

# 2015 Achievement Awards Virginia Association of Counties

## APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2015.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

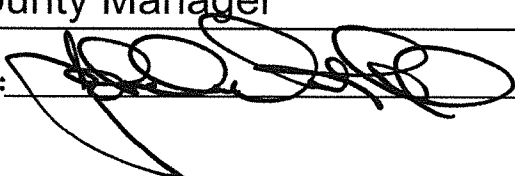
### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Locality: Henrico County  
Program Title: Teen Community Response Teams  
Program Category: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Adrienne Minock  
Title: Teen Librarian  
Department: Libraries  
Complete Mailing Address: Twin Hickory Area Library, 5001 Twin Hickory Road, Glen Allen, VA 23059  
Telephone # 804-290-9230 Fax # 804-270-2982  
E-mail: aminock@henricolibrary.org

### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: John A. Vithoukas  
Title: County Manager  
Signature: 

## **Overview**

Henrico County Public Library (HCPL), in partnership with the County of Henrico Division of Fire and Office of Emergency Management (OEM), offered teens a chance to become members of the Teen Community Emergency Response Team (Teen CERT). Teens were prepared for and responded to hypothetical emergencies, including a hurricane, mass casualty accident, and an epidemic. The first program in 2013 consisted of nine Saturday sessions and the 2014 program consisted of five consecutive day sessions. Both years' programs culminated in a four-hour scenario drill at the Fire Training Facility.

## **Problem**

The Department of Homeland Security has identified teens as part of the country's critical infrastructure. A new effort is focusing on training high school students, in grades nine through twelve, in emergency preparedness and assistance during incidents and events occurring in their community. The purpose of the Henrico County Teen CERT pilot program is to ensure teens have the skills needed to protect themselves and assist others, in the event of an emergency. The partnership between Henrico Fire/Office of Emergency Management and Henrico County Public Library is what makes this effort unique. The Library offers a way to reach out to teens that are already library patrons and often already volunteering at the library for community service hours needed toward high school graduation. The Library is also the venue for many of the Teen CERT sessions.

## **How the program meets criteria**

The Henrico County Teen Community Emergency Response Team are now teen community

members who will be prepared to provide assistance in the time period immediately following a disaster when local public safety resources may be overwhelmed. Teen CERTs learn basic first aid, search and rescue, and fire suppression techniques. But more importantly, Teen CERT members learn how to prepare for a disaster long before one occurs. Combining the unique resources of the two county departments provides a unique and enriching experience for teens while providing a valuable service for the community.

**How the program is carried out**

In late summer 2012, Adrienne Minock, Teen Librarian at the Twin Hickory Area Library, contacted various county departments looking for a personal safety/emergency preparedness program geared towards teens. Ms. Minock was referred to Brenda Kapelewski, Emergency Preparedness Management Specialist for the County of Henrico Division of Fire/Office of Emergency Management. Ms. Kapelewski had been hoping to start Teen CERT in Henrico since 2011 when she completed the Adult CERT Instructor course and had been in search of a welcoming venue to host and partner in the program.

Ms. Minock and Ms. Kapelewski met for the first time on August 6, 2012 to work out the details for the program. Ms. Minock handled promoting the program, application process and venue for the program. With guidance from Fire Chief McDowell, Ms. Kapelewski, as the Henrico Fire-OEM representative, handled the legal side of the Teen CERT program, as well as program development and with instruction input from Ms. Minock and Ben Nicely (Teen CERT Adult Volunteer). The first year (2013) was Zombie theme and the second year (2014) focused solely on Henrico Teen CERT without the Zombie theme.

Ms. Minock coordinated with Henrico County Public Library Public Relations to promote the program. Promotion consisted of a zombie-themed poster and online promotions, using the library's website, teen blog, Facebook and Twitter.

All instructors were Certified CERT or Teen CERT Instructors. Also, subject-matter experts assisted with instruction which included: School Resource Officers, Emergency Management Professionals, Local Fire and Police Officers, Emergency Medical Technicians, School Nurse, Health Instructor, Physical Education Instructor, school counselor, and other disaster relief personnel. Subject-matter experts were consulted and asked to assist with instruction for the following topics: Emergency Management - Unit 1, Disaster Preparedness, Firefighters - Fire Safety and Light Search & Rescue, EMS for Medical Operations – Triage & Treatment, and Mental Health.

Teens receive a “certificate of completion,” once they complete the course but not a “certification,” like EMT or CPR training would provide. There is no formal recertification, but teens are encouraged to join the CERT 2 Team that gives further educational opportunities. The intent was not to expose the teens to dangerous situations, but to help teens by providing training they can use in emergency situations to safely assist others until First Responders or other adults arrive to manage the situation.

**Staffing & Costs**

There were no additional costs outside of staff time. Two staff members, one from the Library and one from Fire/Office of Emergency Management planned the programs. Subject matter specialists from several departments throughout the county taught units based on their area of expertise.

**Results**

In 2013, eleven teen participants attended nine three-hour sessions, plus a four-hour scenario drill at the Fire Training Facility which equaled 31 community service hours for participants. In 2014, seventeen teen participants took part in training that included four five-hour sessions plus a four-hour scenario drill that equaled twenty four community service hours for participants. It was found during the first program that the time commitment over a nine week period was a challenge for both teens and staff. Holding the program in a shorter timeframe helped teens retain more and created a more cohesive team.

The programs and the partnership between Henrico Fire/Office of Emergency Management and the Henrico County Public Library have been so successful that a third Teen CERT program is planned for 2015.

The Teen CERT program offered teens to learn life skills, contribute back to the community, receive community service hours towards graduation and make their community safer. In addition, they learned leadership and teamwork skills, gained confidence in their interactions with peers and adults, and learned the necessary skills to prepare and react to events. This

program was about training teens to safely prepare and assist at emergency and disaster related events and acquire skills that will serve them throughout their lives. Teen CERT often appeals to teens who have not participated in traditional school activities, thus providing an effective means of engaging and empowering teens from diverse backgrounds and with a variety of interests.

**Teen Community Emergency Response Team**

# ZOMBIE

(AND OTHER DISASTER)

# PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

DEADLINE  
EXTENDED!  
Sign up by  
**FEB. 1**

**TRAINING SCHEDULE**  
*All dates are Saturdays 1-4 PM  
Students must attend ALL sessions*

- February 23
- March 2
- March 9
- March 16
- March 23
- March 30
- April 13
- April 20
- April 27

**SCENARIO DRILL**  
**Saturday, May 4**  
*time TBA*

**Get trained for a Zombie Attack  
—and any other emergency!**




Henrico Library, in partnership with the County of Henrico Division of Fire and Office of Emergency Management, is offering teens a chance to receive training for the **Teen Community Emergency Response Team (Teen CERT)**. This is the first time the county will be offering Teen CERT training for high school students.

We will prepare for and respond to a zombie attack as our hypothetical emergency! Thankfully zombies are not much of a problem in our area, but the skills you learn can be applied to emergencies that do occur in Henrico, like hurricanes, earthquakes, and tornadoes.

Training consists of nine three-hour Saturday sessions at Twin Hickory Area Library, plus a four-hour scenario drill on the following Saturday at a time to be announced. **Students must commit to attend ALL nine sessions AND the drill**, which will earn each student a total of 31 hours of community service.

This course is limited to 15 high school students (grades 9-12). Applications will be accepted until ~~January 15~~ **FEBRUARY 1** at 9 PM.

For more information and to get an application, contact Adrienne Minock, Teen Librarian at 290-9200 x5.

[www.henricolibrary.org](http://www.henricolibrary.org)



# Teen CERT

## Community Emergency Response Team

The Henrico County Teen Community Emergency Response Team (Teen CERT) trains teen citizens to help cope in the time period immediately following a disaster when local public safety resources may be overwhelmed. Teen CERTs learn basic first aid, search and rescue, and fire suppression techniques. But more importantly, Teen CERT members learn how to prepare for a disaster long before one occurs.

We will prepare for and respond to a hypothetical emergency, such as a hurricane, mass casualty accident, or epidemic.

The one-week training consists of:

- Four training sessions at Twin Hickory Area Library, Monday, June 23 - Thursday, June 26, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM.
- A four-hour scenario drill at the Henrico County Fire Training Facility, Friday, June 27, at a time to be announced.

Students must commit to attend ALL FOUR sessions AND the drill. On successful completion each student will earn a total of 24 hours of community service.

This course is limited to 15 high school students (grades 9-12). Applications will be accepted from April 1 through May 15.

For more information and to get an application, contact Adrienne Minock, Teen Librarian at 290-9200 x5.

### TRAINING SCHEDULE

Twin Hickory Library, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Monday, June 23

Tuesday, June 24

Wednesday, June 25

Thursday, June 26

### SCENARIO DRILL

Henrico County Fire Training Facility,  
four hours, time to be announced

Friday, June 27



**Twin Hickory Area Library**  
5001 Twin Hickory Road, Glen Allen VA 23059  
(804) 290-9200

[www.henricolibrary.org/twinhickory](http://www.henricolibrary.org/twinhickory)

Presented in partnership  
with the Henrico County  
Division of Fire and  
Office of Emergency  
Management





