



Service Authority

Prince William County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Service Authority Ropes a Win at Annual Utility Rodeo

WOODBRIDGE, VA, October 23, 2023 —Prince William County Service Authority employees showcased their skills and expertise at the Virginia Section American Water Works Association (VA AWWA) 33rd Annual Water Distribution Seminar and Utility Rodeo. Held in Roanoke earlier this month, the Utility Rodeo featured contests that tested participants' skill, speed and safety in the water utility industry.

The Service Authority Rodeo Team, nicknamed The Hammerheads, was led by Mechanical Supervisor Conner Armstrong and Collection & Distribution (C&D) Assistant Team Leader Nick Mellon. Other members of the team included C&D Team Leader Zackary Angell; Utility Worker Ashley Gongora; Field Services Technician I Samantha Hall; C&D Assistant Team Leader Jacob Harrison; C&D Assistant Team Leader Erik Nicely; C&D Team Leader Adam Stancil; C&D Assistant Team Leader Austin Sullivan and C&D Team Leader Travis Sullivan.

"Our team results at the Utility Rodeo demonstrate the exceptional training and skills that our employees put into action every day on behalf of our customers," said General Manager/CEO Calvin D. Farr, Jr. "I could not be prouder of the team and the work they put into preparing for this competition. Our Hammerhead team members placed in every category they entered."

In the Rapid Tappin' category, where teams had to make a pressurized main tap and service connection, the Service Authority clinched first place with a swift time of 2 minutes and 13 seconds. Austin Sullivan secured the first-place position in the Meter Madness challenge, while Jacob Harrison claimed second place, demonstrating their expertise in assembling water meters.

The Service Authority achieved top honors in the Best of Virginia Taste Test, where judges sampled water from various utilities and assessed contestants in categories like Clarity, Odor, Flavor and Aftertaste.

This is only the second year that the Service Authority has competed in the Utility Rodeo and the first year a women's team has competed.

"Our team exhibited teamwork, professionalism, and amazing skill while representing the Service Authority," said Conner Armstrong, the team's coach. "The rodeo brings together the most talented crews from utilities all around the state to compete and demonstrate their skills, and our workers are among the best in the industry."

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The Service Authority provides drinking water and wastewater services to about 386,000 people in homes, schools and businesses throughout Prince William County.