



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 29, 2019

CONTACT:
Kevin Toon
(503) 421-1627
ktoon@orcities.org

Philomath Police Officer Receives LOC's Civic Education Award

BEND, Ore. – Philomath Police Officer Mark Koeppel received the Civic Education Award Friday evening at the League of Oregon Cities' (LOC) 94th Annual Conference in Bend. The award recognizes educators who have promoted local government education in Oregon schools. The award was presented to co-recipients, with Dayton Mayor Beth Wytoski also recognized.

Every summer for the past 25 years, Officer Koeppel has been instrumental in leading the city of Philomath's week-long Safety Town program for kindergarteners. Through this program, he teaches kids how to safely cross the street and how to travel to and from school safely. He also teaches them about "stranger danger" and how to interact with a police officer. In addition, Officer Koeppel spearheads the city's "bike rodeo," a safety program for kids in the elementary school. Described in his nomination as a "community treasure," Officer Koeppel has been his department's go-to officer for community engagement for more than two decades. For years, residents of Philomath have commented that his classes were some of the fondest memories of their childhood.

About the Civic Education Award

The Civic Education Award was created in 1998 by the LOC Board of Directors to offer recognition to educators in Oregon who have promoted local government education in Oregon's schools. The award is for individuals who demonstrate their commitment to fostering civic responsibility in youth.

About the League of Oregon Cities

Founded in 1925, the LOC is a voluntary association representing all 242 of Oregon's incorporated cities. The League helps city governments serve their citizens by providing legislative services, policy setting, intergovernmental relations, conferences and training, technical assistance and publications.

###