



# Hampton Roads Public Works Academy Program for High School Cadets

## *What does Public Works and Public Utilities mean?*

The first question many parents and students ask themselves is “Just what does Public Works entail?” Public Works and Public Utilities is a very broad and important field that includes everything from water purification to highways or dams that are financed by public funds and constructed by a government for the benefit or use of the general public.

Some of the specific Public Works and Utilities areas include:

Construction	Landscaping
Planning	Sewer Maintenance
Public Health	Water Treatment
Street Operations	Waste Water
Inspections	Solid Waste
Facility Maintenance	Traffic Management
Engineering	Technology
Watershed/Shoreline Preservation	Street/Sidewalk Repair

## *What is the Hampton Roads Public Works Academy?*

The second question that usually comes up is “What is the Hampton Roads Public Works Academy?” HRPWA is a not-for-profit regional coalition promoting cooperative training in the various disciplines comprising Public Works and Utilities in Southeastern Virginia.

HRPWA has three primary objectives:

1. To coordinate lower-cost training for current Public Works and Utilities employees
2. To educate area high school students with the goal of participants becoming future pre-trained Public Works and Utilities employees
3. To provide networking opportunities for member organizations

Member organizations in HRPWA include:

American Public Works Association  
City of Chesapeake Public Works  
City of Franklin Public Works

City of Hampton Public Works  
City of Newport News Public Works  
City of Newport News Public Utilities  
City of Norfolk Public Works  
City of Suffolk  
City of Virginia Beach Public Works  
City of Virginia Beach Public Utilities  
City of Williamsburg  
Hampton Roads Sanitation District  
James City Service Authority  
Portsmouth Public Works  
Southampton County

### ***What are the program details?***

This two-year, hands-on program is centered on high school students from either The Pruden Center or New Horizons Career and Technical Education Center. Classes are taught at both centers and consist of the basics of 32 major areas of work within the Public Works and Utilities fields. Each class is taught by a subject matter expert from that particular area of work. The classes and field trips last approximately two and a half hours and meet once or twice a month depending on the center.

Course Topics include:

- Heavy Equipment
- Computer Uses in Public Works
- Water Treatment Fieldtrip
- Tools of the Trade
- Street Operations
- Inspections
- Flagger Certification
- Automotive Services
- Utility Locator
- Employee's Role in Business
- Job Safety
- CPR
- CDL License
- Math Review
- Leadership/Supervision
- Structures & Building Systems
- Emergency Operations
- Engineering/Surveys
- Water Distribution
- Traffic Engineering
- Storm Water

- Vector Control
- Custodial Services
- Solid Waste
- Employability Skills
- Customer Relations
- Wastewater Treatment Fieldtrip
- Environmental Quality-Water/Air
- Wastewater Collection Fieldtrip

### ***Is there an Internship required?***

Perhaps the greatest benefit for HRPWA students is the opportunity to complete a paid summer internship program with Public Works or Utilities, or a member organization of the Public Works Academy. This is an important requirement for graduation.

Cadets will interview with various municipalities and be offered an eight-week internship at one of the participating locations. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee where your child will be placed, the hours they will work or the pay rate; however, we know they will get invaluable experience from their internship. It is the responsibility of the Cadets' family to provide reliable, on-time transportation to the workplace.

### ***How do I get into and graduate from the Academy?***

The process is competitive as we only select approximately 20 students per year. Students should be recommended by their teacher and will be accepted into this program after an interview process.

Students are required to meet some basic criteria as follows:

1. Complete an application to enter the program
2. Have good attendance
3. Maintain their Career and Technical course average of a 'C' or better
4. Complete a summer internship
5. Display good work ethics

If these conditions are not met, a student will be released from the program.

Upon successful completion, students will receive their certificate, which among other benefits, will highlight them as first priority for public works and utilities positions. In most cases, positions will be available immediately after program completion.

### ***Are there any expenses associated with the Academy?***

There is absolutely no charge for the program. Students are given a HRPWA polo shirt and are required to wear them on class days.

### ***What do other students say about the Academy?***

*"Attending the Public Works Academy has been one of the most rewarding choices in my life for many reasons. One is because in these tough economic times stable employment is very hard to find and by attending the Public Works Academy I have obtained such employment. Another is because I have been exposed to the various jobs that the Public Works Department offers to an individual."*

#### **- Joshua Spratley, Pruden Center HRPWA Graduate**

New Horizon/ Pruden Center Cadets-2010

% Agree or strongly Agree\*

Instructor prepared and knew subject	92%
Presentation easy to follow and understand	91%
Glad I enrolled in the HRPWA program	88%

### ***Who should I contact for more information?***

#### **PRUDEN CENTER**

Mona Parker

Student Support Counselor

The Pruden Center for Industry & Technology

Phone: (757) 925-5651

Fax: (757) 925-5639

E-mail: [monparker@prudencenter.net](mailto:monparker@prudencenter.net)

#### **NEW HORIZONS**

Debbie McHugh

HRPWA Coordinator

New Horizons Regional & Technical Center

520 Butler Farm Road

Hampton, VA 23666

Phone: (757) 766-1100 press 9, ext. 3364

E-mail: [debbie.mchugh@nhrec.org](mailto:debbie.mchugh@nhrec.org)

#### **HAMPTON ROADS PUBLIC WORKS ACADEMY**

LeeAnn Azar

Executive Director

P.O. Box 11581

Norfolk, VA 23517

Phone: 757-451-4547

Fax: 757-440-0999

Email: [azarcorp@cox.net](mailto:azarcorp@cox.net)