



## **Ohio Community Emergency Response Team Volunteer Recognition Awards Program**

The Ohio Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Volunteer Recognition Awards Program has been established to recognize CERT volunteers that have dedicated additional time and demonstrated significant commitment through consistent volunteer efforts to their local CERT Program

There are four individual awards (Exceptional Volunteerism Award, Exceptional Leadership Award, Volunteer Responder Award, and Volunteer Service Hours Award) open to CERT volunteers, and one award (CERT Dedicated Partner Award) open to individuals, private businesses, organizations, or public agencies. Those meeting the criteria set will receive a certificate from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

Those that meet the requirements for the Exceptional Volunteerism Award, Exceptional Leadership Award, or Volunteer Service Hours Award (in excess of 250-hours in a single calendar year) will receive a certificate from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and an Ohio CERT challenge coin.

The CERT Volunteer Recognition Awards Program application must be processed through the CERT Program the volunteer is affiliated with and sent to the State Coordinator with appropriate documentation for verification and award issuance.

To participate in the CERT Volunteer Recognition Awards Program, the sponsoring CERT Program and CERT volunteer must meet the following requirements:

1. The CERT Program must be registered on the Ready.gov website and with the State Coordinator
  - a. All contact and program information must be current and up-to-date with the State Coordinator
2. The volunteer must have completed the CERT Basic Course (20-hour minimum) or have instructed all units for an entire CERT Basic Course\*
  - a. \* Recipients of the CERT Dedicated Partner Award do not need to meet this requirement

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### **Exceptional Volunteerism Award**

The Exceptional Volunteerism Award can be earned by a CERT volunteer that distinguishes themselves through volunteerism and dedication to a local CERT Program and/or community preparedness initiative within an emergency management program. Awardees will receive a certificate and challenge coin.

This recognition is open to active CERT volunteers with a minimum of 1-year of volunteer service within their CERT Program.

The nominated volunteer must meet 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 and/or community
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### **Exceptional Leadership Award**

The Exceptional Leadership Award can be earned by a CERT leader that distinguishes themselves through leadership and dedication to a local CERT Program and/or community preparedness initiative within an emergency management program. Awardees will receive a certificate and challenge coin.

This recognition is open to active CERT Leadership (Sponsoring Organization's Point of Contact, CERT Program Manager, CERT Team Leader, or CERT volunteer) with a minimum of 1-year of volunteer service within their CERT Program.

The nominated volunteer must meet 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 and/or community
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### **Volunteer Responder Award**

The Volunteer Responder Award can be earned by CERT volunteers that have responded to an actual disaster or emergency during the calendar year. The contributions of volunteers, whether it's their time and/or skill, are integral to the Whole Community approach to emergency management.

This recognition is open to any CERT volunteer that has responded to at least one disaster or emergency in the calendar year.

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### **Volunteer Service Hours Award**

The Volunteer Service Hours Award can be earned by CERT volunteers that have contributed significant hours towards the CERT Program during the calendar year.

This recognition is open to any CERT volunteer and can only be awarded once each calendar year.

The following categories of activities count towards the Volunteer Service Hours Award:

- Community Events ~ documented hours to assist with a community event. Community events include, but are not limited to: traffic control during a non-emergency event (ex.: bike or foot race, festival, fair, or parade), public education (staffing an event booth, speaking as part of an outreach effort, etc.), and/or volunteer recruitment.
- Training ~ documented hours participating in classroom or hands-on, in-person, training. Hours taken to obtain the CERT Basic Training are not eligible for this award.
- Exercises ~ documented hours participating in exercises, including: drills, table top exercises, functional exercises, or full-scale exercises.

- Meetings ~ documented hours participating in CERT business or planning meetings.
- Emergency Response ~ documented volunteer hours for an activation to provide assistance during an emergency or disaster.

Volunteers with 100-hours or more in a single calendar year will receive a certificate. Volunteers with 250-hours or more in a single calendar year will receive a certificate and a challenge coin\*.

- \* The challenge coin will only be issued for the first instance of achieving the 250-hours in a single calendar year. All subsequent instances will receive a certificate only.

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### **CERT Dedicated Partner Award**

The Volunteer Responder Award can be earned by any individual, private business, public or private organization that has shown outstanding support for their local CERT Program, as determined by the local program sponsor. As strong partnerships allow the CERT Program to continue to grow and provide better service for their local jurisdiction, it is important to recognize these partners. This award allows local programs to recognize their supporters and show appreciation for their support of the CERT Program.

This recognition is open to any individual, private business, public or private organization that has shown outstanding support for their local CERT Program.

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#### **Submission Information:**

The CERT Sponsoring Organization Point of Contact or local CERT Program Manager may mail the completed forms and the supporting documentation (copies of certificates) to:

Ohio Emergency Management Agency | State CERT / Citizen Corps Coordinator  
2855 West Dublin-Granville Road | Columbus, OH 43235

Or call Ohio EMA at 614.889.7150 for email of current State CERT Coordinator