



UNC Greensboro Police Department

Departmental Awards

General Order 1-3.6

Introduction

The Departmental Awards Program is designed to honor particularly meritorious service and conduct performed by members of the department.

The command staff will be responsible for the fiscal, logistical, and administrative aspects of the program, as well as acting as staff support of the Meritorious Conduct Board.

Nominations may be submitted by any member of the department. They should be forwarded with the proper documentation to the command staff for review. Nominations must be submitted within twelve months of the event. All awards will be presented at an appropriate time, as determined by the Chief of Police.

Meritorious Conduct Board

The purpose of the Meritorious Conduct Board is to review cases involving meritorious service and to make recommendations to the Chief of Police for proper recognition of exceptional acts performed by eligible people.

Duties of the Meritorious Conduct Board will be as follows:

- Receive all recommendations for awards, except in cases where the specific award is granted automatically.
- Convene as needed, during the regular command staff meetings, to review details of recommendations submitted.
- Through a review process, approve or disapprove recommendations for awards and, if merited, determine the type of award to be given.
- If necessary, the Board shall conduct inquiries to verify facts or develop additional information in a case.

Awards for Heroism

Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is to be awarded to one who voluntarily and conspicuously distinguishes themselves by gallantry and extraordinary heroism. The act must be in excess of normal demands and of such a nature that the person was fully aware of the imminent threat to their personal safety and acted above and beyond the call of duty at the risk of their life.

Medal of Valor

This award ranks next in prominence to the Medal of Honor. It is awarded to one for exceptional bravery at imminent risk of serious bodily injury, the recipient demonstrating exceptional courage by performing a voluntary action in an extremely dangerous situation.

Awards for Service

Meritorious Service Bar

The Meritorious Service Bar is to be awarded to one for meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility. This service must show such excellence of performance that it distinguishes the individual and the department.

Commendation Bar

This award ranks next in prominence to the Meritorious Conduct Bar. It is to be awarded to one for outstanding performance through the success of difficult police operations, projects, programs, or situations requiring exceptional dedication.

Certificate of Merit

This award ranks next in prominence to the Commendation Bar. It is to be awarded to one for excellence in police work. It should be exceptional performance of duty over a period of time under unusual, complicated or hazardous conditions. Such performance is to be clearly defined as exceptional, placing a person well above others of equal rank or grade. This award may not be given in conjunction with another award for the same service or deed.

Citizen's Merit Award

The Citizen's Merit Award is presented to members of the community for providing material assistance to the police department in solving crimes, apprehending criminals, recovering property, or otherwise assisting the department in fulfilling its mission.

Special Awards

Purple Heart

The Purple Heart is to be awarded to one who is seriously injured in the performance of duty under honorable conditions due to assaults, fires, explosions, or other overt actions. Serious injury is defined as "any injury resulting from a life-threatening situation which requires substantial medical treatment." The Purple Heart will be awarded for one who has lost their life in the performance of duty under honorable circumstances. The Purple Heart may be awarded in addition to any other award the recipient may be entitled to because of their actions.

Lifesaving Medal

This medal is to be awarded to one who is directly responsible for the saving of a human life or the substantial prolonging of a human life. The substantial term should imply an extended period

of days or weeks. Documentation of supporting evidence must be included to substantiate the award, such as statements from witnesses, physicians or supervisors.

Marksmanship Award

Pistol Master Award

This award is to be given to any sworn police officer that demonstrates proficiency by shooting an average score of 98 or better with their primary issued service weapon and patrol rifle on both the day and night qualifying courses.

Pistol Expert Award

This award is to be given to any sworn police officer that demonstrates proficiency by shooting an average score of 95 or better with their primary issued service weapon and patrol rifle on both the day and night qualifying courses.

Awards for Recognition or Achievement from Outside Agencies

Any award of recognition or achievement presented to any individual member of the department or to the department as a whole from an outside agency or organization, wherein the award is indicated by a medal, bar, insignia, or other designation, may be authorized for wear at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

Departmental Awards for Recognition or Achievement

“Forever Young” Award

The Sergeant Jaime Young "Forever Young" Excellence in Public Safety Award is created to honor the legacy of Sergeant Jaime Young, whose career was defined by unwavering dedication, courageous service, and a deep commitment to uplifting others. This is awarded annually to a UNCGPD sworn law enforcement officer and presented at the annual departmental banquet.

Nominees for this recognition should demonstrate outstanding contributions that advance the department’s mission and clearly align with the goals outlined in the departmental strategic plan. This includes initiatives that measurably improve campus safety and security, strengthen emergency preparedness, and enhance the overall well-being of students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Strong candidates will also foster meaningful community engagement by building trust, supporting outreach programs, and strengthening partnerships across campus. In addition, they should contribute to operational efficiency through innovation, problem solving, and effective use of resources, while exemplifying professionalism, accountability, and a commitment to continuous development. Overall, the honoree will be an individual(s) whose efforts reflect leadership, initiative, and a sustained positive impact on both the department and the campus community. They demonstrate clear alignment with, and advancement of, strategic priorities.

Employee of the Year Award

This award is presented to non-sworn employees for outstanding service and activities to their department, community and profession. The awards are presented at the annual departmental banquet. Selection criteria include:

- Teamwork and Community Outreach – Employee excels in deliberate and effective communication with the community. Seeks opportunities to educate, inform and exchange ideas with the community about department programs and priorities. Demonstrates intra and inter-divisional cooperation within the department; willing to pitch in and assist others; keeping others informed and up to date; gives specific and helpful feedback to improve job performance; shares their own work experiences and helpful information to help accomplish agency mission.
- Excellence and Innovation – Employee demonstrates the willingness to go beyond the call of duty by doing more than others expect. Continually seeks to improve efficiency on the job. Has identified means to increase constituent satisfaction and cost-savings for the department. Has taken steps to achieve implementation.
- Attitude and Leadership – Employee portrays a contagious, positive perspective to fellow workers and the community in everything they say, do, write and produce. Take personal responsibility for meeting commitments and solving problems. Demonstrates standards of excellence and professionalism; exemplifies standards and conduct that reflect honesty and fairness; sets the example for others through their behavior.

Advanced Certification Bar

The Advanced Certification Award is presented by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission. The department will recognize this achievement with the presentation of the corresponding black, red, and white pin. No other levels of certification will warrant the presentation of a uniform bar.

Special Proficiency Ribbons

The following ribbons will be awarded after successful completion of the following skills and /or certifications:

- Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate
- FBI National Academy
- Crisis Intervention Training
- General Instructor
- Bicycle Officer
- Drug Recognition Expert
- Canine Handler
- Police Training Officer/Supervisor
- SWAT Training
- Firearms Master
- Firearms Expert
- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree
- Doctorate Degree

Other ribbons may be considered at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

Wearing Medals and Bars

The medal presented will be worn only at the time of presentation. The Chief may authorize wearing of the medal at other times.

Officers will only wear ribbons awarded when appearing in the class "A" uniform.

Order of Precedence

The order of precedence for wearing ribbons/badges/awards is as follows:

- Individual ribbons will be worn above the name tag.
- When facing the wearer, the ribbons will be worn from left to right as if reading a book.
- The highest awarded ribbon will be worn on top starting on the left.

A copy of all awards and commendations will be submitted to the Training and Development Unit to be stored in the employee's personnel file.