

# Appalachian ChalleNGe Advantage



Kentucky National Guard Youth Challenge Program Academy Newsletter

Special Edition December 2024

## ACA Celebrates Twenty Fifth Commencement Ceremony

**Class 026  
Intake  
January 26, 2025**

**ACCEPT THE  
CHALLENGE  
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AVAILABLE!**

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Saturday 30 November 2024 marked the 25th Commencement Ceremony of the Appalachian Challenge Academy. ACA was honored to have Brigadier General Joseph D. Lear, the Land Component Commander of the Kentucky National Guard, as the keynote speaker. He provided an inspiring address to cadets and their families, reminding them of how much they have overcome and encouraged them to apply the many lessons they have received during their time with the ACA in the next chapter of their life.

We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of each graduate and invite you to join us in congratulating the Graduates of the Appalachian Challenge Academy Class 025.



## Class 025 Achievements

427 High School Credits

104 College Credit Hours

17 High School Graduates

13 Cadets completed Fiber Optic Technician I Certification

13 Welder Helper Certifications

All cadets completed a bronze certificate in the Congressional Award Program

**3,880 Service to Community Hours** completed, an average of 40 hours per cadet, an estimated value of **\$75,000** given back to local communities.

## Staff Excellence Award Recipients



**Cadre Recipient**  
**SFC Breanna Madison**



**Admin Recipient**  
**James Rader and Jeff Belcher**



**Cadet Major Kadence Johnson**

## **Major Kadence Johnson**

Part of the leadership/followership core component is the assignment of rank to cadets as a reflection of their performance and potential. The rank of Major is selected directly by the Commandant and assigned to one cadet who exemplifies the Commandant's vision of performance and potential, not just during the residential phase but outside of it as well.



**Cadet Lt. Colonel Brendan Nunn**

## **Lt. Colonel Brendan Nunn**

The rank of Lieutenant Colonel is the highest rank cadets can achieve. This cadet is selected personally by the Director and is one who exemplifies the model for what every cadet should strive to emulate, and one who embodies the pride and values of the Appalachian Challenge Academy above all others.

# **Platoon of the Cycle Award Congratulations 3rd Platoon Cadets!**



# Most Improved Cadet Awards

1st Platoon— Hayden Baker



2nd Platoon— Deven Thompson



3rd Platoon— Madison Cromer



# Honor Graduates

1st Platoon— Landin Wood



2nd Platoon— Brendan Nunn



3rd Platoon— Megan Provence



# Positive Impact Awards



**1st Platoon  
SFC Jared Goldey**



**2nd Platoon  
SFC Adam Roark**



**3rd Platoon  
SFC Brielle Hubbard**



**Staff Recipient  
MSG Alex Stewart**

# Recruiting News

Now Accepting New Applications for Class 026

## Meet our Recruiting/Admissions Team



Rusty Bailey



Dexter Day



Eric Gray

**NEED  
TO  
KNOW**



Sarah Lawson

**Class 026 will begin on January 26, 2025. Meet and Greets are a perfect opportunity to find out more information about our program, and also to sign your teen up for the program. Our recruiters will be available 3 to 7 pm to answer all your questions, and you don't have to be present the whole time. To complete an online application please visit our website: <https://challengeaca.com/apply-now/>**

### Meet and Greet Dates

- ◆ Florence: January 2nd and 3rd  
Holiday Inn/Cincinnati Airport  
1055 Vandercar Way, Florence Ky
- ◆ Lexington: January 9th and 10th  
Holiday Inn (Hamburg)  
1976 Justice Dr, Lexington Ky
- ◆ London: December 12, Holiday Inn (exit 38), 506 Minton drive, London KY
- ◆ Williamsburg: January 15 from 12PM –6PM  
Hampton Inn 530 KY 92, Williamsburg Ky

#### NOTE: Things to bring

- ◆ Your Teen
- ◆ Birth Certificate
- ◆ SS Card
- ◆ Insurance Card



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Find us on Facebook!  
Follow us on Twitter @ChalleNGe\_ACA

The Appalachian Challenge Academy is a 22 week, residential quasi-military program dedicated to advancing foundational development of regional youth, followed by a 2 year post residential follow up program. With a focus on 15 1/2-18 year old youth, it is our goal to provide a diverse skillset through our Eight Core Components that will prepare them to successfully transition into adulthood and create the future they set their sights on. If you would like more information or are interested in joining our community of support, feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Dream. Believe. Achieve.**

# ACCEPTING CLASS 026 APPLICATIONS

CLASS BEGINS  
January 26, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Appalachian Challenge Academy

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