



Fire and Rescue  
6840 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87107  
Office: (505) 468-1310  
Fax: (505) 468-9747  
[fire/resc@bernco.gov](mailto:fire/resc@bernco.gov)  
[www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov)

Dear Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of New Mexico,

Last year Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue (BCFR) alongside the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) endured one of its greatest tragedies when we lost four of our bravest aboard METRO 2 when it crashed while returning from fighting a wildland fire in northern New Mexico. An event like this has the power to shake the entire community and the entire state to its core. Their loss reminds us of the risk every police officer and firefighter willingly take on when they don the uniform. We will never forget their bravery and sacrifice. In the weeks following, our organizations brought together volunteers from within our ranks to form an Honor Guard. This ceremonial time-honored tradition of the Honor Guard is to plan, organize, and present honors at funeral and memorial services for department members. The sole purpose of such an honored detail is to lay our fallen to eternal rest with dignity, honor, and respect in hopes that the families left behind in the wake of tragedy are provided a level of comfort at their greatest time of grief.

During our best efforts to provide an Honor Guard for our fallen, we realized we have room for improvement. We believe that we can better prepare and better equip ourselves to handle such an event with greater support. While we pray that we will never again be in the position to use our skill set, we know that this calling is dangerous and that we must be organized for this solemn duty. To this end, we plan to focus our team's efforts on a nationally accredited standard of training for Honor Guards across the country.

We are proud to announce that in August of 2023, Bernalillo County Fire Rescue will host the National Honor Guard Academy. The NHGA is a unique training opportunity that carefully blends classroom and practical training into a comprehensive 45-hour course for all Public Safety agencies to lay the foundation and elevate their ceremonial knowledge. The intense week culminates with a complete mock funeral to include planning and conducting events at a funeral home, church and cemetery. Students are evaluated on their command and coordination as well as their drill and ceremonial knowledge and execution. A formal graduation ceremony marks the end of the week in which families, department members, and sponsors are encouraged to attend. This is invaluable training we hope to never have to use, but upon necessity, this training will provide us the skillset to deliver with the highest honors.

To make this opportunity a reality, we are seeking local partners in the Albuquerque area who share the same reverence for line of duty deaths and wish to support fire and law enforcement agencies across the state in setting the foundation for an Honor Guard Program. We've invited all agencies across New Mexico and have extended the invitation at the national level as well. We are expecting 65-75 students from across the country in Albuquerque August 13<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>. You and your organization can partner with Fire and Law enforcement agencies all over the state to bring this elite training to Albuquerque.

To show our gratitude for your partnership, we will acknowledge your organization for your generosity on graduation day. You'll have the opportunity to meet the students and hear from them the importance this training has to their mission and organization. Additionally, there will be a designated sponsor booth area at the graduation for you to set up any sort of marketing media so that you may highlight your organization, mission, and your support first responders in your community.

Donations of any size are welcome; every amount helps provide venue space, lodging, and meals for the participants. A suggested \$1000 donation will provide you with a designated booth at graduation and you'll be acknowledged during the ceremony and in the program. A \$2000 donation covers the meals for a single day of the training for all participants. If you graciously provide this donation, we will place table tents during student meal service printed with your company's logo in addition to the designated booth at graduation and program acknowledgement. For a donation of \$3000 or more, reserve seating at the graduation for you as an honored guest will be added.

Checks can be made out to Bernalillo County Fire Rescue and either mailed or delivered to:  
6840 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87107  
ATTN: Christina Baca

All donations are tax deductible as charitable donations and a receipt for your records will be provided upon request.

We are excited about the opportunity to partner with you and your business in such a profound way. This training will be instrumental in ensuring that any first responder LODD in the state of New Mexico will be honored with the highest level of professionalism, dignity, and respect. Your donation to this academy will make this possible, and we thank you.

With Kind Regards,



Greg Perez  
Fire Chief