



2024 Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Sergeant Dave Adams
From: Kevin Hall, Chief of Police
Date: October 23, 2024
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Officer Corey Lyons recently nominated you for the Medal of Merit Award. The Medal of Merit is awarded to members of the department who distinguish themselves by meritorious achievement or meritorious service. The meritorious actions must clearly surpass that which is normally required or expected. This service or achievement need not be unique but must be exceptional and superior. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition. Ofc. Lyons nomination included:

"Sgt. Adams served as the Assistant Commander for the Spokane Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) since July 2019. He positively impacted hundreds of students and instructors during his tenure, as well as made strides in improving the relationship between the Spokane Police Department and the Washington Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC)."

Sgt. Adams took the helm of the Assistant Commander and successfully learned to "fly the plane while building it." He believed in using every interaction with students, instructors, and agency representatives as an opportunity to build relationships. His compassion and humor drew many visitors to his office throughout the day. He took great pride in watching recruits learn and grow into police officers; they are his motivation.

Sgt. Adams had to navigate many difficulties over the past five years, not the least of which was COVID. Not only did he and his team adapt and overcome the obstacles that came with COVID, they were able to keep the Academy open and graduate the recruits. Sgt. Adams also volunteered to travel to Burien to teach at WSCJTC when they did not have enough instructors. WSCJTC had gone through many changes in the past five years; Sgt. Adams worked under 6 different Commanders and was nimble in adapting to quickly changing directives. Sgt. Adams worked with TAC staff to erect a Law Enforcement Memorial and instilled a process in which each BLEA class moving forward will improve the memorial in some way. In January of 2022, Sgt. Adams began work on moving from 2 classes a year to 3, which took creativity, recruiting, and diplomacy. In 2023, the Spokane NE Academy successfully ran 3 classes and is scheduled to do so for the foreseeable future.

Sgt. Adams was the Assistant Commander for 11 sessions of BLEA, having a direct positive impact on 330 recruits and their careers. Many of the recruits check in with Sgt. Adams and share their successes with him as a thank you for everything he has done.

The Spokane NE BLEA is known as the leader in recruit training across the state, and many agencies wait until their recruits can attend in Spokane. This is due in no small part to the efforts of Sgt. Adams to build relationships, acquire quality instructors, and maintain high instruction standards. Spokane BLEA is a better training organization because of Sgt. Adams."

Sgt. Adams, I am proud to present you with the Medal of Merit Award. You will be awarded the Medal of Merit during the annual Employee Awards Ceremony in March 2025 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hall, Chief of Police