HAMPTON VA
N E W S   R E L E A S E

West Point cadets will mentor students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

June 15, 2015 - A group of cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point will visit Hampton June 17-20th to meet with Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority officials, city administrators and others as part of the military academy's partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The cadets will mentor students in grades 6-8 about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs, learn about Hampton and tour Fort Monroe.

West Point and the Army Research Laboratory's STEM Outreach Center have partnered with HUD, local housing authorities and others - Make A Difference 2020, the Virginia-STEM Innovation Network and AmeriCorps (Corporation for National Community Service) - for a series of events this summer, including mobile STEM robotics workshops in Hampton, Norfolk and Richmond.

Ronald Jackson, executive director of Hampton's housing authority, said: "West Point has made a commitment to engage underserved areas to promote the STEM discipline to youth as an educational pursuit in higher-education."

Hopefully, through educational attainment and favorable employment opportunities, that pursuit will provide one more avenue out of the cycle of poverty that too often characterizes the state of underserved communities."

While in Hampton, cadets will learn about Housing Authority operations, tour some properties and projects, meet with city leadership and attend a Habitat for Humanity house dedication. The cadets will also have the opportunity to meet with young people at various community centers.

The visit will culminate Saturday, June 20 with cadets conducting a STEM workshop at North Phoebus Community Center for about 40 kids from the Hampton and Portsmouth housing authorities.

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