

# 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: Prince William County

Program Title: American Flag Collection Program

Program Category: Environmental

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Title: Communications Specialist, PWC Solid Waste Division

Department: Public Works Department

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### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: Christopher E Martino

Title: Deputy County Executive

Signature: Christopher E Martino

**Prince William County Landfill American Flag Collection Program  
Boy Scouts Retire Old Glory with Dignity****PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The American Flag Collection Center at the Prince William County Landfill is a collaborative effort between the Boy Scouts of America Occoquan and Bull Run Districts, Prince William County Solid Waste Division and Keep Prince William Beautiful.

The collection center provides Prince William County citizens and businesses a means to retire their worn, torn and tattered American Flags respectfully. The Collection Center is located at the Prince William County Landfill and is available during normal operating hours. The Collection Center is also staffed by Boy Scouts every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 9am to 1pm to allow citizens the opportunity to present their flags in person.

All flags received at the landfill collection center are picked up on a regular basis by local Boy Scout troops and then distributed among the troops and local civic organizations such as the VFW and American Legion to be retired in their regularly scheduled Flag Retirement Ceremonies, in accordance with the United States Flag Code

The opening of the center was commemorated with a ribbon cutting on Flag Day 2014 and almost 100 flags were received in the first weekend of operation. Most of those flags were ceremoniously retired during a joint retirement ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery on June 18th. Prince William County Sheriff's deputies, Fire and Rescue personnel and local Boy Scout troops were involved in the retirement ceremony. In October 2014 the collection was almost 1000 flags and on May 1, 2015 the collection had already exceeded 2000 flags.

The American Flag Collection Center at the Prince William Landfill is a great example of the County and community working together to make disposal of a precious and special symbol easy, convenient and appropriate. It is also a program that can be replicated or adapted by other communities relatively easily and economically. Importantly, the program was implemented using existing resources and donated materials, and no additional County funding was required to support the program.

**THE PROBLEM/CHALLENGE/SITUATION FACED**

Prince William County citizens and businesses didn't have a convenient way to dispose/retire worn, torn and tattered American Flags respectfully. Even with no formal program, over the years, numerous flags had been salvaged and stored at the landfill because they were disposed of improperly by landfill customers and would have ended up in the landfill, or textile recycling bins

According to the United States Flag Code, Title 4, Section 8k, "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

Flag Retirement is the term used to define the proper, dignified way of destroying United States flags that are no longer fit to serve the nation.

**INNOVATION PARTNERING AND COLLABORATION *(Tell how program was carried out, including financing and staffing)***

The Prince William County American Flag Collection Center was truly a collaborative effort. The main partners were the Boy the Boy Scouts of America Occoquan and Bull Run Districts, Prince William County Solid Waste Division and Keep Prince William Beautiful. However, several other county entities and community organizations also played a part to bring this program to the community.

Boys Scout leader Dave Byrne approached a member of the Solid Waste Division staff about providing an American Flag collection program at the Prince William County Landfill. Byrne made a case for Prince William County's need to provide citizens with a means to retire their worn, torn and tattered American Flags respectfully. Importantly, he wanted to involve the Boy Scout troops and share this civic responsibility message with the boys and the community.

A collection program was something Division Chief Tom Smith had also identified as a need. He wanted it at the landfill because numerous flags had been salvaged and stored over the years. The Solid Waste Division management staff discussed the opportunity, offered ideas about set up and resource possibilities and how it could be put into action. Once it was agreed on, the Solid Waste Division staff began collaborating with David Byrne to make the collection program a reality.

The Solid Waste Division provided a safe and accessible location at the Landfill Citizens' Convenience Center for the flag collection center, so the boy scouts could personally receive flags from the public. A temporary banner and later permanent signage,

designed by a local company, were produced by the Prince William County sign shop. The Solid Waste Division staff identified an old library book return bin that was subsequently donated by the Prince William County Library. The division enlisted the assistance of Prince William County Fleet Management to refurbish the bin and ready it for decaling. The signage and bin were both installed by Solid Waste Division staff.

Solid Waste Division staff also coordinated the ribbon cutting event's planning and logistics. Prince William Building and Grounds provided the necessary audio equipment, podium, tables and chairs for the Flag Day event, which was attended by members of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, Boy Scout district officials, Scout families, veteran groups and community members. As well, the Solid Waste Division staff provided publicity support for the new program with press releases, marketing materials distribution to landfill customers and a [Prince William County Buzz video](#), featured on the County website and television channel.

The Boy Scouts coordinated the ribbon cutting ceremony and made arrangements for capturing the day on video and in photos for continued promotion of the program in social media and traditional media.

Keep Prince William Beautiful, a local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, provides the community an opportunity to donate financial resources to the flag collection program for retirement ceremonies, proper disposal of flags that can't be burned and other equipment needs. In late June 2014, the flag collection program received a grant of \$2,500.00 from Transurban and Fluor to aid with costs associated with the flag collection.

### Project Schedule

Flag collection idea discussed	Late February 2014
Program approval by SWD	March 2014
Bin reclamation and restoration	March-May 2014
Program coordination	Begins March 2014
Ribbon Cutting planning	Begins April 2014
Collection bin placement	June 2014
Ribbon cutting ceremony	June 14, 2014-Flag Day

## American Flag Collection Program

Prince William County

Prince William County, VA

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Flag collection begins	June 14, 2014-Flag Day
Boys Scouts Staffing	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturdays
Permanent sign replaces banner	October 2014
Discussions begin about next center	April 2015
<i>New Balls Ford Road Center Opens</i>	<i>June 2015</i>

### PROGRAM RESULTS

The American Flag Collection Center located at the Prince William County Landfill opened on Saturday, June 14 and received almost 100 flags in the first weekend of operation. Most of those flags were ceremoniously retired during a joint retirement ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery on June 18th. Prince William County Sheriff's deputies, Fire and Rescue personnel and local Boy Scout troops were involved in the retirement ceremony.

The American Flag Collection Center is available for use during landfill hours of operation; citizens and businesses may place folded flags in the special collection bin. It is also staffed by Boy Scouts every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 9am to 1pm to allow citizens the opportunity to present their flags in person. Scouts are prepared to demonstrate proper folding techniques and personally fold a citizen's flag for them. Scouts also answer general questions about flag etiquette and history.

In October 2014, the collection was almost 1000 flags and on May 1, 2015 the collection had already exceeded 2000 flags. . As well, more than 40 scouts have staffed the center.

All flags are retired during a solemn, dignified ceremony. In accordance with the United States Flag Code, all appropriate flags are burned during the ceremony in a manner consistent with the traditions of the responsible organization.

The impetus for this patriotic program clearly aligns with the Prince County Public Works Vision Statement:

*We, as Public Works staff, pledge to continue to build public confidence, conquer all challenges, and demand the best of ourselves.*



*We will honor our pledge by empowering all employees to provide information and services that exceed our customers' expectations and make our community the best.*

*Public Works pursues excellence and will be recognized as a leader for our innovative strategies and programs.*

As well as the Prince William County Vision Statement:

*We, as employees, pledge to do the right thing for customers and community every time.*

The program has been so successful that plans are currently underway with another group of scouts to set up and staff an additional collection center at the Citizen's Convenience Center located at the Prince William County Balls Ford Road Yard Waste Compost Facility. Boy Scout Leadership also has plans to spread this program to other scout districts.

Citizens can follow the Flag Collection Center through Facebook, [pwflagcollection](#), or search for Prince William County Flag Collection Center.

#### **PRESS RELEASE/BROCHURE SUMMARY**

Fittingly, the American Flag Collection Center at the Prince William County Landfill opened for business on Flag Day, June 14, 2014 after a ribbon cutting ceremony. The program is a collaborative effort between the Boy Scouts of America Occoquan and Bull Run Districts, Prince William County Solid Waste Division and Keep Prince William Beautiful.

The collection center provides Prince William County citizens and businesses a means to retire their worn, torn and tattered American Flags respectfully. The Collection Center is located at the Prince William County Landfill and is available during normal operating hours. The Collection Center is also staffed by Boy Scouts every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 9am to 1pm to allow citizens the opportunity to present their flags in person.

Almost 100 flags were received in the first weekend of operation. Most of those flags were ceremoniously retired during a joint retirement ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery on June 18th. Prince William County Sheriff's deputies, Fire and Rescue

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personnel and local Boy Scout troops were involved in the retirement ceremony. As of May 1, 2015 more than 2000 flags have been collected to be properly retired.

The American Flag Collection Center at the Prince William Landfill is a great example of the County and community working together to make disposal of a precious and special symbol easy, convenient and appropriate. It is also a program that can be replicated or adapted by other communities relatively easily and economically.

Announcing the Prince William County  
American Flag Collection Center

**OPENING JUNE 14TH!!!**

Bring your torn & tattered flags to the  
NEW Flag Collection Center at the  
Prince William County Landfill

If Your flag looks like this...



...you should immediately  
replace it and bring your  
torn or tattered flag to the  
Flag Collection Center.

...bring it to the landfill!



Your flag will be collected  
by a local Boy Scout troop  
and retired with dignity\*  
by the troop or local  
supporting organizations.

Collection Center bin will be available  
during regular landfill hours.  
14811 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 20112 (Route 234)

Boy Scouts will be present on the  
2nd & 4th Saturday each month  
from 9am to 1pm to answer questions  
and help fold your flag.

This is a joint program between Boy Scouts of America,  
Keep Prince William Beautiful and Prince William  
County Solid Waste Division. Local BSA Troops & Civic  
Organizations will properly retire all flags deposited  
at the Collection Center.\* For more info, email  
pwcfagcollection@gmail.com



John D. Jenkins and Martin E. Nohe assist Scout  
Leader Dave Byne and his son with ribbon cutting,  
as Solid Waste Division Chief Tom Smith (far  
right) looks on.



Scouts demonstrate the proper way to fold the  
American Flag at the Collection Center ribbon cutting  
ceremony.

Marketing piece developed  
by Polaris Press and  
distributed at the landfill and  
other County facilities.



Prince William area citizen hands over American Flag to Scout Daniel McGrail at the Landfill's new Flag Collection Center for proper retirement



Library book deposit bin donated by Prince William County Library that was refurbished by Prince William County Fleet management now serves as flag collection bin at Prince William County Landfill



Prince William County Buzz video featured on the County website.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoUvualOx9g&sns=em>

# Flag Collection Center is now open at county landfill

The American Flag Collection Center at the Prince William County Landfill is now open for residents and business owners.

The American Flag Collection Center is a joint effort between the Boy Scouts of America Octagon and Bull Run Districts, Keep Prince William Beautiful and Prince William County Solid Waste Division.

The opening of the center was commemorated with a ribbon-cutting on Flag Day.

The collection center was the dream of Scout leader David Byrne and he was instrumental in the planning.

In his closing remarks and in a written statement, Byrne said, "I want to encourage you to be active in preserving the respect that our Stars and Stripes deserves. Look around as you drive through your neighborhood, to church or to work.

You'll see flags everywhere. It's an awesome sight. Every once in a while, you'll see a flag that could use some help. Take a few minutes out of your day to let someone know that their flag could use replacement."

The collection center will be open during normal landfill hours for residents to drop off



During the ribbon cutting program, Scouts from Troops 1390 and 1396 demonstrate the proper folding of one of the more than 70 American flags received the day of the ceremony.



Members District Supervisor John Jenkins, left, and Coles District Supervisor Mark Noble, hold the ribbon while Scout Leader David Byrne and Boy Scout Thomas Byrne cut the ribbon in front of the Flag Collection bin.

their flags and will be staffed by Boy Scouts every second and fourth Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for those who want to hand their flags off in person.

During the staffed hours, Boy Scouts will also be available to show visitors how to fold the flag properly and to answer questions about flag protocol and history.

All flags will be picked up on a regular basis by various Boy Scout troops and will be distributed to organizations such as the Scouts, the Veterans of For-

eign Wars and the American Legion for disposal.

Flags that are not made of nylon are generally burned or incinerated.

Those made of nylon cannot be burned due to the risk of toxic fumes. Nylon flags that are dropped off at the center will be sent to outside groups that specialize in recycling American flags.

These flags are ceremonially decommissioned and then recycled to be made into new American flags.

Flags of any material can be

dropped off at no cost, but donations are being accepted to fund the program.

Donations can be made through Keep Prince William Beautiful ([www.kpw.org](http://www.kpw.org)) and note that the donation is for the Flag Collection Center.

For more information, contact David Byrne at 703-884-8030 or [pwwflagcollection@kwild.com](mailto:pwwflagcollection@kwild.com).

- Tara Slate-Dowdson

The seminar allowed us to explore exactly what would happen if that was true, what was coming at each step.

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**Midland Christian Academy**

"Train up a child in the way he should go and where he is old he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6

Accepting enrollments from pre-school through 6th grade this year!  
(limited spaces still available in some classes)

Midland, VA 22728

You may contact us at  
540-439-2606  
or email: [MCAHome@mcahome.org](mailto:MCAHome@mcahome.org)  
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This article, which appeared in the June 25 edition of the Prince William Times, is one example of the many print and online articles that were done on the new flag collection program. See this link for an online example [http://www.insidenova.com/headlines/new-american-flag-collection-center-opens-at-landfill/article\\_9985e1b0-f041-11e3-aca5-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.insidenova.com/headlines/new-american-flag-collection-center-opens-at-landfill/article_9985e1b0-f041-11e3-aca5-001a4bcf887a.html)