

APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 3, 2019.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: _____

Program Title: _____

Program Category: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Title: _____

Department: _____

Telephone: _____ Website: _____

Email: _____

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday Executive Summary

The development of Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday program began during the 2018 summer, when discussions between the Frederick County, Virginia Sheriff's Office and Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School personnel were conducted to create a program, which would help build stronger relationships with our young community members and develop positive support for law enforcement. Our discussions led to the idea to have Frederick County Sheriff's Office deputies interact with students in a variety of ways, with the intent to build stronger relationships and trust with students. Frederick County Sheriff's Office personnel would visit Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School every Tuesday during the school year. Deputies would have options for student interaction, such as eating lunch, reading, playing sports, or simply spending quality time with the students.

The development of this program encouraged intergovernmental cooperation between law enforcement and school personnel to successfully plan and implement. Developing personnel believed that if law enforcement could advance the trust and understanding of young members of the community, this not only builds current relations, but relationships for years to come.

Ideas were presented by school personnel to have students, throughout the year, participate in various fundraisers to provide visiting deputies with t-shirts and small tokens of their appreciation. The students would also take on the challenge to raise enough money to purchase all five Frederick County Sheriff's Office K-9's with personalized badges.

With all the necessary personnel on board, the name "*Back the Blue - Tribute Tuesday's*" was adopted for the program. The objective was to have this program up and running by the first Tuesday of October 2018, with a large kick-off event preceding the first law enforcement visit.

Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday Brief Overview

The development of Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday program began during the 2018 summer, when discussions between the Frederick County, Virginia Sheriff's Office and Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School personnel were conducted to create a program, which would help build stronger relationships with our young community members and develop positive support for law enforcement. The idea was conceived to have deputies visit APRES every Tuesday during the 2018-2019 school year. Before visits began, a "Kick Off" assembly was implemented to educate students on the many aspects of law enforcement. Students rotated through various stations and asked questions to gain better understandings of the deputies' duties. During the weekly visits, deputies engaged in a variety of activities with the students. Some of those activities included eating lunch, telling stories, helping with school work, and playing sports. As a way for students to give back to these valuable members of our community, throughout the year students at APRES raised money to purchase all five Frederick County Sheriff's Office K-9's personalized badges and holders. Parents, students, and community supporters donated time and talents to provide visiting deputies with specially designed t-shirts and small tokens of their appreciation.

The success of Back the Blue-Tribute Tuesday has gone beyond anyone's initial expectations. The community support from parents, teachers, administrators, and students has been tremendous.

Program Overview:

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Challenge Faced:

Over the past several years, law enforcement personnel, across the country, have faced a variety of challenges. Such as a disconnect between law enforcement and some members of the community. There tends to be a struggle to understand and relate to cultural and social differences, law enforcement officers so often encounter within our communities. Many adults and children do not interact with law enforcement outside of enforcement contexts. This creates personnel barriers and stereotypes, which develops negative associations. Law enforcement must rely on community involvement and cooperation as much as the community relies on police agencies for public safety. This delicate balance between public safety and outreach proves to be challenging.

The development of the Back the Blue - Tribute Tuesday program faced this challenge head on. With deputies interacting and engaging with grade school students on a regular basis, not only shows a different side of law enforcement officials, it builds trust. Students will see that deputies are not only in their community to enforce laws, they are there to share a laugh, story, or simply be a friend.

Implementation of Program:

On September 26, 2018 the fun began with the “Kick-Off” event. The kick-off included an assembly where students were educated on what tasks the sheriff’s office is required to do daily, a question and answer session between the students and Sheriff Lenny Millholland and a K-9 demonstration. Students were also broken into small groups and rotated through demonstration stations to include but no limited to; Special Weapons and Tactics Team, Dive Team, Search & Rescue Team, Traffic Division, Bike Patrol, and Frederick County Emergency Communications.

Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday



After the successful kick-off event was completed, an invitation was sent out to all Frederick County Sheriff's Office deputies, inviting them to come visit the students at Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School. One of the School Resource Officers handled the logistics of scheduling visits and the decision was made to request each division, within the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, to be responsible for one-month of visits. Some of the divisions making the weekly visits included all three shifts of the Patrol Division, Traffic Division, Civil Division, and of course the School Resource Officer Division.

YOU ARE A PIECE OF OUR APPLE PIE

The students and staff of Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School want to say a BIG thank you!

Because YOU are such an important piece of the pie, we want to invite you to our school every Tuesday from October to June for "Tribute Tuesday".

On "Tribute Tuesday" feel free to stop by our school to visit with students at lunch or recess, read to a class, or share a safety tip. Then, leave with a small token of our appreciation for all you do in this community. When leaving also be sure to enter for a monthly gift basket raffle.

Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday

On the first Tuesday in October, the visits began. When a deputy was able to stop by the school, they were greeted by a friendly office staff. Each deputy was asked if they had a preference as to which grade they wanted to visit. The goal was to have a deputy visit every class in every grade, at least once throughout the year. Once the deputy decided where he/she was going, they entered their name into a gift basket drawing, which were provided through donations from parents and community members. They were also given a t-shirt with the slogan “A PIECE OF THE PIE.” The deputy could visit for as long as they deemed appropriate and had the opportunity to do a wide variety of activities with the students.



Tuesday visits continued throughout the 2018-2019 school year. Deputies engaged in a variety of activities with the students. Some of those activities included eating lunch, telling stories, helping with school work, and playing sports. The open communication between law enforcement and students began developing better trust and understanding of each other's positive contributions to the community.

Tuesday's were not the only time deputies stopped to visit the students at Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School. Deputies were invited to attend pizza parties, holiday celebrations, and sing-a-longs. Second shift was front and center during a Christmas program, as they took stage and collectively led the singing of “We wish you a Merry Christmas.”



Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday

During the 2018-2019 school year, students were able to raise enough money to purchase personalized badges for all of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office K-9's. These badges will be presented to the K-9's at the end of year celebration. This celebration will be a large assembly with all the students from Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School. Many of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office personnel will be attending for games, K-9 demonstrations, and badge presentations.

Program Results:

The success of Back the Blue-Tribute Tuesday has gone beyond anyone's initial expectations. The community support from parents, teachers, administrators, and students has been tremendous. A short video was created, highlighting Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday, by the Frederick County Public School's Media Division. During an interview, a 3rd grade student stated; *"I feel safer knowing them and knowing that they are protecting, not just our school, but the community."* Another student speaks about valuable lessons he has learned from visiting deputies, stating; *"Be a good influence and a good role model and also to be very kind and polite to other people and to do the right things no matter what the decisions are."*

The Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday program has already peaked interest of other schools, localities, and other various governmental agencies. Virginia Department of Criminal Justice School Safety Coordinator, James Christian, stated; *"This program is fantastic. I think it epitomizes exactly the message we are trying to show and hopefully encourage other agencies to put similar programs in place."* He has requested to highlight the program at the 2019 School Safety Training Forum in Hampton Roads Virginia. This training forum is a 3-day event for law enforcement, school security, school administrators and counselors, which has approximately 1000 participants.

Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday

As law enforcement agencies continue to move forward, many aspects in law enforcement will continue to change. Innovation in public outreach approaches is necessary. Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School has approximately 450 students enrolled and is one of eleven public elementary schools within Frederick County, Virginia. If positive interaction was expanded to 450 children in our community, the possibility of a long-term positive effect is inevitable. The Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday program can be utilized every year with new goals and objectives. It can be tailored to the individual school and/or locality, all while maintaining and building law enforcement and community relations.



Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday



Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday



Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday



This highlight video is available via the Frederick County, Virginia Public school division's YouTube channel, which can be accessed via the YouTube icon that can be found in the bottom right-hand corner of the division Web page- www.frederick.k12.va.us It resides under the FCPS Spotlight heading on that page. Or enter the website https://youtu.be/hr8_b-Uxou4



Frederick County Public School Superintendent, Dr. David Sovine

“The Back the Blue initiative has been instrumental in forging positive relationships between students and law enforcement officials. This program provides a proactive approach to facilitating good citizenship in our youngest learners.”

Frederick County Sheriff, Lenny Millholland

“With Back the Blue – Tribute Tuesday, we want deputies in the schools to interact with the kids, to try to get the most that we can out of the children that we are meeting.”

