



Mesquite Fire Department 2017 Firefighter of the Year

The Firefighter of the Year is given to an outstanding firefighter who consistently demonstrates professional excellence, moral integrity, and an abiding commitment to provide quality service to the citizens of Mesquite. The 2017 Mesquite Fire Department Firefighter of the Year is Samantha Criswell.

Samantha started her career with the Mesquite Fire Department on April 16th, 2001. She received her Paramedic Certification in August of 2002. She is a recipient of a Life Saving Award in 2012 for her actions that saved the life of a patient that had gone into cardiac arrest during an apartment fire. Because of her quick actions and quality care, this patient survived and was later discharged from the hospital.

Samantha is a valuable asset to the Department in more ways than one. The amount of public service work she performs outshines most, if not all of the Department. Sam has been a constant driving force at station 4 and throughout the city in urging and encouraging others to participate in the annual MDA Fill-The Boot Campaign. Not only does she help collect donations for the campaign, Sam has volunteered for a decade as a camp counselor at MDA Summer Camp. Twice she has been recognized for her outstanding skill and patience with young campers. Sam always gets the children who are having a hard time adapting to being away from home. More often than not, she handles it so well that those campers have a great experience and come back for more. Samantha has also been a constant volunteer with the efforts made every year to help families at Ronald McDonald House and other community outreach programs. On more than one occasion she has been seen scraping paint and hauling trash at an elderly resident's home during Addressing Mesquite Day.

Samantha is the queen of committees. She is always willing to volunteer for committees to help take care of anything that comes up. She is also the spearhead behind Diversity Recruiting at local schools and events. Everyone loves her billboards.

Sam not only prevails when it comes to volunteering, she is also a force to be reckoned with on-duty. Every officer she has been assigned to agrees she is a gem in the fire station and on the emergency scene. Anyone that has ever worked with Sam will agree she is a pleasure to be around and is the ultimate team player.

It is a pleasure to recognize Samantha Criswell as the 2017 Mesquite Fire Department Firefighter of the Year.