

Agreement



Community Academy Ambassadors

Community Academy Ambassadors will strive to help build a strong and thriving community by:

Seeking Education

- Demonstrating commitment to the program by participating for the full course of the Academy
- Engaging with the community through communicating positively with peers, networking with other Ambassadors, attending outreach events, and seeking engagement with partner agencies
- Avoiding assumptions and asking questions

Sharing Information

- Valuing and sharing information above opinion
- Combatting misinformation online and in-person
- Seeking solutions to problems, including communicating questions and reporting concerns to the appropriate agency/ department

Advocating for and Modeling Civility

- Assuming positive intent
- Respecting others' time and space by not monopolizing the conversation
- Accepting and giving constructive criticism
- Seeking common ground and diverse thought
- Practicing respectful and safe dialogue in-person and online
- Advocating vs attacking
- Practicing the WAIT – **W**hy **A**m **I** Talking?
Does it need to be said? Does it need to be said by me? Does it need to be said by me right now?

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General Guidelines

To help every participant have a positive experience in the Augusta County Community Academy (ACCA), we ask for your cooperation in following these program guidelines:

1. **Please be on time.** Our departments have a lot of information to share! We need to start promptly to cover all topics and allow for questions and answers. Please arrive 5-10 minutes early.
 2. **Let us know if you're going to be late or absent.** If you will not be able to attend a class or will be significantly late, please contact us as soon as possible at academy@co.augusta.va.us or call us at (540) 245-5610 (before 5 pm).
 3. **Leave family at home.** While we understand that emergencies arise and babysitters fall through, please keep in mind that many of the classes and tours are not child-friendly. We also want to avoid disruptions to presenters and participants.
 4. **Be respectful.** We all have different points of view. Please be courteous and civil to your fellow participants, presenters and staff, regardless of differing opinions.
 5. **Ask questions, but avoid personal grievances.** This is your chance to hear directly from the people who do the work, and our presenters welcome your questions (each speaker will have a dedicated Q&A time). That said, **this is not a time to air personal grievances.** If you have a concern with one of our departments, please bring it to our attention outside of class and we will address it with you.
 6. **Attend at least 5 of the 7 classes.** If you fail to attend at least 5 classes, you will not be eligible for a certificate of completion.
 7. **Silence your phones.** As a courtesy to your neighbor and the presenter, please silence your cell phone while classes are in progress.
 8. **Be honest.** We'll be sending you a brief evaluation survey after each class. Your candid and constructive feedback will help us make ACCA worthwhile for current and future participants.
 9. **Have fun.** This program is about you. Enjoy yourself, make new friends and discover Augusta County!
- ✓ I understand and will follow the agreement and pledge.
 - ✓ I will commit to attending every class that I can.
 - ✓ I understand that disruptive and disrespectful conduct, as determined by Augusta County, will not be tolerated and may result in immediate dismissal from the program.