



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: Loudoun County
Program Title: From Camp to Classroom: A Countywide Approach to Youth Engagement
Program Category: Customer Service & Community Outreach

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Christopher Sawyer
Title: Lieutenant Colonel
Department: Chief Deputy, Operations
Telephone: 571-233-6569 Website: <https://sheriff.loudoun.gov>
Email: Christopher.Sawyer@loudoun.gov

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Erin McLellan
Title: Sr. Deputy County Administrator
Signature: Signed by:
Erin McLellan
A30101873CCB402



Sheriff Michael L. Chapman

LOUDOUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 7200 | Leesburg, VA 20177
803 Sycolin Rd SE | Leesburg, VA 20175
Telephone 703-777-0407

VACo 2025 Achievement Award Nomination

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

From Camp to Classroom: A Countywide Approach to Youth Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to rising community concerns over youth safety, drug exposure, online exploitation, and perceptions of law enforcement, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office launched a comprehensive, countywide youth outreach program spanning elementary through high school. The program's three-tiered model aims to foster long-term trust, improve public safety outcomes, and provide students with honest, localized instruction in key life areas.

Beginning in summer 2024 with a relationship-based camp for rising 4th and 5th graders, the initiative expanded during the 2024-2025 school year to include Virginia Rules-based presentations in 14 middle schools and fentanyl awareness programs for 9th grade students in 14 high schools. This collaborative effort with Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) reached an estimated 30,000+ student contacts across more than 400 presentations, making it one of the most extensive school-law enforcement education initiatives in the region.

The program is locally tailored but broadly replicable, built on strong partnerships, current trends, and a strategic investment in proactive policing. By bringing deputies into classrooms not to enforce, but to educate and engage, the Sheriff's Office has redefined youth outreach and set a model for sustainable, multi-level community connection.

VACo 2025 Achievement Award Nomination

Customer Service & Community Outreach

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

From Camp to Classroom: A Countywide Approach to Youth Engagement

PROGRAM BACKGROUND AND COMMUNITY NEED

In recent years, Loudoun County has experienced a sharp increase in student-related public safety concerns, including exposure to fentanyl, online exploitation, and general mistrust of law enforcement among youth. The Sheriff's Office identified a growing gap between students and sworn personnel—many of whom interacted only during times of crisis. To address these concerns and prevent future harm, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office developed a comprehensive outreach strategy that would engage students proactively, developmentally, and with transparency. This initiative focused not only on delivering timely content, but on fostering trust and familiarity with law enforcement through consistent, meaningful engagement.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: THREE-TIERED OUTREACH STRATEGY

The "From Camp to Classroom" initiative was structured around three distinct, age-appropriate program tiers:

Elementary School (Camp Engagement)

A weeklong summer camp launched in July 2024 served 30 rising 4th and 5th graders.

Activities included team-building challenges, sports competitions, relay games, and skill-

building exercises designed to promote leadership and cooperation. Deputies participated alongside campers, building rapport in non-enforcement roles and modeling positive behavior. The camp served as a foundational touchpoint, helping students see law enforcement officers as mentors and supporters rather than enforcers. Due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback, additional elementary camps are being developed for summer 2025, with plans to expand to more communities in future years.

Middle School (Virginia Rules-Inspired Instruction)

Developed and delivered by LCSO in 14 middle schools in partnership with LCPS. While the foundation of these lessons was based on Virginia Rules modules, deputies adapted and expanded the content with Loudoun-specific examples, locally relevant case studies, and original instructional materials. Covered three core modules: Internet Safety, Gang Resistance, and Substance Abuse. Deputies led interactive lessons that included real-life scenarios and opportunities for student reflection. Lessons were intentionally designed to prompt student participation through scenario-based questions, classroom conversations, and exit tickets that reinforced key takeaways. Internet Safety instruction addressed digital footprints, privacy, cyberbullying, and safe online behavior. Gang Resistance sessions focused on peer pressure, group dynamics, criminal behaviors, and how youth can recognize and avoid unhealthy affiliations. Substance Abuse education covered emerging drug trends, refusal strategies, and the physical and legal consequences of use. Each lesson was tailored with Loudoun-specific examples to enhance relevance, and SROs returned to classrooms throughout the year to reinforce content.

High School (9th Grade Fentanyl Awareness Presentations)

Delivered to 9th grade students across 14 high schools. The fentanyl presentations were developed in response to a spike in local overdoses and included actual data and case

examples from Loudoun County. Students were taught how to recognize the signs of overdose, avoid counterfeit substances, and access resources such as the LCSO Safe2Talk app. SROs emphasized honest, practical messaging without scare tactics, meeting teens where they are and encouraging open dialogue. The program continues to grow, with updates being added to reflect evolving local trends and expand engagement beyond 9th grade in future years.

PARTNERSHIPS AND IMPLEMENTATION

The success of this initiative is rooted in collaboration. The Sheriff's Office worked closely with Loudoun County Public Schools to coordinate lesson planning, secure instructional time during the school day, and align content with state SOLs. School Resource Officers were trained in youth communication strategies and instructional techniques to ensure consistency and credibility across all sessions. The partnership was driven by a shared goal: to equip students with the knowledge and trust they need to navigate complex social issues safely.

Additionally, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office provided all middle school lesson plans and materials to the Leesburg Police Department's School Resource Officer unit. This collaboration enabled Leesburg's SROs to deliver the same curriculum to students in the town's middle schools, ensuring consistency in messaging and expanding the program's reach within the county.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

30 students participated in the pilot elementary camp. 14 middle schools hosted over 325 Virginia Rules based presentations. Over 8,000 middle school students received instruction. Over 5,000 9th grade students reached through fentanyl awareness programming. With

over 400 total classroom contacts across all three tiers, SROs not only provided timely instruction but also built positive relationships with students through repeated, meaningful engagement.

The initiative continues to grow, with additional elementary camps being added in summer 2025 and expanded high school programming under development.

CONCLUSION

This model reimagines law enforcement's role in education. Rather than focusing on enforcement or reactive interventions, deputies are positioned as proactive educators and mentors. The structured, tiered approach ensures continuity of engagement from elementary through high school, with developmentally appropriate messaging at each stage. The use of state-approved curriculum, combined with local data and delivery by uniformed personnel, strengthens both educational impact and community trust, while offering a model that can be replicated in any jurisdiction committed to youth prevention and interagency collaboration.

"From Camp to Classroom" demonstrates what is possible when law enforcement, schools, and community priorities align. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office has created a replicable, meaningful approach to youth engagement, rooted in trust, built on partnership, and designed for long-term public safety and student wellbeing. With continued investment and expansion, the initiative will evolve to serve even more students and deepen the foundation of connection and prevention it has established.







