

**2019 CREST AWARDS**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY CHAMPION**  
**OF THE YEAR**  
**NOMINATIONS**



# 2019 CREST Awards Nomination Form

Each year the City of Cupertino presents its CREST Awards, "Cupertino Recognizes Extra Steps Taken," to honor the outstanding contributions of its community members. The 2019 CREST Awards will be presented by the Cupertino Mayor and City Councilmembers on Thursday, May 30, 2019 at the Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue.

Award categories (*Select one. Multiple nominations must be created on separate forms*):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Achievement Award (Volunteer)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Innovator of the Year (Technology)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer of the Year (Volunteer)              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Safety Champion of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization of the Year (Volunteer)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Champion of the Year           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rising Star of the Year (Volunteer) |  |

## SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Award criteria and nomination requirements are on the back of this form. Complete the information below and attach your answers to the required questions. Please be as detailed as possible. **Applications are due by Thursday, February 28, 2019 by 5 p.m.** Incomplete nominations will not be accepted. Individuals and organizations cannot nominate themselves. Current Cupertino City Councilmembers, Commissioners, and staff members cannot be nominated. Selection Committee Members cannot make nominations. Final decisions will be shared with all nominators in April 2019.

## WHO ARE YOU NOMINATING

Name: SIDHARTH RAJARAM  
Address: 7864 LILY CT  
City: CUPERTINO

Organization:  
Phone: 408 853 7572  
Email: SIDHARTH.RAJARAM@GMAIL.COM

## INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

Name: JAYA KRISHNAKUMAR  
Address: 7864 LILY CT  
City: CUPERTINO

Organization:  
Phone: 510 579 3588  
Email: JKRISHNA2017@GMAIL.COM

Submit an application:

**By Mail or In Person:**  
Cupertino City Hall  
Attn: Public Affairs Division  
10300 Torre Avenue  
Cupertino, CA 95014

Email:  
[pio@cupertino.org](mailto:pio@cupertino.org)

**Questions or More Information:**  
[brianb@cupertino.org](mailto:brianb@cupertino.org) or (408) 777-3262

RAJARAM.SR@GMAIL.COM

## **1. What contributions of time, leadership, and impact has this individual made to enhance public safety efforts in Cupertino?**

Sidharth has been volunteering in Cupertino since the summer of 2012. That was when he received his FCC Amateur license and became a member of the Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service (CARES). He has been a disaster service worker (DSW) volunteer for the city since then. From 2016 to 2018, he was a member of the Teen Commission, serving as the elected chair during the 2017-2018 school year.

As a DSW for the City of Cupertino, Sidharth took part in as many drills as possible (since some were restricted to those under 18 years of age). This meant waking up early on weekends and firing up his radio to participate in Preliminary Safety Assessments, which are occasional checks of the city's emergency communication framework and processes. During the City's Independence Day Fireworks Show, he manned a post near Hyde Middle to work with the Sheriffs to ensure the safe movement of crowds. Additionally, he contributed to the outreach efforts for the City's public safety efforts. At events such as the City Preparedness Fair, he helped man the Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service (CARES) booth and informed citizens about the city's emergency radio capabilities.

As a Teen Commissioner, Sidharth led the commission's efforts to pursue Cupertino's very first Social Host Responsibility Ordinance. The ordinance would set more distinct deterrents for underage drinking at house parties. His and the Commission's efforts were specifically focused on tackling the dangerous trend of binge drinking, where teenagers drink alcohol repetitively in a period of time. This ordinance was constructed in partnership with the county Sheriffs and the City Attorney's office. It eventually passed in the City Council to a 5-0 vote and is now officially codified as Cupertino 10.05.

## **2. How has this individual set the example for others to follow in community interaction? How does this individual stand apart?**

As a volunteer for the city since the age of 11, Sidharth has been one of the youngest individuals to ever serve as a Disaster Service Worker (DSW). On top of taking part in CARES' core responsibilities, Sidharth encouraged many individuals of his age and younger to take up HAM radio at events such as the Emergency Preparedness Fair. To kids, he demonstrated some of the intricacies of his radio and explained the importance of HAM radio in the event of a disaster.

During his time as a teen commissioner, he was part of a team that put together the City of Cupertino's first ever city-sponsored hackathons (Hack Cupertino), garnering a competition pool of nearly 120 teenagers both years. He also advocated for the winners of the hackathon to present their idea to the City Council, increasing high schoolers' engagement with the civic community even more in the process. Additionally, Sidharth helped organize 'Pizza and Politics' which brought high schoolers' attention to political issues in Cupertino and its surrounding cities. Following the passage of the Social Host

Responsibility Ordinance, he was interviewed by his school paper and conversed about the importance of teen advocacy in City government, especially when it comes to the safety of teens themselves. He also spoke to many middle and high schoolers at the 'Teen Leadership Night' as to the different opportunities for students to actively participate in our City. Many of those he spoke to went on to apply for positions at the Teen Commission and the Youth Activity Board.

### **3. Describe the effort involved, and challenges or obstacles the individual had to overcome, to achieve their success.**

As a high school student with a packed schedule, Sidharth had to deal with both his commitments to the classroom and to city safety. This meant walking straight to Teen Commission meetings after school and waking up early on weekends to participate in CARES drills. With homework, tasks for the Teen Commission, and other extracurriculars on deck, the cost quickly became sleep. In fact, the day of the presentation to City Council about the Social Host Responsibility Ordinance was right after he had returned from a sleepless conference for his school's student business club, DECA. In order to succeed in the duties of the Commission and at CARES, he adopted a mindset of not stopping when he was tired, but only when he was finished.

Couple reference snaps...



Wrapping up ARK check. Regnant Elementary ARK.



Awaiting July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks & crowds. Hyde Middle.