



Dream. Believe. Achieve.



ISSUE: 5202

THE BLUEGRASS BUGLE



Adapting, Overcoming, Succeeding!

The cycle is well underway! Now in week six, the Cadets have fully embraced the challenge of the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy. They have adapted to the rigorous routine, balancing daily classwork, afternoon physical training, health and hygiene responsibilities, and other duties. Many are eagerly working toward earning their Level 2 rank, while those who have already achieved it are pushing forward toward Level 3. Their progress is evident, and their commitment to growth is stronger than ever!

PREPARING FOR THE TRI-STATE INVITATIONAL



For weeks now, the buzz around the Academy has been all about the upcoming Tri-State competition, where the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy will compete in Michigan alongside the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy and the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy in a multitude of events that will not only showcase physical attributes, but mental as well. Cadets have been training diligently, sharpening their skills, and preparing for the challenges ahead. While each Academy is striving for victory, this competition is about more than just winning—it's a chance to demonstrate the discipline, teamwork, and dedication that define them. As they push themselves in the final weeks of preparation, they do so with pride, integrity, and a spirit of camaraderie. No matter the outcome, the real success lies in the lessons they learn, the friendships they forge, and the personal growth they achieve through the experience.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

As we step into March, marking six weeks of progress, these cadets have shown remarkable growth in their education, physical training, mental resilience, and personal development. Their dedication and determination are evident in the strides they've made, continuously improving their skills and overall performance. Their commitment to this program is truly commendable as they transform into more disciplined and driven individuals. I'm incredibly proud of each cadet for embracing this journey, and I look forward to seeing them continue to discover the strong, capable young men and women within themselves.

Mr. Timberlake
Director

Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy



ELECTION OF STUDENT COUNCIL

Each cycle, cadets take the initiative to run for student council, eager to represent their peers and contribute to Academy life. This tradition reinforces the Academy's commitment to fostering responsible citizenship by providing cadets with firsthand experience in the democratic process, preparing them for future civic engagement. The student council serves as a voice for the cadet body, gathering input from each platoon, deliberating on key initiatives, assigning tasks for proposal development, and setting timelines for execution. Once finalized, these plans are submitted to leadership for approval. Before voting began, each candidate had the opportunity to present their platform to the Academy, making this election cycle one of the most competitive yet. These were the results of the Class 52 Student Council Election:

Secretary: Cadet Thomas
 Vice-President: Cadet Gibson
 President: Cadet Winburn

Each platoon will also nominate a representative to make sure their voices are heard in council meetings!



Upcoming events

March 11 - 13: ACT Testing

April 15: ASVAB Test

April 23 - 25: Tri-State Invitational

April 26: Family Day

May 5: Blood Drive

May 8: Capitol Tour & Black Hawk Ride

June 14: Graduation



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Hale
 Instructor

Mrs. Hale may only be in her second cycle with the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy, but the impact she has on the cadets in her classroom is immeasurable. Displaying unwavering dedication and a compassionate heart, she goes above and beyond to ensure her students not only succeed academically but also feel valued and supported. Her classroom is a safe haven where students know they will be heard and encouraged. When one of them is going through a tough time, Mrs. Hale doesn't hesitate to lend a listening ear or find ways to offer help. To Mrs. Hale, teaching is not just a profession; it's a calling, and she wholeheartedly dedicates herself to shaping bright futures!

OFFERING WORSHIP WITH PLEASANT VIEW

The steadfast commitment of Pleasant View Baptist Church in McQuady, KY, continues to benefit the Bluegrass Challenge Academy cadets through their ongoing weekly worship services. Each Tuesday evening, cadets are provided with a dedicated time for spiritual reflection and encouragement, a crucial element of their Academy experience from Brother Josh Calloway and his ministry group.

Led by the church's passionate members and pastoral staff, these services offer inspiration and strength, aiding cadets in their journey of personal growth, discipline, and responsibility.

This enduring partnership creates a nurturing environment where cadets can explore their faith, build community, and cultivate leadership skills, making it an invaluable part of their weekly routine. They will begin to offer their elective courses of culinary arts, carpentry, hunting & tracking, and electrical towards the beginning of May to offer something new for our cadets!



DONATING WITH RED CROSS

Donating blood is one of the simplest yet most powerful ways to help others. Just one pint of donated blood can save up to three lives. Blood drives at the Academy with the American Red Cross provide our cadets with a convenient way to give back to their communities. These donations help maintain a steady supply of blood for hospitals and medical centers. Beyond the immediate benefits to those receiving blood, cadets who donate often find a sense of fulfillment in knowing they have made a difference. Some cadets may hesitate to donate due to fear of needles or concerns about feeling weak afterward, however, the donation process is safe, quick, and typically takes less than half an hour. By donating blood, our cadets are not only saving lives but also inspiring others to do the same. It's a simple act with a profound impact—one that strengthens themselves and ensures that those in need receive the care they deserve.

Cadet Q & A: We asked several of our cadets what the most difficult part adjusting to life at the BYCA has been, as well as what they hope to accomplish during the cycle!



“The main thing that has been difficult to adjust to is having to do a lot of P.T. and being able to contain my attitude. What I hope to achieve is to work on my attitude and accomplish my schooling here, and to get ready for when I go out in the real world.” - Cadet Smyth

“The most difficult part of BCA is not having my village to talk to everyday like I have had, not being able to do what I do normally everyday. But most importantly, not having my music to work with. I would hope to improve on a couple of things, such as my self-control, discipline, and my attitude.” - Cadet Taylor



“Being around and living with a lot of people is one of the most difficult parts of the BCA. While here, I hope to pass my sophomore year.” - Cadet Lumley



“I think the hardest part of adjusting to life at BCA is my peers because on top of my own issues, I have to deal with everyone else’s too. While here, I am really hoping to improve on life skills.” - Cadet Wallace



“The most difficult part adjusting to the BCA is trying my best to stay as far as possible from drama and conflict with the other girls. I hope to achieve the goal of getting back on track with my education, improve my attitude, as well as control over my impulse to talk back.” - Cadet Johnson, D

“The most difficult part to life at BCA is definitely the military type life style and adjusting to the cadets in the barracks. I hope to improve my physical fitness and to discipline my mind and body.” - Cadet Houchens



“The most difficult part adjusting to life at BCA for me is the sleep schedule and the trouble makers. The sleep schedule isn’t too bad but the trouble makers will get the whole platoon in trouble and do mass p.t., which isn’t fun. I hope to lose weight and get my grades up, and this place is the way to do it. I’ve already seen progress on both!” - Cadet Route



“The most difficult part of adjusting to life at BCA would be environmental change. I’ve been home sick a few times but meeting LeMaster and Williams has really changed my opinion about the BCA. While being here, I hope to improve on self-discipline to better my self.” - Cadet Duncan

CENTER STAGE CADETS



Cadet Turner, 1st Platoon Wolfpack

“The most difficult part of being at the BCA is being away from the people I love, as well as learning your roll and finding things that bring me a little joy. I hope to achieve better mental health, physical health, and life coping skills to deal with the real world. Being an adult is hard and I believe BCA can help me be the best I can be. Once I graduate the program, I plan on doing my senior year at home school, joining the National Guard and becoming a missile detection officer. While I do that, I will go to college to get my medical/nursing degree.”



Cadet Jackson, 2nd Platoon Bulldogs

“The most difficult part of adjusting to life at the BCA is probably being around so many other kids that have come from so many different walks of life, and that they have gone through things that make them how they are. I plan to achieve Honors Platoon while I am here. I would like to improve my school work and discipline, so that when I leave, I will have become a better person. After the program, I plan to finish school, graduate, and either join the Army as a combat engineer, or be a regular engineer in the civilian sector.”

Message from the Deputy Director:

“The cadets are stepping up, embracing the Academy, and putting in the work to make it their own. From day one, they’ve been tested—physically, mentally, and emotionally. And through it all, they are learning to trust the process. In the months ahead, we will sharpen their sense of purpose, reinforce their direction, and instill an unbreakable determination. The eight core components are not just guidelines; they are the foundation of their success, the standard by which they will measure themselves. Our mission is to push them beyond what they thought possible, to challenge them, to build them into leaders of character. I have seen the progress. I have seen the transformation. And I have no doubt—you will too.”

**Rocky Jensen, Deputy Director
Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy**



Message from the Commandant:

“With six weeks behind them, these cadets have already proven their strength and resilience. They have faced challenges head-on, adapted to a new way of life, and continued pushing themselves to be better every day. At this point, there is no doubt that they have what it takes to complete this journey. Keep striving, stay focused, and remember—you are capable of more than you ever imagined. The finish line is within reach, and we believe in each and every one of you!”

**CSM Sanders, Commandant
Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy**



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