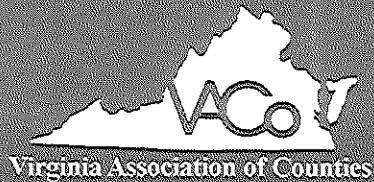


Recognizing the Best in County Government Programs!



2014 Achievement Awards



2014 VACo Achievement Awards

Deadline: June 2, 2014

Application Form

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 2, 2014.**

Program Information

Locality County of Rockingham

Program Title Fraud/Scam Prevent, Teen Dating, Self Defense

Program Category Parks & Recreation/ Criminal Justice & Public Safety

Contact Information

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Signature of county administrator or chief administrative officer

Name Joseph S. Paxton

Title County Administrator

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

Call for Entries

***Fraud/Scam Prevention, Teen Dating Safety, Self Defense: An Intergovernmental Program offering
Rockingham County Parks and Recreation Department &
Rockingham County Sheriff's Office
Rockingham County, Virginia
Nomination Summary for 2014 VACo Achievement Award***

1. Abstract of the Program

Since 2009 the downward turn of the economy has caused certain crimes to be on the rise. Among the crimes that the Rockingham County Sheriff's office has seen an increase are fraud and scam-related offenses. The Rockingham County Sheriff's Office stated they have had an increase in the number of citizens reporting potential and/or actual frauds/scams happening to them. Citizens would report what they either received suspicious mail, phone calls or emails.

As a result of the increase in this reporting, cooperative efforts were developed between the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office and the Parks and Recreation Department to offer educational classes for citizens to help protect them from frauds and scams. Working together the departments could reach citizens of Rockingham County to combat this problem. It was agreed that Rockingham Parks and Recreation would offer space, advertisement and take registrations, while the Sheriff's Office would teach the classes.

2. The Problem, Challenge or Situation

Rockingham County is Virginia's third largest county geographically. The Departments wanted to reach out to the citizens of the County. To do this the classes needed to be offered throughout the county. The Parks and Recreation Department have an agreement with the County Schools to utilize their facilities after 6PM and on the weekends. The County also has a Community Center and the Administration Center that can be used to offer classes during the day. The development of these intergovernmental partnerships allowed programs throughout the County and at different times of the day.

The Rockingham County Parks and Recreation Department also provides a tri-yearly brochure, has a Facebook page, Twitter account, distributes flyers to citizens through the County schools and maintains an active participant email database that are important assets in advertising information about the classes, such as where and when the classes are being offered.

3. How The Program Was Carried Out

Upon seeing a trend in the rise of fraud and scams, the two Departments decided to offer classes to help citizens become more aware of such potential dangers. With further discussion, the two Departments also decided to offer other classes to help citizens of Rockingham County. These classes provided important tips on how to avoid fraud and scams, and also included tips for Teen Dating Safety, Self Defense and Internet Safety.

The first classes were offered in late 2012. Since then, 16 classes have been offered and over 330 citizens have participated. With each offering enrollment has increased. As the Departments work together to set dates for the classes, it is important to provide both day and evening class times, and to offer the classes throughout the County to reach out to the citizens. The Parks and Recreation Department advertise the classes in tri-yearly brochure, in the flyers sent out through the schools, on their Facebook /Twitter pages and through their email database. The Sheriff's Office also tweets the classes to their followers. The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the logistics for class space with the County Schools, Community Center and the class registrations.

4. Financing and Staffing

Both Departments felt it was important to offer these classes for free to the public. It is critical to educate the County citizens of potential fraud and scams. The classes discuss what had been reported to the Sheriff's Office, what to do if contacted and how to protect oneself. . The partnership between County departments has allowed the cost to be kept to a minimum and to reach a maximum number of citizens. The goal is that an educated community prevents often its most vulnerable citizens from the loss that can significantly impact their life.

5. Results of the Program

Over the last several years the Sheriff's Office has seen an increase in call volumes and believes education and awareness is key to the prevention of such crimes. Together the intergovernmental partnership is working hard to combat such crimes against its citizens. Since late 2012, class offerings include Women's Self Defense, All Inclusive Self Defense, Fraud/Scam Prevention, Teen Dating Safety and Internet Safety. With each offering of the classes, enrollment continues to increase thus demonstrating the need for the classes. The win-win partnership is a valuable service to help citizens understand the resources available to them.

6. How the Program Fulfilled the Award Criteria

This nomination is worthy of an award because it meets several of the award criteria. Those specific criteria are:

These classes offer a new service to County citizens. Both the Sheriff's Office and the Parks and Recreation Department are service oriented with a lot of community contacts. Together they are viable in reaching the citizens through community outreach (brochures, flyers, Facebook, Twitter, emails). The program also promotes intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in addressing the problem. This partnership hopes to offset the increase of reported crime related to the class offerings. The measureable results for this nomination is demonstrated by the continuation of class offerings due to the sustained increase with enrollment.