



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2021.** Please include this submission form with the 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: County of Henrico
Program Title: Students Help Preserve 125-Year-Old County Artifact
Program Category: Customer Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Victoria Davis
Title: Public Relations Specialist
Department: Public Relations
Telephone: 804-501-4933 Website: www.henrico.us
Email: dav127@henrico.us

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Brandon Hinton
Title: Deputy County Manager for Administration
Signature: 

Program Overview

The purpose of refurbishing the 1895 Corey fire hydrant was to preserve a small part of Henrico County's history. In our fast-paced world where change seems to be a constant, preserving our history takes on additional significance for its citizens. Fast growing counties such as Henrico often have a large influx of newcomers that choose to relocate because of quality of life and expanded job opportunities, or want to learn more about their new home. For long-time residents, historical artifacts are especially meaningful, often connecting their personal histories with that of the community at large. The restoration work was led by a county employee willing to donate his time and talents, along with Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) students enrolled in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) precision machining program at the Advanced Career Education Center at Hermitage High School. The project also included Henrico County Public Library staff.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

In 2016 a piece of Henrico County history was found by a public utilities' employee, an 1895 Corey fire hydrant that was about to be discarded after being inoperable for eight years. A utilities technician for Henrico County subsequently volunteered to repair and restore the hydrant after learning that it was going to be replaced and discarded.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

This historic preservation project involved a county employee who volunteered his time and talents, Henrico County Public Schools' STEM precision machining program students and staff, as well as Henrico County Public Library personnel. The result of their collaboration is an interesting piece of Henrico County's history that has been beautifully preserved, showcased in

an impressive case and displayed in an area where hundreds of Henrico citizens and visitors have the chance to see it and learn a little something about their community's history.

How Program Was Carried Out

The 118-year-old Corey hydrant had not worked in eight years, and the mechanically inclined technician began the restoration process of the hydrant in 2016. The 1895 Corey became a passionate project for him, involving a lot of determined trial and error over three months of long nights and weekend hours.

"I admire collecting and restoring items from the past," the technician said. "I was able to restore a piece of history with the hope that it would remain in Henrico County forever."

This restoration project also created an opportunity for students in HCPS' STEM precision machining program to design and build a display case to help protect and showcase the newly restored hydrant. The students used aluminum, Plexiglas and computer-controlled manufacturing equipment in the classroom to complete the case.

The project also provided the opportunity for those students to feel pride in knowing that they had helped on this project to save and protect a piece of Henrico County history for years to come.

Financing and Staffing

There was no cost to this project as all work and materials were provided by the STEM precision machining program. The display case was built from materials and with equipment already available in the STEM precision machining program.

Program Results

After a year of research and work by utilities technician, the Corey fire hydrant is now fully restored and looks as it did in 1895 when it first went into operation. Over the 118 years it was in operation, many Lakeside area residents' homes and other community buildings were saved because of this very hydrant. Now restored, it has a new home. Henrico County Public Library's Libbie Mill branch has given it a place of prominence in the foyer at the main entrance. An informative plaque was made so that visitors to the library would be able to read about the history of the Corey hydrant. Students in HCPS' Advanced Career Education Center's STEM precision machining program were able to design, build and assemble a protective display case to be exhibited for all Henrico County residents and guests to reflect on a piece of Henrico's history.

Brief Summary

In 2016 an 1895 Corey fire hydrant was found by a Henrico County utilities technician. It had been inoperable for eight years and was about to be discarded. He subsequently volunteered to repair and restore the hydrant, researching its history and ensuring that the restoration was authentic. This project created an opportunity for students in HCPS' STEM precision machining program to partner with the county in designing and building a display case to help protect and showcase the newly restored hydrant. The students used aluminum, Plexiglas and computer-controlled manufacturing equipment in the classroom to complete the case.

Now restored, the hydrant has a new home in the main entrance foyer of Henrico County Public Library's Libbie Mill branch, serving the same community in which the fire hydrant had been used for so many years. It rests in the protective case made by the STEM precision machining program students with an informative plaque to inform visitors of its history. The project provided an

opportunity for those students to feel pride in knowing that they had helped on this project to save, protect and share a piece of Henrico County history for years to come.

Students Help Preserve 125-Year-Old County Artifact Supplemental Material

