXTRICATION
GROUP 3	3 SPECIAL OPS TRAINING	4 LIFENET	5 EMS / STOP THE BLEED	1 VEHICLE EXTRICATION	2 FIRE ATTACK
GROUP 4	4 LIFENET	5 EMS / STOP THE BLEED	1 VEHICLE EXTRICATION	2 FIRE ATTACK	3 SPECIAL OPS TRAINING
GROUP 5	5 EMS / STOP THE BLEED	1 VEHICLE EXTRICATION	2 FIRE ATTACK	3 SPECIAL OPS TRAINING	4 LIFENET

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES



OTTER LAKE
FIRE DEPARTMENT



CICERO
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BARNEVELD
FIRE DEPARTMENT



LifeNet
OF NEW YORK

LIFENET
OF NEW YORK



OLD FORGE
AMBULANCE

MEET THE INSTRUCTORS:



JEFF BURKHART

A 34-year student of the fire service, Chief Burkhardt is in his 15th year as Fire Chief. His years managing an aerial device operator training program give him a unique perspective on both in-service and initial training in aerial device operations.



TOM BASHER

Tom Basher is a career Fire Lieutenant with the City of Ithaca Fire Department and a NYS Fire Instructor in Tompkins County and at the NYS Fire Academy in Montour Falls. He is also the founder of Meridian Fire Training Solutions, based in the Finger Lakes region, providing hands-on and classroom training to departments across Upstate New York.



DAVE DENNISTON

Dave Denniston is a 35-year fire service veteran, past Chief of the Cortlandville Fire Department, and Cortland County's longest-sitting Deputy Fire Coordinator. He serves as First Vice President of the Association of Fire Districts of NYS and is a 2025 NVFC Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.



DAVE GLENN

Dave Glenn is a fire chief in Central New York. A passionate advocate for the volunteer fire service, he is actively involved in statewide efforts to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters across New York State.



TONY MCINTYRE

Tony McIntyre is the former Chief of the North West Fire District in Onondaga County, serving the Towns of Lysander and Van Buren. He is an active advocate for volunteer fire service recruitment and retention and a leader within the Onondaga County Fire Coalition.



BRIAN MCQUEEN

Brian McQueen is Past Chief and current Safety Officer of the Whitesboro Fire Department and NVFC New York Director. An occupational cancer survivor and national advocate for firefighter cancer awareness, he is a recipient of FASNY's Golden Trumpet Award and the IAFC-VCOS Johnny Buckman Leadership Award.



GEORGE MASSAROTTI

A 43 year member of the Whitesboro FD currently serving as Chief and a member of the Fort Drum FD retiring after 30 years, Chief Massarotti has in-depth experience at both departments and is an experienced Fire Instructor on many topics.

JON BARRETT



Jon Barrett is a Past Chief of the Cicero Fire Department and currently serves as Training and Education Chair for the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY). He also serves as president of Believe 31, a Central New York nonprofit focused on protecting firefighters from cancer risks.

TIM COWAN



Timothy Cowan is a Deputy Fire Chief with the DeWitt Fire District and a 33-year fire service veteran. A graduate of the NFA Executive Fire Officer Program, he serves as Region 2 Advocate Manager for the NFFF Everyone Goes Home program and sits on the Firehouse Editorial Advisory Board and NFPA 1030 Technical Committee.

PAUL HAYNES



Paul Haynes brings 31 years of fire service experience including U.S. Army service and 23 years with the Syracuse Fire Department, retiring from Ladder 4. He currently serves as Chief of the East Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department and is Lead Instructor for the Advanced Vehicle Extrication Hands-On Training Program.

KEVIN KALK



Kevin Kalk serves as Chief of the Trenton Joint Fire District and Barneveld Fire Department and was honored with the New York State 2025 Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year award by the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs. He serves as a volunteer director on the NYSAFC board and brings over 17 years of fire service experience to his role as a community leader and instructor.

MIKE MCNABB



Career firefighter with the City of Auburn Fire Department, currently assigned to the Truck Company. I bring more than 26 years of combined career and volunteer firefighting experience to the fire service. I am a Nationally Certified Fire Instructor II, a New York State Fire Instructor, and a Hands-On Training (HOT) Instructor for the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs.

ED MANN



Ed Mann serves as Director of Training and Education for Provident, bringing over 40 years of fire service experience including 14.5 years as Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner and a career with the U.S. Air Force retiring as Deputy Chief. He holds multiple IFSAC certifications and has been a PA State Fire Academy instructor since 1987.

TONY SEGE



Anthony Sege serves as Chief of the Woodgate Volunteer Fire Department in Northern New York. A committed advocate for recruitment and in-house training, he is an active participant in statewide volunteer firefighter initiatives including RecruitNY.



CLASS DETAILS

NATIONAL GRID: FIRST RESPONDER UTILITY SAFETY TRAINING (TONY MCINTYRE)

Developed with the assistance of local fire-fighting professionals, National Grid offers training that provides emergency response personnel with the information they need to safely identify and respond to incidents that may involve electric power lines and other utility facilities. The training will include Pipeline Safety Compliance (811), Live Line demonstration and Downed Power Line Presentation.

UNDERSTANDING FIRE DYNAMICS & IMPACTS OF CANCER IN THE FIRE SERVICE (MCQUEEN, KALK, BARRETT)

Fires of today are burning faster than ever before. Homes are made from composite woods embedded with glues. Technology has found a place in our homes. Fires of today are more volatile than ever. This class will look at today's fires and the increased impact on firefighters and their families and it relates to occupational cancer. Cancer is the leading cause of fire deaths by firefighters today. How we address that as fire service leaders is crucial to retaining firefighters.

RESIDENTIAL SEARCH OPERATIONS (MICHAEL MCNABB)

This comprehensive training program prepares firefighters to perform fast, effective, and scientifically informed searches in residential structures. Built on data from the Firefighter Rescue Survey and supported by modern fire dynamics research, this course teaches responders how to identify high-probability victim locations, evaluate survivability, and make tactical decisions that balance risk and reward. Firefighters learn the critical role of door control, ventilation coordination, and smoke interpretation to preserve survivable space and increase rescue success rates. Through scenario-based discussions and proven search methods, such as split searches and targeted entry strategies, students develop the skills needed to conduct aggressive, efficient, and safe search operations rooted in real-world evidence.

IT'S OKAY TO LOVE THIS JOB (PAUL HAYNES)

Remember how you felt when you took a position as a Firefighter. So now as a company officer or if you aspire to be a company officer we need to continue that love. This comes from when we had that company officer or senior man where we hung on their every word. These leaders formal or informal, and our fellow peers make it difficult for us to Still Love the job. By losing the love we have allowed a culture of leadership where we are content with just "OK". Program will Discuss leadership styles that will help with turning individuals into an effective Team with a shared vision for cultivating a successful team that will create vision for the organization.

HERO MAINTENANCE (TOM BASHER)

Emergency Responders see things most people never have to see and do things most people never have to do. The effects of the stressful events we respond to are cumulative and can sneak up on us and affect our work and personal life. This class talks openly about PTSD and suicide, real issues that we don't like to talk about. It's time that we take care of our brothers and sisters as well as we do for people we respond to help. Sometimes we don't know the true toll of an event until years later.

FIRE SERVICE ROUND TABLE (DAVE DENNISTON & ED MANN)

Join members from six different departments as we have a group discussion about difficulties facing departments such as recruitment, retention, requirements, and what it means to be a first responder in the modern fire service.

CLASS DETAILS

DOWN AND DIRTY AERIAL OPERATIONS (JEFF BURKHART & GEORGE MASSAROTTI)

This course will provide attendees with a realistic look at the operation of Aerial Devices. This particular course will give basic fundamentals for students looking to gain working knowledge of Aerial Devices. This course is not an NFPA or certification to operate devices in your AHJ, but more an exposure to different styles and overview of limitations/advantages of different styles. A hands on portion will allow students to operate an aerial device in a manner that will familiarize them with and challenge even the most experienced operator. Topics of discussion will be class led with focus on tactics, placement, quick inspections and differences between apparatus types.

CAR OVER THE EMBANKMENT (TOM BASHER)

Quickly and safely gaining access to a vehicle in a ravine, packaging and hauling a patient and crew up a hillside all require skill, practice, knowledge and know how. This class will review all the rescue knots, rope systems, tools and equipment as well as teach good tactics and techniques for a successful and safe rope rescue.

RIDING SHOTGUN (TOM COWAN)

This course is specifically designed for company officers who ride in the right front seat, one of the most crucial positions in the fire service. The company officer is the lifeblood of the fire department. This presentation offers an in-depth examination of the roles and responsibilities associated with occupying this seat, both on and off the fireground. Often, firefighters are unaware of the expectations that accompany this position. Many believe that riding shotgun only involves making decisions at emergency scenes. However, this is just one small aspect of a broader responsibility as a company officer. Company officers must recognize that they not only serve as fire officers but also become parental figures, coaches, counselors, and much more to their crew. Students will be equipped with the necessary tools to succeed on and off the fireground.

TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (TONY SEGE)

This Presentation will address new NYS laws and review those laws that are current in effect as they apply to the authority of the Fire Police Office and/or Firefighter conducting traffic control. The discussion will focus its attention on the Fire Police Officers role, complacency on the job that can cause injury, understanding highway safety, taking into the account the many factors that impact traffic flow and traffic management.





- ① PARK AVE BUILDING
- ② OLD FORGE FIRE DEPARTMENT
- ③ FULTON ST PARK
- ④ STRAND THEATER
- ⑤ GEORGE T HILTEBRANT RECREATION CENTER



RELEASE, ASSUMPTION AND ACCEPTANCE OF RISK, WAIVER AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

In consideration of my entry and participation at the Old Forge Fire Fighter Drill School weekend, held September 17-20, 2026, in Old Forge, New York (hereinafter the Drill School Event) offered by the Old Forge Volunteer Fire Department, I hereby acknowledge and represent as follows:

1. I understand that my participation in some or all of the fire service activities and evolutions, including additional skills that will be taught may result in injury or damage, which I may receive in the form of personal injuries, death and/or property damage.
2. I am familiar with the goals and purposes, danger, risks, requirements, rules, practices, systems and objects of the events in which I am participating in and have received information concerning these events and have had an opportunity to investigate and observe them,
3. I represent that I am in good physical condition and physical fit and able to participate in these events and that I will not participate while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. I further represent that I obtained the consent of the authority having jurisdiction or other sponsoring entity or agency (i.e. Learning for Life, Fire Department, Fire District, Town , Village) over my home emergency services to participate in the Drill School and that such entity has valid insurance coverage in effect at the time of my participation in the Drill School that insures me against, losses, or damages that I may cause or sustain as a result of my participation in the Drill School event.
4. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I hereby assume full responsibility for any injury or damage, including injury, death, or property damage, which may occur to me or to others while participating in , or being involved in the Drill School event, including but not limited to, any claims for personal injury, death or property damage resulting from or arising out of my acts and participation in the Drill School Event.
5. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I hereby waive any and all claims that I, my heirs, successors, representatives and/or assigns may have by reason of injury, death or property damage sustained by me in my participation in the Drill School Event, and do hereby release and discharge the Old Forge Volunteer Fire Department, and the Town of Webb Fire District #2, and all event hosts and course instructors, as well as the officers, agents, representatives, servants or employees thereof, from any claims for injury or damage against them, or any of them, which I have or may have reason of my entry and participation in said Drill School Event.
6. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I hereby indemnify and hold harmless the Old Forge Volunteer Fire Department, Town of Webb Fire District #2 and all event hosts and course instructors against all loss, Liability, costs, damages, acts or injuries to persons or property occurring as a result of my acts in the Drill School Event described herein.

I have read this Release, Assumption and Acceptance of Risk, Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement and fully understand its terms and sign it after having read it, with my signature being freely and voluntarily given.

Participant's Signature (over 18 years of age)

Date

Printed Name

Old Forge Volunteer Fire Department
PO Box 1170
Old Forge, New York 13420
315-369-3424
oldforgefd@gmail.com



REGISTRATION



Name:

Fire Department:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Class Time	First Choice	Alternate pick, in case first choice is full
Friday, AM		
Friday, PM		
Saturday, AM		

***ALL ATTENDEES MUST WEAR WRISTBANDS TO ATTEND CLASSES!**

Mail Completed forms by September, 1st, 2026 to:

Old Forge Fire School
PO Box 1170
Old Forge, NY 13420

Please attach a copy for each individual attendee

SHIRT PRE-ORDER



Pick-up available only!

*Please send separate checks with registration / pre-order shirts
Payment and order form must be sent by **SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2026***

Name:

Department:

SHORT SLEEVE	\$25	Quantity:	Size:	Total:
LONG SLEEVE	\$30	Quantity:	Size:	Total:
1/4 ZIP (FRONT LOGO ONLY)	\$62	Quantity:	Size:	Total:
CREWNECK SWEATSHIRT	\$45	Quantity:	Size:	Total:

***** FOR SIZE 3X OR 4X ADD \$3 PER SHIRT*****

REGISTRATION + SHIRT TOTAL:

Make Checks payable to : OLD FORGE FIRE SCHOOL



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2026

PARADE ENTRY FORM

Saluting Officer:

Department Name:

Contact Person:

Department Mailing Address:

Department Phone:

Department Email:

We will ☐ will not ☐ bring a marching band

We will ☐ will not ☐ bring apparatus

Our Ladies Unit will ☐ will not ☐ be marching

Our Junior/RAM Unit will ☐ will not ☐ be marching

We will ☐ will not ☐ be bringing antique apparatus

Mail Completed forms by **September 1st, 2026** to:

Old Forge Fire School

PO Box 1170

Old Forge, NY 13420

If yes, please describe:

PETE DROMMS' PUSHBALL TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH,
2026

In order to play Pushball, your department **MUST** be registered for Fire School, attend classes, and march in the parade!
Bring your own turnout gear & helmet.

Please Select: ☐ Junior Pushball (4:30 PM) ☐ Adult Pushball (5:30 PM)

Department Name:

Contact Person:

Department Mailing Address:

Department Phone:

Department Email:

Mail Completed forms by **September 1st, 2026** to:

Old Forge Fire School

PO Box 1170 Old Forge, NY 13420

IN MEMORIAM SUBMISSION FORM

AS PART OF OUR ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE AT FIRE SCHOOL, WE HONOR THE MEMORY OF FIREFIGHTERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR. PLEASE PROVIDE THE NAMES OF ANY DEPARTMENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, AND AUGUST 31, 2026. IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PHOTO AS PART OF OUR PRESENTATION PLEASE SEND A .JPEG TO

PRESIDENT@OFFD.ORG

FIRE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

FIRE DEPARTMENT NAME: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Name	Rank/Title	Years of Service

(ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NEEDED.)

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2026**

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: OLD FORGE FIRE SCHOOL PO BOX 1170 OLD FORGE, NY 13420 . IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,

CONTACT PRESIDENT RICHARD MATHY VIA EMAIL: PRESIDENT@OFFD.ORG.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US HONOR THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF OUR FELLOW FIREFIGHTERS.



Old Forge Fire Department
P.O Box 1170
Old Forge, New York 13420
Phone: (315) 369-3424
Fax: (315) 369-6581
oldforgefd@gmail.com