



Idaho Springs Police Department

3000 Colorado Blvd. ★ Post Office Box 907

Idaho Springs, CO 80452

303-567-4291/303-567-1014 Fax

<https://cityofidahosprings.colorado.gov/ISPD>

2022 Lyle Wohlers Law Enforcement Awards

05/30/23

On May 17, 2023, Law Enforcement agencies from across Clear Creek County gathered at the Easter Seals Camp in Empire, Colorado, to celebrate the achievements of Law Enforcement Officers within our county. The awards ceremony is held in honor of Trooper Lyle Wohlers who was killed in the line of duty in 1992 while conducting a traffic stop in Georgetown, Colorado. The award was developed to honor an outstanding officer and citizen every year within Clear Creek County.

This year ISPD's own Officer Ron Bailor was awarded 2022 Lyle Wohlers Officer of the Year for his outstanding work and dedication to the profession. Officer Bailor was nominated for the selflessness he demonstrated. A few examples are, on April 07, 2022, Officer Bailor helped the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office while on his way home related to a "shots fired" scene. On June 02, 2022, Officer Bailor responded to a motel in Idaho Springs where he located three children living in atrocious living conditions. He placed the parents in custody for child abuse and assisted in getting the children placed with families where they are now safe. Officer Bailor assisted on multiple calls outside of his jurisdiction, from helping Fire and EMS with a lady who was suffering from Hypoxia, to helping CCSO animal control lasso a horse who had escaped a property and was headed, dangerously, towards the highway. Officer Bailor's dedication to his agency and the community he serves reflects the highest traditions and standards of the Idaho Springs Police Department. ISPD officers have won the Officer of the Year award three out of the last four years.

ISPD gave out two life saving awards. One, to prior ISPD officer and current Deputy Chief of Empire, Keith Sandford, who responded to an unresponsive female who appeared to be overdosing. Officer Sandford performed CPR and sternum rubs to the female party for four minutes. Officer Sandford's quick assessment on scene and decisive action saved the female's life. The second life saving award was awarded to Officer Matthew Moore who responded to an unconscious male party who appeared to be overdosing. Officer Moore quickly assessed and administered Narcan to the male who regained consciousness and made a full recovery.

Another award that has become tradition here at the Idaho Springs Police Department is the "Chief's Award". This award was awarded to Sgt. Rich Sonnenberg and Officer Bailor for their great ability to de-escalate a situation where a party had briefly taken two females' hostage and armed themselves with a sword. This call was hectic, rapidly evolving, and challenging to ensure everyone made it through the incident safely and unharmed. This incident could have had a very different outcome had these two officers not applied their experience and training to ultimately de-escalate this very dangerous and tense situation.

The Idaho Springs Police Department was founded in July of 1873, making this year ISPD's 150th year of service. During the awards ceremony, Chief Nathan Buseck presented "150 years" commemorative badges to all members of the agency. All ISPD officers will be wearing their commemorative badges until the end of 2024 in recognition of the Sesquicentennial celebration.

*Commitment to...**I**ntegrity and **S**afety through constitutional **P**olicing and **D**edication to our community.*



Sgt. Rich Sonnenberg, Chief Nate Buseck, Officer Ron Bailor – 2022 Chief's Award



Officer Ron Bailor, Chief Nate Buseck –
2022 Lyle Wohlers Officer of the Year



Dpty. Chief Keith Sanford (Empire), Chief Nate Buseck -
Life Saving Award (while with ISPD in 2022)

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