



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2023.** 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: Student Crimestoppers
Program Category: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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Signature: 

Program Overview

Catalytic converter thefts have risen in metro Richmond, and the police division believes spray painting words on the converters will deter thieves from stealing them off the vehicles. This simple process is designed to create a visible deterrent. The Henrico County Police Division approached the precision machining teacher at the Advanced Career Education Center at Hermitage for assistance in designing and manufacturing metal templates. The teacher and students manufactured metal templates with the wording "Stolen From Henrico" in the classroom. Templates were given to Midas of Richmond, where converters were painted free of charge. Scheduled marking events for Nov. 13, Dec. 11 and Jan. 8, 2023, sold out. The five participating Midas locations are working on scheduling additional appointments to accommodate the massive interest from the community in this effort.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

The Richmond metro area has been plagued with catalytic converter theft. "We are surpassing the total number of reports last year with 592 incidents involving catalytic converters," said Capt. Faith Flippo of the Richmond Police Department.

Converter replacements can cost more than \$1,000, depending on the make and model of the car. To put it in perspective, in 2019, the City of Richmond had 37 catalytic converters reported stolen. Among area localities in late 2022, Chesterfield County had 304 converters reported stolen, Henrico County had 683 reported stolen, and Hanover County had 60 reported stolen.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

Assisting the Henrico County Police Division by manufacturing templates has enabled students to develop skills and be part of a community solution to save citizens thousands of dollars by curtailing converter theft.

The opportunity for students and teachers to solve real-world problems as global citizens is part of HCPS' Henrico Learner Profile, the school division's blueprint for student learning. Students serve as active participants in a larger society and contribute to solutions that address the needs of a broader community by building global awareness and demonstrating empathy, compassion and respect for fellow community members. As creative thinkers they generate ideas and build on existing ones. Students pursue imaginative approaches and solutions to challenges by asking questions, being flexible in their thinking and learning from experimentation.

This project also represents an outstanding partnership between the local government, the school division and a private business to meet a timely community need. Together the three entities are helping to deter theft, as well as saving citizens significant monetary and time costs in replacing their converters.

How Program Was Carried Out

The program objectives were to:

- Provide metal templates to the Henrico Division of Police to use in their call-to-action program to deter catalytic converter theft.
- Provide students with the chance to practice machining skills and assist in solving a community problem.
- Reduce catalytic convertor theft in the Richmond metro area.
- Provide enrichment opportunities to the curriculum and increase student engagement encouraging students to think about their own future career plans.

Henrico County Police approached the precision machining teacher at the ACE Center at Hermitage for assistance in designing and manufacturing metal templates. The goal was to manufacture a cheap and effective template with little turnaround time that would be locally accessible. The ACE Center is located less than a mile from the police headquarters. The students evaluated the equipment available in the lab and chose to use a water jet tool designed to efficiently cut the words “Stolen From Henrico” out of thin metal.

Financing and Staffing

The ACE Precision Machining Program used a water jet to manufacture the templates. The water jet was previously secured through a state grant to use for instruction in the program and cost approximately \$30,000. The manufacturing cost was negligible at about \$2 per template for the material.

Program Results

The Henrico Police report that the program is already working.

“Our distinct markings have proved beneficial on more than one occasion as suspects ended up leaving the area due to noticeable markings,” said Officer Doug Smart of the Henrico County

Police Division. "Our hope is for the trend to continue not only in Henrico County but also in the metro area."

Brief Summary

With thefts of catalytic converters on the rise in Henrico County and neighboring localities, HCPS' Advanced Career Education Center worked with the Henrico County Police Division to create metal templates that could help curtail further thefts of the car parts. ACE Center students designed and developed metal templates that read "Stolen From Henrico," which the police division believed could aid in lowering the crime rate of this specific problem. The ACE Precision Machining Program used a previously acquired water jet to create the template that was used by Midas of Richmond locations to paint the message on catalytic converters. Marking events at Midas were a major success, with three dates selling out of installation time, and police say the markings have been instrumental in tracking and reducing catalytic converter thefts. ACE students utilized hands-on production to not only enhance their skills, but also to serve the community. It also gave them the opportunity to work in conjunction with local government entities and a local business, which is invaluable for the future of their education and careers.

Student CrimeStoppers Supplemental Material



Picture of a template being manufactured on a waterjet.



Picture of Henrico police department speaking to the media about the program and holding the template.

The link below will take you to an NBC12 story regarding the overall program.
[Channel 12 Program Story](#)