

MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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APPLICATIONS FOR YOUTH PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY BEING ACCEPTED

SUFFOLK, VA (September 13, 2010) The Suffolk Police Department and Suffolk Fire and Rescue are pleased to announce that applications are being taken for the fourth City of Suffolk Youth Public Safety Academy.

This is an 11 week after school program focused on **at risk** youth between the **ages of 13 and 17**. Students gain hands on experience on what it is like to be a police officer, firefighter, and CSI Technician. Participating youth are mentored by police officers and firefighters, while experiencing the value of teamwork and social responsibility.

Lessons and activities include topics such as use of fire extinguishers, arson investigations, computer crime and safety, forensics (CSI), Defensive Tactics and many more. Youth will be treated to a mid term trip where they will learn rope climbing and team building. Each week they are also exposed to service learning, teaching them that they can make a difference in their community. Participants will complete one civic project before the end of the program.

The goal of the program is to provide positive role models, build interest in public safety professions, and increase confidence, by expanding experiences. This program is funded, in part, by generous contributions from Target. The deadline for applications is October 4 at 5 p.m. The program will run each Tuesday and Thursday beginning October 19 from 3:30 pm to 7:15 pm, with breaks for Thanksgiving and Christmas

school holidays. Transportation is provided to and from the program by the City's Parks and Recreation staff. Youth will be picked up from their school and transported to Fire Station 6 on Kings Fork Road, where the Academy is held. Each session will end with a hot meal. The academy is limited to Suffolk youth. There is no cost to participants.

Applications are available from school resource officers, Kings Fork Public Safety Center located on Kings Fork Road, any Suffolk Police Precinct, The Boys and Girls Club at John F. Kennedy Middle School, Parks and Recreation, and Juvenile Intake.

Should you have any questions, please contact Fire Investigator Pam King at 514-4542.

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