



## ***FIRE HOGS M/C*** **CHAPTER REQUEST**

The FIRE HOGS MOTORCYCLE CLUB is accepting applications for National Chapter formation. There are some restrictions and qualifications to join. Read our mission statement and review our Club charter and bylaws. If, after reading about our Club, you qualify and want to be part of our organization, contact a National or LAFD Chapter Board member [via our Web Site for contact information.](#) WWW.firehogs.org

**QUALIFICATION SUMMARY**– applicants must be an active or retired full-time professional firefighter in good standing.

Volunteer, seasonal and part-time firefighters do not qualify. Some privately employed firefighters may qualify. The National Board will review on a case-by-case basis.

**APPLICATION SUMMARY** - Review the Club’s Mission Statement, Bylaws and Charter to determine if you wish to participate. Get together with other department members and:

- Have 5 qualified members who want to join. Smaller Departments are encouraged to reach out to surrounding Departments to combine membership for their Chapter.
- Contact ANY Board Member for further assistance. That Board Member will answer questions and provide further instruction.
- Submit an application. Include Bottom Rocker I.D. suggestion(s).

**APPLICATION APPROVAL** – Once your application is approved, your Club’s establishing Officers will be issued Colors (5-sets max). The remaining members will receive their colors in 12-months (prospect protocol). ***NOTE: Only those establishing Board members listed on the initial application will receive full patches-----all future members will participate in prospect protocol. The above does not apply to Clubs “Patching over”.*** During the next few months, your Chapter will draft your Chapter Charter for approval by the National Board, using the National Chapter Charter and LAFD Chapter Charter as templates. This process is meant to give format and verbiage flexibility. You may also increase or tighten requirements, but you may not change the core content. UPON approval, but no sooner than 6-months, your Chapter will be presented its Charter. It is now your Chapter; you have full membership and a voice on the National Board.

The FIRE HOGS M/C – LAFD CHAPTER, previously known as LAFD FIRE HOGS, was formally founded in 1991 under the principle of riding motorcycles and helping others. We are looking forward to expanding Club membership and increasing our contributions in helping our fellow firefighters and their families in need.

### **FOUNDING PRINCIPLE:**

The ***FIRE HOGS M/C*** takes great pride in its efforts to support various charitable organizations as well as other Clubs and events, as such the ***FIRE HOGS M/C*** is a Family (Neutral) Club, which claims no territory, and who ride in respect of all other Clubs. We are a non-profit organization, who’s goal it is to host and participate in multiple events each year to raise funds to benefit those in need.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION –

The FIRE HOGS M/C and Club colors are trademarked and owned by FIRE HOGS M/C – LAFD. **Colors and rocker will ONLY be purchased from the LAFD Mother Chapter to ensure consistency.** The cost will depend on current manufacturing, shipping and handling expenses. Colors and rocker shall be the only patch or marking visible when the vest is viewed from behind. There will also be an annual dues paid to the National Board to cover clerical costs. It is not the intent, nor is it acceptable for the Mother Chapter to profit from your membership. This fee will rise and fall depending on actual expenses. At the time of this posting, the National Chapter annual per-member fee is \$5.00, due each January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Each Chapter is free to, and encouraged to create Club merchandise for sale and organize rides to benefit your charity of choice. Each Chapter shall operate in a not-for-profit manner, with profit-money collected from events and/or sales to be donated to charities of that Chapter's choice and to maintain a reasonable Club expense account to fund future events and handle Chapter administrative costs. No member shall financially benefit from the sale of merchandise or from monies collected from benefit rides or events. ALL benefit rides and events will be posted on **firehogs.org** and your website (if applicable), so that other Chapters receive notification and have the opportunity to attend.

The FIRE HOGS MOTORCYCLE CLUB – LAFD CHAPTER operates as an IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization. Therefore, we must insist that all chapters operate within certain rules, so as to not jeopardize our IRS tax exempt status. Our Bylaws are available for reference on the website. Two major examples you must follow are:

1. Do not provide outsiders or insiders with benefits (i.e. no enriching yourselves)
2. Do not engage in political activity or extensive lobbying.

We encourage your chapter to pursue your own IRS 501(c)(3) status. There are many financial benefits in doing so. ***EACH CHAPTER IS RESPONSIBLE TO FOLLOW FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS. In order for an individual chapter to become a tax-exempt organization, they must fill out proper applications to the IRS.***

*Any Chapter member who knowingly engages in Club activities for personal financial gain will be TERMINATED and required to turn in all FIRE HOG colors, patches, emblems and anything else that was obtained from the Mother Club. The members involved will be banned for life. Additionally, the Chapter may be dissolved; all money in the treasury will be donated to charity. Each Chapter Board is responsible for membership conduct as it applies to Bylaws and Charter, and shall immediately notify the National Board President when they become aware of a violation. Failure to do so may result in suspension or fine of the chapter. Any fine delivered by the IRS to the LAFD chapter as a result of illegal actions of another chapter will be imposed upon that guilty chapter.*

***When we don our COLORS, we identify ourselves as 'off-duty' Fire Department members. Patches, pins, or insignia displayed on the vest should represent pride in yourself, your family, your country, your occupation, and your brotherhood.***

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<sup>i</sup> FIRE HOGS and their logo (R) are trademarks owned by FIRE HOGS M/C LAFD, registered in the USA. All logos and designs of FIRE HOGS are trademark-protected (TM) and protected according to international law. Copying and other use is not allowed.