



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2024.** 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: Preschool Sign
Program Category: Community & Economic Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Monica Smith-Callahan
Title: Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs
Signature: 

Program Overview

At Henrico County Public Schools' Advanced Career Education Center at Highland Springs, the early childhood education program includes a school for students ages 2-5. Known fondly as "Springer Preschool Academy" (Highland Springs High School's mascot is the Springers), the 10-year old wooden entrance sign for the preschool building needed repair. The ACE Center at Highland Springs Summer Building Trades Program came to the rescue to replace the sign using their newly learned skills in masonry. The program teaches high school students about construction trades.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

In the Summer Building Trades Program, students experience real-world opportunities based on community needs. This project addressed a problem at the Springer Preschool Academy, next to ACE Center campus. The Springer Preschool Academy main entrance sign was in terrible condition and needed repair. Students in the program removed the existing sign and made a sign of concrete block and brick. With the upgraded sign, we hoped to have something that would need minimal maintenance and would last longer than the previous sign.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

This program was an innovative way for students to use what they learned in the masonry lab to create a real project for a real client. They give back to their school community and provide a service that will improve the school. By seeing a project from start to finish students were able to also build their confidence in completing a project.

How Program Was Carried Out

The Summer Building Trades Program at the ACE Center at Highland Springs provides a unique opportunity for high school students to learn about construction trades, including carpentry, masonry, air conditioning and refrigeration, low-voltage networking and electricity. For six weeks in the summer, these students attend from 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. During their time in the program, they earn their OSHA-10 certification and earn a half-credit toward their diploma.

The Cost of the Program

The block and grout for the main part of the sign were donated by James River Exteriors, a school business partner. The two signs for each side of the block were paid for by the ACE Center's House-Building Vocational Foundation.

Program Results

This program created a beautiful permanent sign that will withstand weather for many years. It's larger than the last sign and is easy to read from the main road. The metal and concrete signs met the needs of the school and helped advertise the Springer Preschool Academy within the community.

Additionally, this problem provided a real-world opportunity for the Summer Building Trades students to design and build a sign to meet the needs of the school and community. Students learned about safety, proper tool use, how to mix concrete and grout, how to measure out blocks and how to lay blocks properly.

**Preschool Sign
Supplemental Material**

