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## OHIO SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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6277 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, #2N • DUBLIN, OH 43017-5067

Dear SRO Members:

On behalf of the OSROA Board of Directors I am pleased to inform you of the Ohio School Resource Officers Association's ***SRO Accreditation Program***. The OSROA Board of Directors and Membership identified the need for a program of recognition/accreditation for SROs which would lend credit for their years of service in the SRO field, recognize the school based law enforcement training received at OSROA Annual Conferences and honor the years of dedication to and membership in the Ohio School Resource Officers Association.

Some SROs are in and out of the school after a year or two while others spend most of their career in the school-based policing field. Most police departments and sheriff's offices do not have accreditation or recognition for years of service/longevity in this field.

In 2013 I worked with Ohio Attorney General DeWine's office in a Working Group titled *Drug Abuse Resistance Education School Based Policing*. One of the recommendations that came from this Working Group was the need to recognize school based law enforcement (both D.A.R.E. and School Resource Officers) for their years of service/accomplishments. This recognition could create more of a career ladder for SROs and D.A.R.E. Officers and could assist in promoting and recognizing the fact that school based law enforcement positions are very important within the police department or sheriff's office ranks. D.A.R.E. Officers currently have a recognition program. Information can be found on the Ohio D.A.R.E. website [www.dare-oh.org](http://www.dare-oh.org)

There are three accreditation levels in the ***OSROA SRO Accreditation Program***. Each level is accompanied with a certificate, a two-pronged/rubber clutched lapel pin (pin is different for each level) and recognition at the Annual State Conference:

- The **Certified SRO** level is for the SRO who is a certified law enforcement officer, has completed SRO Basic Training through OSROA and is a current member of OSROA. All SROs who have completed SRO Basic Training have obtained this level. SROs completing the SRO Basic Training in October 2014 or after have received the Certified SRO level pin (date of the start of the program).
- The **Professional SRO** level recognizes the SRO who has met all of the Certified SRO requirements PLUS four or more years of verifiable cumulative SRO duty, attendance at two of four OSROA Annual Conferences during the four years as SRO, at least two years of paid membership in OSROA during the four years as SRO and signatures from his/her chief/sheriff and principal verifying the four years of SRO duty.
- The **Master SRO** level recognizes the SRO who has met all of the Certified SRO requirements PLUS seven years or more of verifiable cumulative SRO duty, attendance at four of seven OSROA Annual Conferences during the seven years as SRO, at least four years of paid membership in OSROA during the seven years as SRO and signatures from his/her chief/sheriff and principal verifying the seven years of SRO duty.

Please complete the ***OSROA SRO Accreditation Program*** application (attached) and return to the OSROA office by fax, US Mail or email ([osroa@osroa.org](mailto:osroa@osroa.org)) where all criteria and information will be verified by the OSROA Membership Programs Director. After verification a letter of

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congratulations/approval will be sent to the SRO and a letter of commendation/congratulations will be sent to the SROs chief/sheriff and school principal. The **SRO Accreditation Program** certificate and pin recognizing the Professional and Master accreditation levels will be awarded at the 2016 OSROA Annual Conference (June 26, 27, 28, 2016). Any awardees who cannot attend the Conference will be mailed their pin and certificate after the Conference. The Certified level awardees receive their pin and certificate at the conclusion of their SRO Basic Training class.

We look forward to receiving your **SRO Accreditation Program** application soon!

Thank you,

Kari Parsons, MBA  
Executive Director