

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Diana L. Klink
757.514.4104
757.359.1845

Tim Kelley
757.514.4103
757.871.3039

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, VA (February 7, 2014) Due to the recent school days lost due to the winter weather conditions, the deadline for applications for the Suffolk Youth Public Safety Academy has been extended to Friday, February 14, 2014, at 5 p.m.

Applications are available from Suffolk Police School Resource Officers; the Kings Fork Public Safety Center located at 300 Kings Fork Road, Suffolk Police Headquarters located at 111 Henley Place, Suffolk Parks & Recreation offices, and Juvenile Intake. Applications also may be obtained by contacting Fire Investigator Pam King at 514-4542 or Detective Joyce Williams at 514-7942 or are available on the City's website at

http://www.suffolkva.us/files/5513/8938/7323/YPSA_2014_Packet.pdf

YOUTH PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

SUFFOLK, VA (January 10, 2014) The Suffolk Police Department and Suffolk Department of Fire & Rescue are accepting applications for the seventh "Suffolk Youth Public Safety Academy".

The “Suffolk Youth Public Safety Academy” is a 10-week after school program focused on at-risk youth between the ages of 13 and 17. Students gain hands-on experience of what it's like to be a police officer, firefighter, and Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Technician. Participating youth are mentored by police officers and firefighters, while experiencing the value of teamwork, discipline and social responsibility.

Lessons and activities include topics such as how to use fire hoses, dangers of energy drinks, arson investigations, Police K-9, forensics (CSI), police and fire ride along, stress management and much more. Youth will be treated to one or two field trip team building exercises. At least one trip will be on a Saturday.

Each week, students are exposed to service learning, teaching them that they can make a difference in their community. With the assistance of the mentors, students will design and implement a community-oriented program. The goal of the program is to provide positive role models, build interest in public safety professions, learn to respect themselves and others and increase confidence by expanding experiences.

The program will begin with Parent/Student Orientation on Thursday, February 27th, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. to include the student and one parent or guardian at Suffolk Fire Station 6, 300 Kings Fork Road. Classes will run through the end of May. Sessions are set for 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday.

The first class will start on Thursday, March 6, 2014.

There will be no classes the week of Suffolk Schools' Spring Break, April 14, 2013 through April 18, 2013.

A Graduation Celebration will be held in late May, date to be determined, in the evening for all students who successfully complete the Academy.

Transportation is provided to and from the program by the City of Suffolk Parks & Recreation Department. Youth will be picked-up from their respective schools and transported to the Kings Fork Public Safety Center on Kings Fork Road where the Academy is held. Meals and snacks are provided at each session. Youth will be transported home by bus unless a parent wishes to pick the youth up themselves.

The deadline for applications is Friday, February 7, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Applications will be reviewed and each applicant may be interviewed at their school by the Academy's Mentor's to decide who will be chosen to fill the 18 participant slots. On the second page of the application the applicant is required to write a 100 word essay to tell the Mentors why they would like to attend the Academy.

The Academy operates with strict Rules of Behavior and Attendance. Chosen participants are expected to adhere to all rules during the session. Any participant who cannot adhere to the rules after being given two warnings will be expelled from the program. This program is structured to include a positive learning experience, fun and discipline.

There is no cost to participants. Applications are available from Suffolk Police School Resource Officers; the Kings Fork Public Safety Center located at 300 Kings Fork Road, Suffolk Police Headquarters located at 111 Henley Place, Suffolk Parks & Recreation offices, and Juvenile Intake. Applications also may be obtained by contacting Fire Investigator Pam King at 514-4542 or Detective Joyce Williams at 514-7942 or are available on the City's website at

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