



Dream. Believe. Achieve.



ISSUE: 5104

# THE BLUEGRASS BUGLE



## Nearing the End

It feels like Class 51 just began but we are already in week 15 and prepping for the end of the cycle, to include their Thanksgiving pass and graduation ceremony. The trials and tribulations aren't over just yet though, as they still have a few more weeks to make it to the end to able to walk that stage. We're coming up on some very important events, including both a Veterans Day parade and Holiday parade that the cadets will be marching in, so we still have plenty for them to do before the end of the cycle!



# GETTING HANDS-ON TRAINING



Rep. Josh Calloway and his ministry group from Pleasant View Baptist Church have been valued, long-term partners of the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy, where they graciously lead worship services for our cadets every Tuesday evening, open to anyone who wishes to attend. Later in the program, they offer a variety of vocational courses for cadets to explore, covering areas like hunting, culinary arts, electrical work, and carpentry. Over a span of four weeks, these courses provide hands-on training in these practical skills. For example, the carpentry course teaches cadets how to construct a picnic table from scratch, accurately measuring and assembling the wood; the electrical course shows cadets how to wire outlets safely; the hunting course instructs them on tracking wildlife and using tools or calls to attract game; and the culinary course allows cadets to prepare different dishes throughout the program. We are deeply grateful to Pleasant View Baptist Church for their time and dedication in offering such valuable opportunities to our cadets!

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**Ms. Jackie**  
**Program Coordinator**

She may be one of the newer members of the team, but Ms. Jackie's impact on the cadets of the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy has been felt all cycle long! Whether she's helping plan an outing for the cadets, being an additional chaperone, or just spending time with the cadets, it's easy to notice (among hearing her laugh) immediately how much she truly cares about the cadets. It may be her first cycle, but her impact cannot be understated, and we hope she will be around for many more cycles to come!





# ENJOYING THE FARM LIFE!



Agritainment is a term for farm-related activities that combine education and entertainment to provide a fun experience for visitors, and this is exactly what our cadets got when they visited Roberts Family Farm, LLC! Upon arriving at the farm, they were greeted and received a brief of what "agritainment" is and the crops that Roberts Family Farm grows throughout the year, and what kind of activities they would get to experience! After the briefing, a tractor ride took them to the pumpkin patch where they picked their own pumpkin for a later scheduled carving contest to happen at the Academy. Following that, a corn maze with hidden clues awaited them where they worked together to find each station to complete their challenge! No farm experience would be complete without a stop at the petting zoo where baby goats awaited them. Roberts Family Farm, LLC cannot be thanked enough for allowing our cadets to come out for the day, enjoy themselves, and experience something new to them!

## Upcoming events

October 26: Kentucky Kingdom

October 31: Harvest Fest

November 14: Red Cross Blood Drive

November 27 - December 1: Thanksgiving Pass

December 14: Graduation





# A MEMBER OF THE SQUAD

By Cadet Newberry



When we first arrived at Tri-State, I had a mixture of anxiety and happiness. Within the first hour of being there, I had my first sport of softball. The whole invitational consisted of a lot of competition and freezing cold weather. BCA all came together and had unity the whole time we were there. It was like our little bonding time; it was as if everybody left all the drama at home and forgot all their differences.

Every sport I played or watched, the friendly competition was there. By the second day, we had already made friends with Indiana. Although they were our competition, we cheered each other on and had a fun time. Even despite enduring freezing cold showers, we all laughed it off eventually.

We all had a good time there competing against HYCA and MYCA and really enjoyed ourselves. I think winning some of the sports I was involved in and actually doing good has really boosted my self-confidence. I think it's the same for the rest of us; males and females alike. It was a fun and eye-opening experience. The ride back to the BCA was by far the best though; car naps honestly just hit different.



## THE TRI-STATE EXPERIENCE!

In the third week of October, our cadets had the opportunity to compete in a variety of events against the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy (Indiana) and the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy. Over the course of three days, they participated in sports, chess, a spelling bee, and a drill and ceremony demonstration. Each event was scored, with rankings assigned based on how each Academy performed in individual competitions. Although the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy didn't take first place, they secured an overall second-place finish. Our teams achieved the following rankings in each event:

<u>1ST PLACE</u>	<u>2ND PLACE</u>	<u>3RD PLACE</u>
Boys Basketball	Flag Football	Cornhole
Boys Track	Girls Basketball	Drill & Ceremony
Chess (Tie)		Girls Track
Softball (Tie)		
Spelling Bee		
Volleyball		



**Cadet Q & A: We asked several of our cadets what their favorite school subject and P.T. activity is, as well as how the BCA has helped them since the beginning of the cycle!**



“My favorite subject is math, and my favorite P.T. activity is cardio and abs. BCA has helped me improve my time management and coping skills. What motivates me are my goals, such as getting Directors Platoon and graduating with it.” - Cadet Doom

“My favorite school subject is writing/ELA; my favorite P.T. activity is running or leg day here. The BCA has really helped me with anger management and fighting mostly, but also helped me figure out how to respond to people better. What motivates me is keeping my failure in the time frame they happen and not dwelling on them.” - Cadet Robinson



“My favorite school subject is history, and my favorite P.T. activity would be push-ups or running a mile. The BCA helped me see where I was going wrong in life. It’s helped me work on myself and improve mentally and physically. What motivates me is my mom and probably every time I have failed, I do not want to be a failure.” - Cadet Richmond



“My favorite school subject would probably be integrated science and P.T. activity would have to be doing 10 reps of 3 different exercises, then running a lap. BCA has helped me with my thinking before I act out and or speak, and it has helped me get more fit. The cadre really help motivate me because they don’t let us quit, especially during P.T.” - Cadet Bingham



“My favorite school subject is world history and geometry, and my favorite P.T. activity is full body because I feel better mentally and physically. BCA has helped me with my attitude and how I come off at people, and got me away from the group I was around. My family motivates me, I am the oldest sibling and all my younger siblings look up to me.” - Cadet Maggard

“My favorite school subject would be chemistry, and my favorite P.T. activity would be cardio. I feel like BCA has helped me control my impulsive actions, as well as the way I respond to others. What motivates me is the cadre, they are there to tell you to keep pushing on when things get tough.” - Cadet Ray



“My favorite school subject is math, and my favorite P.T. activity is basketball; I love to hoop and it makes my day better when I’m feeling down. The BCA has helped me a lot with anger management and taught me how to get along with people. It has also helped me with my communication skills. Talking to my mom and hearing the cadre and my peers say that I’ve improved since I’ve been here really motivates me.” - Cadet Unsel



“My favorite subject in school is definitely English. My favorite P.T. activity is when we got to run the track in the pouring rain, 10/10 experience. Before BCA, I had issues expressing myself and my opinions, but I tend to be open with myself along with others. I’ve also improved on my leadership skills. What motivates me are the cadre and my family. I went into this program for my family and I’m going to complete it for them and myself.” - Cadet Sprague



## CENTER STAGE CADETS



Cadet Kuiper, 1st Platoon Wolfpack

“My favorite school subject is English because I love to write. My favorite P.T. activity was when we were allowed to run in the rain; it was one of the best experiences while being here. The BCA has helped me by teaching me how to not last out as much as I used to; my first instinct used to be to lay my hands on someone who made me frustrated and I don’t do that anymore. My parents and the cadre motivate me when things get tough, and always cheer me on when I get frustrated. Once I graduate the program, my plans are to go back to my high school and finish, and not go back to the group of people that got me in trouble and lead me down the wrong path.”



Cadet English, 3rd Platoon Blackhawks

“My favorite school subject is English/Literature Arts; I love to write, since it helps me through tough situations. My favorite P.T. activity is probably softball. The BCA has helped me realize the hardships and pain I have caused my loved ones. I’ve been through a lot like most people here but just because we weren’t born on the same wave doesn’t mean we aren’t part of the same ocean. Before here, I didn’t have motivations. I would wade through life focusing on pain, but now what gets me through my hurt, my pain is family. Once I graduate BCA, I’m gonna find a job, get my license, and focus on psychology so I’m ready for college.”

### Message from the Commandant:

“ I am so proud of all of you. You have made it to week 15 with only 7 weeks left to go. Was it all glitter and rainbows? No! But what it was was Cadets who conquered and overcame so many challenges and goals. I am so proud of you all and hope you can see yourselves through the lenses of my eyes. Pat yourselves on the back for continuously persevering. I look forward to seeing your continuous growth and tenacity. Let's finish strong, you got this. ”

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



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