

Updated January 2017

Durham Police Department Service Awards (General Order 2018)



Medal of Valor is the highest recognition given by the department. Any member, sworn or non sworn, may be nominated for the award. The Medal of Valor may be granted to members who distinguish themselves by gallantry and bravery in an attempt to preserve life or property at a clear risk of personal safety. The act must be so conspicuous that it clearly distinguishes the member as one who acted far beyond the call of duty. The award may be presented posthumously to the member's family.



Distinguished Service Medal is presented by the department to member(s), sworn or non sworn, who apprehend or cause to be apprehended a dangerous person(s) at grave and/or imminent danger to the member(s); or to member(s) who perform an act that warrants such recognition.

Police Medal is presented by the department to community members who apprehend or cause to be apprehended a dangerous person(s) at grave and/or imminent danger to themselves; or to community members who perform an act that warrants such recognition.

Certificate of Merit is presented to members, sworn or non sworn, for outstanding performance or devotion to duty, possibly involving personal safety. External nominations from the public/community are also accepted for this award.

Community Service Medal is presented to members, sworn and non sworn, as well as non-employees (such as residents, community groups, civic organizations or programs) for service to the community above and beyond the call of duty that promotes public safety. External nominations from the public/community are also accepted for this award.



Purple Heart is presented by the department to an officer who sustains a serious injury while in the performance of duty.

Officer of the Year medal is presented by the department to an officer for outstanding performance throughout the year. Each Chief (Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, Chief of Police) can nominate a member under their command.

Civilian Employee of the Year medal is presented by the department to any non-sworn employee of the department for exceptional performance throughout the year. Each Chief (Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, Chief of Police) can nominate a member under their command.

