

Terms and Conditions

These Terms and Conditions apply to the United Fire Brigades' Association (UFBA) Brigade of the Year 2026 campaign. By submitting a nomination, you agree to these Terms and Conditions.

1. About the campaign

Brigade of the Year 2026 is run by the United Fire Brigades' Association (UFBA) as part of International Volunteer Year 2026.

The campaign gives people across New Zealand an opportunity to recognise and celebrate volunteer fire brigades and share stories about the contribution they make to their communities.

2. Campaign dates

Nominations open on **Tuesday 11 August 2026** and close at **11.59pm on Sunday 11 October 2026**. Nominations received after the closing time may not be considered.

The UFBA intends to announce the winning brigade on **Sunday 25 October 2026 at the UFBA Conference Hui**. The UFBA may change these dates if circumstances outside its reasonable control make this necessary. Any significant changes will be communicated through UFBA's channels.

3. Who can make a nomination?

Anyone can nominate an eligible volunteer fire brigade. This includes members of the public, brigade members, friends and whānau of brigade members, businesses, schools, community organisations and other supporters. You may nominate a brigade you belong to.

There is no cost to enter, and no purchase is required.

There is no limit on the number of brigades a person may nominate, but a separate nomination must be submitted for each brigade.

4. Which brigades can be nominated?

The campaign is intended to recognise volunteer fire brigades in New Zealand. UFBA reserves the right to determine whether a nominated volunteer brigade is eligible for the campaign.

5. How to nominate a brigade

Nominations may recognise a brigade for any reason that demonstrates its contribution to its community. To make a nomination, complete the official Brigade of the Year 2026 nomination form before nominations close.

You will be asked to provide:

- the name and location of the brigade you are nominating;
- your name and contact details;
- a story of approximately 200 words explaining why the brigade is important to you or its community; and
- any other information requested on the nomination form.

You also have the option to provide photographs, video or other supporting material.

6. Multiple nominations

A brigade may receive nominations from multiple people. The number of nominations a brigade receives will not, by itself, determine the winning brigade. The campaign is about the quality and impact of the stories shared, rather than being a popularity contest.

Individuals may submit more than one nomination, including for the same brigade, provided each nomination is genuine.

UFBA may disregard duplicate, automated, fraudulent or deliberately misleading nominations.

7. Your nomination

By submitting a nomination, you confirm that:

- the information you provide is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge;
- your nomination is genuine;
- your nomination does not deliberately contain false, misleading, defamatory, offensive or unlawful material;
- you have the right to provide any photographs, videos or other material you submit; and
- where permission from another person is reasonably required to provide or use submitted material, you have obtained that permission.

Please be particularly careful when submitting photographs or videos featuring children or young people. You should only submit this material where you have the appropriate permission to do so.

The UFBA may remove or exclude a nomination or supporting material where it reasonably considers that these requirements have not been met.

8. How the UFBA may use your nomination

By submitting a nomination, you give UFBA permission to use, reproduce, publish and communicate your nomination and any supporting material for purposes connected with Brigade of the Year 2026, International Volunteer Year 2026, and UFBA's communications about volunteer fire brigades and their contribution to communities.

This may include use on:

- UFBA's website;
- social media;
- email communications;
- newsletters and publications;
- media releases and media activity;
- campaign materials; and
- future UFBA stories or communications celebrating volunteer brigades.

UFBA may edit a nomination for length, spelling, grammar, formatting or clarity while taking the upmost care not to materially change the meaning of the story.

You retain ownership of any original content you submit.

UFBA is not required to publish every nomination it receives.

Where practical and appropriate, UFBA may contact you before using your nomination for a significant standalone story, case study or media opportunity.

9. Personal information and privacy

UFBA will collect personal information from nominators as part of the campaign, including information such as your name, email address and other contact details you provide.

UFBA will use this information to administer Brigade of the Year 2026. This may include:

- managing and assessing nominations;
- contacting nominators if more information is required;
- contacting shortlisted or winning brigades;
- verifying information contained in a nomination;
- administering prizes;
- communicating about the campaign; and
- managing publicity relating to nominations and winners.

UFBA will handle personal information in accordance with applicable New Zealand privacy law and UFBA's Privacy Policy.

Your contact details will **not** be published as part of your nomination. You can contact UFBA if you would like to request access to or correction of personal information UFBA holds about you.

UFBA Privacy Policy: <https://www.ufba.org.nz/news/ufba-privacy-policy>

Privacy enquiries: UFBA Privacy Officer – privacy@ufba.org.nz

10. Selecting the winner

After nominations close, the UFBA will review the eligible nominations and create a shortlist. Shortlisted nominations will be considered by a judging panel appointed by the UFBA Chief Executive.

Nominations may be assessed against criteria including:

- community impact;
- contribution beyond emergency response;
- strength of the nomination and story;
- alignment with the campaign purpose; and
- evidence and examples provided.

The number of nominations received for a particular brigade does not automatically give that brigade an advantage.

Judging is based on the nominations and information available to the judging panel. The judging panel's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the outcome, except where UFBA considers it appropriate to do so.

There are three winning categories: Small, Medium and Large Brigade of the Year

11. The prize

The winning brigades will receive national recognition as part of the International Volunteer Year 2026 and a trophy along with fuel and/or grocery vouchers to support the brigade and its members.

The prize is awarded to the brigade, not to the individual who submitted the nomination.

Unless the UFBA agrees otherwise, the prize cannot be exchanged for cash.

Any costs associated with using or receiving the prizes that are not expressly included in the prize description are the responsibility of the winning brigades.

12. Contacting the winning brigades

The UFBA will contact the winning brigades using appropriate brigade contact information held by the UFBA. If the UFBA cannot contact a winning brigade within a reasonable period, or the brigade is unable or unwilling to accept the prize, the judging panel may select another winning brigade for that category.

The UFBA may also contact the person or people who nominated the brigade where this would help tell the campaign story or arrange publicity.

The winning brigades may be asked to participate in reasonable campaign publicity, such as photographs, video, interviews or a prize presentation. The UFBA will work with the brigade to arrange this.

13. Publicity

The name of the winning brigades will be publicly announced through the UFBA's communications channels and may be provided to media. The UFBA may also publicly recognise shortlisted brigades and other nominated brigades or share extracts from their nomination stories.

The UFBA may contact nominators or brigades before publishing additional information where appropriate.

14. Changes or cancellation

UFBA will make reasonable efforts to run the campaign as described. However, if circumstances outside the UFBA's reasonable control affect the fair or safe operation of the campaign, the UFBA may modify, suspend, postpone or cancel the campaign. The UFBA will communicate any significant changes through appropriate UFBA channels.

15. Social media

Brigade of the Year 2026 may be promoted through Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms. The campaign is administered by UFBA and is not sponsored, endorsed, administered by or associated with Facebook, Instagram, Meta or any other social media platform used to promote it.

Any questions about the campaign should be directed to UFBA – connect@ufba.org.nz

16. General

The UFBA may verify information contained in a nomination where it considers this necessary to protect the integrity of the campaign.

The UFBA may exclude any nomination that does not comply with these Terms and Conditions or where UFBA reasonably believes there has been fraud, manipulation, inappropriate conduct or an attempt to unfairly influence the campaign.

17. Contact

For questions about Brigade of the Year 2026, please contact:

United Fire Brigades' Association

Email: connect@ufba.org.nz

Website: www.ufba.org.nz

Last updated: 11 August 2026