



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2025.** Please include this submission form as the first page of your 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: _____




James City County
Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)
Achievement Awards 2025 Submission
Safety Rodeo Program

Submitted to
Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)
Achievement Awards
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Attn: Gage Harter, VACo Director of Communications

James City County General Services Department
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June 30, 2025

Executive Summary | James City County Safety Rodeo Program

James City County's Safety Rodeo Program is a leading example of interdepartmental collaboration and proactive employee safety engagement. Initiated by the General Services Department in partnership with the James City Service Authority (JCSA) and supported by Parks and Recreation, this annual event promotes workplace safety, preparedness, and cross-departmental connection.

Held at Wanner Stadium's parking lot, employees check in, receive safety materials, and are assigned to diverse teams through randomly colored wristbands. This format encourages interaction between departments and sets the tone for a day focused on practical, real-world safety.

The 2025 event featured hands-on training and expert-led sessions. Key highlights included fire extinguisher demonstrations and tourniquet application by the Fire Department, 360-degree vehicle safety checks led by Fleet Maintenance, and mental health resources provided by Sentara's Employee Assistance Program. Additional education on field hazards was offered by Virginia Tech Extension and the Peninsula Health District. An interactive safety quiz session "Family Feud" style rounded out the day.

A 13-member committee planned the event, ensuring operational coverage by dividing attendance over two days. Supported by employee recognition funds and JCSA resources, the Safety Rodeo is cost-effective, sustainable, and has contributed to a measurable decline in workplace accidents, reinforcing James City County's strong safety culture.

James City County's (JCC) Safety Rodeo Program (Program) is a standout example of intergovernmental collaboration and innovative safety awareness designed to protect employees on the job. Launched three years ago by the County's General Services Department in partnership with the James City Service Authority (JCSA), with Wellness giveaways provided by the Parks and Recreation Department, the Safety Rodeo addresses comprehensive aspects of worker safety ranging from equipment operation and vehicle safety to environmental hazards and



Giveaways donated by Parks and Recreation

emergency response.

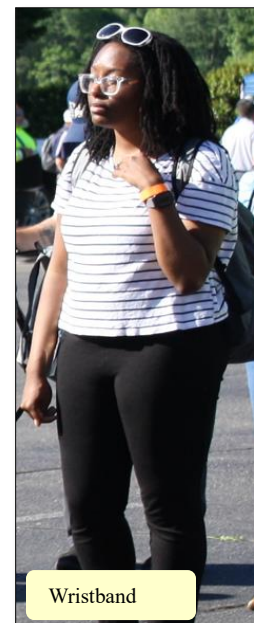
Held annually at the Wanner Stadium parking lot, the Safety Rodeo begins with the team checking in at the welcome table. Participants receive a backpack filled with safety resources and

refreshments, and a randomly assigned colored wristband.

These wristbands red, orange, yellow, blue, green, and pink group employees into mixed

teams, promoting interaction between General Services and JCSA personnel. This thoughtful design builds camaraderie while reinforcing the day's focus: staying safe at work, in the field, and behind the wheel.

The event features a full day of hands-on demonstrations and expert-led sessions that address real-world hazards. In 2025, safety committee members invited presenters from a variety of agencies and organizations. For example, Sentara's Employee Assistance Program offered mental health resources to support overall employee well-being.



Wristband



Fire Dept. Different Types of Fire Extinguishers

The James City County Fire Department demonstrated fire extinguisher use and provided participants with an opportunity to extinguish a controlled fire, reinforcing practical fire safety skills.



Fire Dept. Fire Extinguisher Use Training

Fleet Maintenance team members conducted in-depth exercise on the importance of a 360-degree vehicle and equipment walk-around. This best practice ensures that operators detect any safety or mechanical concerns before operation.

Additionally, Virginia Tech Extension Agents provided education on poisonous plants and bugs commonly encountered in the field, while the Peninsula Health District addressed tick, mosquito, and animal bite prevention. These presentations are particularly critical for outdoor crews who routinely work in variable environmental conditions.



Virginia Tech Extension Agents

One of the most impactful sessions was led by the Fire Department, which taught the team how to apply a tourniquet, a life-saving skill that participants were able to practice with one another.



The James City County Risk Management team capped off the day with a fun and engaging "Family Feud" style game show focused on workplace safety knowledge. This interactive component reinforced key safety messages while fostering teamwork and a sense of friendly competition.

To accomplish this project, team members from James City County and the James City Service Authority took several key steps. A committee was formed, consisting of 13 members, 11 from JCC and 2 from JCSA, who

collaborated to develop a comprehensive safety awareness program. The county leveraged its employee recognition funding to support the program, budgeting for hands-on exercises as well as lunch to foster camaraderie within designated teams. The two-day program was structured so that each group's workforce was divided in half, with one half attending on the first day and the other half on the second, which allowed both organizations continuous coverage to support our citizens. Participation included all employees, including office team members, to ensure consistent safety awareness across both JCC and JCSA. The committee partnered with vendors from several relevant industries to provide real-world insights into potential workplace hazards. A large space at the county's football stadium parking lot was secured to host the event, accommodating approximately 115 team members and 15 industry experts each day.

Additionally, the committee built relationships with key industry leaders, offering the team valuable contacts for future safety-related information and support.

The County's successful development of the Safety Rodeo has yielded measurable results.

Both James City County and JCSA have reported a noticeable decline in jobsite accidents and injuries since the program's inception. Funded jointly by the County's employee recognition

program and JCSA resources, the initiative is both sustainable and replicable in other localities.

The partnership between General Services and JCSA is a model for how shared goals and resources can create a safer, more cohesive workforce.



Held each May, the James City County Safety Rodeo demonstrates a deep commitment to protecting employees and encouraging innovation in safety practices. By emphasizing practical skills, collaborative learning, and cross-departmental engagement, the program not only reduces risk but strengthens local government operations.