

YOVASO FIELD TRIPS

YOVASO

YOUTH OF VIRGINIA SPEAK
OUT ABOUT TRAFFIC SAFETY



**AVAILABLE
TO MEMBER
SCHOOLS**



FUNDING:

YOVASO has potential funding options available to help cover transportation and/or lunch for schools that decide to participate.

YOVASO is offering educational field trip opportunities across the state! See below for individual activity descriptions and location information.

If you have questions, please email kendall.lythgoe@vsp.virginia.gov

FIELD TRIP OPTIONS:

VIRGINIA TECH TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

THE VIRGINIA TECH TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE IS PLEASED TO OFFER THE YOVASO ORGANIZATION FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT THE STATE-OF-THE-ART TRANSPORTATION SAFETY RESEARCH FACILITIES AND THEIR WORLD CLASS RESEARCHERS AT VIRGINIA TECH. THE FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES WOULD BE PRIMARILY DESIGNED WITH YOUNG DRIVERS OR SOON TO BE YOUNG DRIVERS IN MIND; HOWEVER, ATTENDEES WOULD ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TOUR THE SMART ROADS TEST TRACK FACILITY.

TOTAL TIME: 2.5 HOURS

ACTIVITIES:

- SHARING THE ROAD WITH TRUCKS - 1 HOUR
- SAFE DRIVING WORKSHOP - 1 HOUR
- SMART ROADS TOUR - 30 MINUTES

ACTIVITY 1 OVERVIEW

THE VIRGINIA TECH TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTES'S (VTTI) SHARING THE ROAD WITH TRUCKS OUTREACH PROGRAM CONDUCTS SAFETY PRESENTATIONS AND HANDS-ON DEMONSTRATIONS THAT TEACH STRATEGIES FOR SAFELY INTERACTING WITH TRACTOR-TRAILERS AND OTHER LARGE TRUCKS ON OUR ROADWAYS. THE PROGRAM ALSO PROVIDES PARTICIPANTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE A TRACTOR-TRAILER UP CLOSE AND EXPERIENCE THE LARGE NO-ZONES OR BLIND SPOTS FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT.

THE SHARING THE ROAD WITH TRUCKS PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED BY A TEAM OF LARGE TRUCK SAFETY EXPERTS FROM VTTI. THE CREATION OF THIS OUTREACH PROGRAM WAS IN RESPONSE TO RESEARCH THAT FOUND PASSENGER VEHICLES WERE AT FAULT IN NEARLY 80% OF CRASHES AND CLOSE CALLS INVOLVING LARGE TRUCKS. INCREASING PASSENGER VEHICLE DRIVER KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING ON HOW TO SAFELY INTERACT WITH LARGE TRUCKS ON OUR ROADWAYS CAN REDUCE THESE INCIDENTS. THIS PROGRAM REACHES THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS ACROSS THE COUNTRY EACH YEAR.

ATTENDEES WILL PARTICIPATE IN:

1. AN APPROXIMATE 25-MINUTE CLASS PRESENTATION TEACHING KEY STRATEGIES AND SAFETY TIPS WHEN ENCOUNTERING LARGE TRUCKS ALONG WITH REAL WORLD VIDEO EXAMPLES.
2. HANDS-ON DEMONSTRATION WITH AN ACTUAL TRACTOR-TRAILER ALONG WITH PASSENGER VEHICLES, BICYCLE, SCOOTER, AND PEDESTRIAN PLACED IN THE BLIND SPOTS; ATTENDEES WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WALK AROUND THE TRUCK, THROUGH THE BLIND SPOTS, AND SIT IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT TO SEE FIRSTHAND THE OVERALL LACK OF VISIBILITY THAT TRUCK DRIVERS HAVE.

ACTIVITY 2 OVERVIEW

THIS ACTIVITY WILL CONSIST OF A WORKSHOP TEACHING ATTENDEES GENERAL SAFE DRIVING TIP, ESPECIALLY ABOUT DIFFERENT TYPES OF DISTRACTION AND FATIGUE AND THE PREVALENCE OF THESE TYPES OF ISSUES AMONG YOUNG DRIVERS AND THE CONSEQUENCES. ATTENDEES WILL GAIN VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO METHODS OF PREVENTING THESE ISSUES AND MAKING SAFE, INFORMED DECISIONS WHEN BEHIND-THE-WHEEL OF A VEHICLE.

ACTIVITY 3 OVERVIEW

ATTENDEES WILL BOARD THE SHUTTLE BUS AND BE LED ON A TOUR OF THE VIRGINIA SMART ROADS TEST TRACK FACILITY. THIS TOUR WILL INCLUDE THE 2.2-MILE-LONG HIGHWAY TEST BED, THE SMART ROAD BRIDGE WHICH IS CURRENTLY THE SECOND TALLEST BRIDGE IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA, THE RURAL ROADS TEST AREA, AND THE RECONFIGURABLE SURFACE STREET TEST AREA. THE TOUR WILL CONCLUDE AT THE BUILDING 1 LOBBY.

**LOCATION: 3500 TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PLAZA
BLACKSBURG, VA 24061**

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY

OUR FIELD TRIP WILL BEGIN WITH AN ENGAGING CLASSROOM SESSION FOCUSED ON UNDERSTANDING THE KEY ASPECTS OF INTERACTING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT DURING A TRAFFIC STOP. STUDENTS WILL LEARN VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT COMMUNICATION, SAFETY, AND PROTOCOL IN SUCH SITUATIONS.

FOLLOWING THIS, WE WILL MOVE OUTDOORS FOR A HANDS-ON DEMONSTRATION WHERE STUDENTS WILL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN SIMULATED TRAFFIC STOPS, ALLOWING THEM TO PRACTICE THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THEY'VE JUST LEARNED.

THIS EXPERIENCE WILL LEAD INTO A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NEW PATHWAY TO TROOPER PROGRAM, PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH INSIGHTS INTO THE EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREER PATHS WITHIN VIRGINIA STATE POLICE.

**LOCATION: 7700 MIDLOTHIAN TNPk N.
CHESTERFIELD, VA 23235**

VDOT - LYNCHBURG FACILITY

JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING TOUR OF OUR SALT BRINE FACILITY, WHERE YOU'LL SEE HOW OUR EFFICIENT, MODERN SYSTEM HELPS KEEP ROADS SAFE IN WINTER. WATCH A SPREADER TRUCK IN ACTION, LEARN ABOUT BRINE USAGE, AND EXPLORE HOW WEATHER AFFECTS OUR DECISIONS TO LAY BRINE OR NOT. CLIMB INTO A PLOW TRUCK'S DRIVER SEAT TO EXPERIENCE THE CHALLENGES DRIVERS FACE.

VISIT OUR SMALL-SCALE TRAFFIC CAMERA SYSTEM, OFFERING REAL-TIME HIGHWAY VIEWS, AND HEAR PRESENTATIONS FROM VARIOUS VDOT DEPARTMENTS. TOPICS INCLUDE ENVIRONMENTAL CARE, LAND ACQUISITION, ENGINEERING PROCESSES, AND ADVANCED SIGNAL TECHNOLOGY. IF TIME ALLOWS, ENJOY A VIDEO SHOWCASING OUR WORK!

**LOCATION: 4219 CAMPBELL AVE
LYNCHBURG, VA 24501**

VDOT - SALEM TRAFFIC OPERATIONS CENTER (TOC)

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS CENTER CONTROL ROOM TOUR: EXPLORE HOW TRAFFIC CAMERAS, RADIOS, AND THE FANCY GAP VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT (VSL) SYSTEM HELP MANAGE ROAD SAFETY. PARTICIPATE IN FUN GAMES TO DEMONSTRATE THE VALUE OF COMMUNICATION!

SAFETY SERVICES: DISCOVER THE SSP SYSTEM THROUGH A DETAILED DISCUSSION AND VEHICLE TOUR & DEMONSTRATION.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT AT HANGING ROCK AREA HEADQUARTERS: TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT HEAVY EQUIPMENT USED IN ROAD MAINTENANCE, SUCH AS A MOTORGRADER, AND A FRONT-END LOADER, AND PAINT TRUCK.

SIGNAL SHOP AT DISTRICT OFFICE: LEARN ABOUT TRAFFIC SIGNAL TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING EQUIPMENT AND SIGNAL THEORY. WATCH A VIDEO DETECTION SYSTEM IN ACTION AND DISCOVER HOW REAL-TIME DATA COLLECTION WORKS WITH KITS.

END THE DAY WITH A FUN, REAL-LIFE GAME OF RED-LIGHT, GREEN-LIGHT TO REINFORCE TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONCEPTS. THIS FIELD TRIP PROVIDES AN EXCITING, HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE OF THE TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT THAT KEEP OUR ROADS SAFE AND EFFICIENT.

**LOCATION: 1596 DEBORAH LN,
SALEM, VA 24153**

VDOT - STAUNTON TRAFFIC OPERATIONS CENTER (TOC)

THE DEMONSTRATION AT THE STAUNTON TRAFFIC OPERATION CENTER IS 3 PARTS. STATION ONE WILL TAKE YOU TO THE TOC SO YOU CAN OBSERVE WHAT THEY DO ON A DAILY BASIS AND LEARN HOW WE IMPROVE SAFETY ON VIRGINIA'S ROADWAYS. STATION TWO WILL TAKE YOU TO OBSERVE A SAFETY SERVICES PATROL TRUCK AND TO LEARN ABOUT THAT PROGRAM, WHERE THEY PATROL, AND HOW THEY ARE ABLE TO HELP IN TIMES OF NEED. FINALLY, STATION THREE WILL TAKE YOU TO A SIGNAL TIMING DISPLAY SO THEY CAN EXPLAIN HOW TRAFFIC SIGNAL TIMINGS CAN HELP IN TIMES OF DETOURS AND THE SCIENCE BEHIND TRAFFIC SIGNAL TIMING.

**LOCATION: 811 COMMERCE ROAD
STAUNTON, VA 24401**

VDOT - RICHMOND TRAFFIC OPERATIONS CENTER (TOC)

TOURS OF THE RICHMOND VDOT TRAFFIC OPERATIONS CENTER (TOC) WILL BE SEGMENTED INTO THREE STATIONS. STATION ONE WILL TAKE YOU TO THE TOC SO YOU CAN OBSERVE DAILY OPERATIONS AND LEARN HOW VDOT CONSTANTLY WORKS TO IMPROVE SAFETY ON VIRGINIA'S ROADWAYS. STATION TWO WILL TAKE YOU TO OBSERVE A SAFETY SERVICES PATROL TRUCK AND TO LEARN HOW VDOT STAFF HELP VIRGINIA'S MOTORISTS IN TIMES OF NEED. FINALLY, STATION THREE WILL TAKE YOU TO A TRAFFIC LIGHT DISPLAY TO DEMONSTRATE AND EXPLAIN THE SCIENCE BEHIND TRAFFIC SIGNAL TIMINGS AND HOW THEY IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN TIMES OF DETOURS AND RUSH HOURS.

**LOCATION: 2430 PINE FORREST DRIVE,
COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834**

VDOT HAMPTON ROADS TRAFFIC OPERATIONS CENTER (TOC)

THE HAMPTON ROADS TRAFFIC OPERATIONS CENTER DEMONSTRATION CONSISTS OF THREE STATIONS. STATION ONE WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE TOC, ALLOWING YOU TO OBSERVE THEIR DAILY OPERATIONS AND UNDERSTAND HOW THEY ENHANCE SAFETY ON VIRGINIA'S ROADWAYS. STATION TWO WILL TAKE YOU TO SEE AN SSP TRUCK, WHERE YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT THE PROGRAM, THE AREAS THEY PATROL, AND HOW THEY ASSIST DURING EMERGENCIES. LASTLY, STATION THREE WILL FEATURE A SIGNAL TIMING DISPLAY, WHERE YOU'LL GAIN INSIGHTS INTO HOW TRAFFIC SIGNAL TIMINGS ARE ADJUSTED DURING DETOURS AND THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE DURATION OF RED AND GREEN LIGHTS BASED ON THE TIME OF DAY.

**LOCATION: 970 REON DR
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23464**