

# Ohio Community Emergency Response Team Volunteer Recognition Program

The Ohio Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Volunteer Recognition Program is established to honor individuals who have demonstrated particular dedication and commitment through consistent volunteer efforts to their local CERT Program.

CERT Recognition Awards will be presented in the following categories:

Submissions accepted once per year with the Ohio Citizen Corps 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report.

- Exceptional Volunteerism Award
- Exceptional Leadership Award
- Volunteer Responder Award

Submissions accepted with any Ohio Citizen Corps Quarterly Report

- Volunteer Service Hours Award
- CERT Dedicated Partner Award

To participate in the CERT Volunteer Recognition Program, the sponsoring CERT Program and CERT Volunteer must meet the following requirements.

1. The CERT Program must be registered on the National CERT Registry and submit quarterly programmatic reports to Ohio EMA either through their local Citizen Corps Council or individually.
2. The volunteer must have completed the 20 hr. Basic CERT Course or have instructed an entire CERT Course.\*

\* Recipients of the Ohio CERT Dedicated Partner Award do not need to meet this requirement.

## **Exceptional Volunteerism Award**

The Exceptional Volunteerism Award is earned by CERT a volunteer that distinguishes themselves through volunteerism and dedication to the local CERT Program and/or Community Preparedness. This recognition is awarded once per year to an individual or group of CERT volunteers that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the CERT Program and/or Community Preparedness throughout the year.

CERT volunteers with a minimum of **1 year of volunteer service** with the CERT Program are eligible to receive this award. CERT Programs may submit a maximum of 2 individuals or 1

group for this award annually. The submission of a volunteer or a group of volunteers for this award should have met one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrated exceptional commitment to the CERT Program.
- Successfully completed a special project or demonstrated exceptional volunteerism.
- Made an outstanding volunteer contribution to the CERT Program or community.

Recipients of this award will receive a certificate and a CERT Challenge Coin from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

### **Submission Information**

The CERT Sponsoring Organization Point of Contact or CERT Program Manager may submit completed forms to Ohio Emergency Management Agency at Attention CERT, 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235 or electronically to [ohiocitizencorps@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:ohiocitizencorps@dps.state.oh.us). Submissions will be accepted once per year with the Ohio Citizen Corps 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report which is generally due January 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Exceptional Leadership Award**

The Exceptional Leadership Award is earned by CERT leaders that distinguish themselves through leadership and dedication to the local CERT Program and/or Community Preparedness. This recognition is awarded once per year to a sponsoring Organizations Point of Contact, CERT Program Manager, or CERT Team Leader that has demonstrated exceptional leadership for the CERT Program and/or Community Preparedness throughout the year.

CERT Leaders with a minimum of **1 year of volunteer service** with the CERT Program are eligible to receive this award. The Sponsoring Organization Point of Contact, CERT Program Manager, CERT volunteer, or any individual that has witnessed exceptional leadership and dedication may submit a maximum of 1 individual for this award annually. The submission of a CERT Leader for this award should have met one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to the CERT Program.
- Developed and/or lead a successful special project or demonstrated exceptional group leadership.
- Made an outstanding contribution to the CERT Program or community through volunteer leadership service.

Recipients of this award will receive a certificate and a CERT Challenge Coin from the Ohio CERT Program Office.

### **Submission Information**

The CERT Sponsoring Organization Point of Contact or CERT Program Manager may submit completed forms to Ohio Emergency Management Agency at Attention CERT, 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235 or electronically to [ohiocitizencorps@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:ohiocitizencorps@dps.state.oh.us).

Submissions will be accepted once per year with the Ohio Citizen Corps 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report which is generally due January 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Volunteer Responder Award**

The Volunteer Responder Award is earned by CERT volunteers that have dedicated their time and resources during an emergency or disaster event. The importance of volunteer assistance during an emergency or disaster is imperative as first responders across the country have accepted more and more responsibilities. CERT volunteers have become an important part of the whole community approach to recovering from an emergency or disaster.

This award is open to any CERT volunteer that has responded to one or more emergencies or disasters during the calendar year.

Recipients of this award will receive a certificate from the Ohio CERT Program Office.

### **Submission Information**

The CERT Sponsoring Organization Point of Contact or CERT Program Manager may submit completed forms to Ohio Emergency Management Agency at Attention CERT, 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235 or electronically to [ohiocitizencorps@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:ohiocitizencorps@dps.state.oh.us). Submissions will be accepted once per year with the Ohio Citizen Corps 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report which is generally due January 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Volunteer Service Hours Awards**

The Volunteer Service Hours Awards are earned by CERT volunteers based on the hours of service they have dedicated to their community and local CERT program and will be awarded once per year based on a calendar year. Volunteer service hours must fall into one, or more, of the following categories to be eligible towards this award category:

- **Community Events** – Documented hours to assist with a community event. Community events can include but are not limited to: Traffic control during a non-emergency event (bike race, marathon, etc.); Public Education (event booth, public speaking, etc.); Volunteer Recruitment (event booth, door to door, etc.)
- **Trainings** – Documented hours participating in classroom or hands-on training. **(Please note, the hours obtained while taking the 20 hour basic CERT course are not eligible towards the total number of volunteer hours as it is a pre-requisite to be eligible for this award)**
- **Exercises** – Documented hours participating in any exercise to include: Drills; Table-top; Functional; or, Full-scale.
- **Meetings** – Documented hours participating in business or planning meetings.
- **Emergency Responses** – Documented volunteer hours to a call of assistance during an emergency or disaster.

CERT volunteers obtaining **100 hours** of volunteer service will receive a certificate from the Ohio CERT Program Office acknowledging their volunteer service and dedication while CERT volunteers obtaining **250 hours** of volunteer service will receive a certificate and an Ohio CERT Challenge Coin. (This is cumulative hours achieved during the lifetime of volunteer service)

### **Submission Information**

The CERT Sponsoring Organization Point of Contact or CERT Program Manager may submit completed forms to Ohio Emergency Management Agency at Attention CERT, 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235 or electronically to [ohiocitizencorps@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:ohiocitizencorps@dps.state.oh.us). Submissions will be accepted each quarter with the submission of the Ohio Citizen Corps Quarterly Report.

## **CERT Dedicated Partner Award**

The CERT Dedicated Partner Award is to recognize partners of local CERT programs for their invaluable support of the CERT program. With strong partnerships from both private and public entities the CERT program can continue to grow and provide better service for their local jurisdiction and it is important to recognize those efforts. This award will assist local programs by letting their supporters know that their support of local volunteer programs is recognized and appreciated.

This award is open to any individual, private business, organization, or public agency that has shown outstanding support for the local CERT program as determined by the local sponsoring organization or CERT Program Manager.

Recipients of this award will receive a certificate from the Ohio CERT Program Office.

### **Submission Information**

The CERT Sponsoring Organization Point of Contact or CERT Program Manager may submit completed forms to Ohio Emergency Management Agency at Attention CERT, 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235 or electronically to [ohiocitizencorps@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:ohiocitizencorps@dps.state.oh.us). Submissions will be accepted each quarter with the submission of the Ohio Citizen Corps Quarterly Report.