



Appalachian ChallaNGe Advantage



Kentucky National Guard Youth Challenge Program Academy Newsletter

MARCH 2025

VOLUME XXVI ISSUE III

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IMPORTANT DATES

Cadet Virtual Reward Days:
March 30th
April 27th

Graduation:
June 14th

Intake Class 027
July 13th



Electing for Success

Student council elections were recently held, and the election process brought great excitement and learning opportunities for each cadet. Cadets had the opportunity to elect officials to lead and represent them in this constitutional and citizenship learning project. Each platoon will be represented by (2) representatives, with an Academy elected President, Vice-President, and Secretary. The election is integrated into the Citizenship Core Component, and serves as great medium for cadet involvement in their ChalleNGe journey. Please see remarks from Class 026 Elected Officials.



STUDENT COUNCIL



Student Council President, Hurley, I.,

When I ran for student council, my goal was simple: to Make the ACA Great Again. Being elected president is an incredible honor, and I am deeply grateful to the students who believed in me and my ability to make a real difference.

One of my top priorities is implementing the ACA Point Store, where students can exchange points for rewards like candy, soda, and other treats. This initiative not only gives students an incentive to stay engaged but also allows them to see the direct impact of their efforts. I believe this program will motivate students and bring positive change to our academy.

But my plans don't stop there. Throughout my presidency, I will work tirelessly to improve the ACA experience for all students. Every decision I make will be with the goal of encouraging and uplifting my fellow cadets, ensuring their time here is meaningful and rewarding. I am excited for the journey ahead!

Student Council Vice President, Thomas, Z. Being the Student Council Vice President is incredibly important to me. This position reinforces my belief that with dedication, I can achieve anything I set my mind to. It gives me a platform to ensure opinions are heard and truly considered. I am deeply honored to serve in this role and to be part of something greater than just being a cadet at the Appalachian Challenge Academy. I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to contribute and showcase all the remarkable aspects of ACA.

Student Council Secretary, Bruce, L. Student council is important to me because it gives me the opportunity to hear and share great ideas that can make ACA a better and more fun place for everyone. I want to help others enjoy being here while also stepping out of my comfort zone and taking on more responsibility. This role would allow me to grow, take things more seriously, and make a positive impact on the school community.



OFFICERS

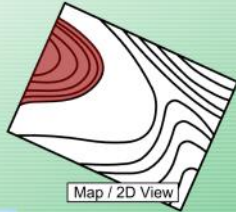
The Way You Get There!

Land Navigation

Determine Your Location

By relating the terrain features on the ground and those on the map you can determine your location.

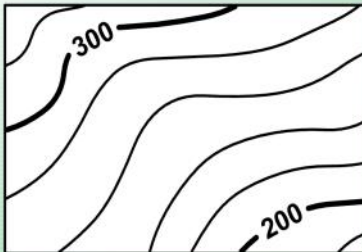
After you have determined where the terrain features on the ground and those on the map coincide, determine the coordinates of your location using the coordinate scale and protractor.



Map / 2D View



Contour Lines



Contour lines connect a series of points of equal elevation and are used to illustrate topography, or relief, on a map. They show the height of ground.

For example, numerous contour lines that are close together indicate hilly or mountainous terrain; when far apart, they represent a gentler slope.

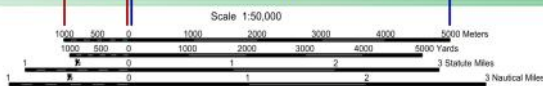
Measuring Distance

A Bar Scale is a ruler printed on the map and is used to convert distances on the map to actual ground distances.

To the right of the zero, the scale is marked in full units of measure and is called the Primary Scale. To the left of the zero, the scale is divided into tenths and is called the Extension Scale.

Note: When using the Bar Scale, be sure to use the correct scale for the unit of measure desired.

Extension Scale Primary Scale



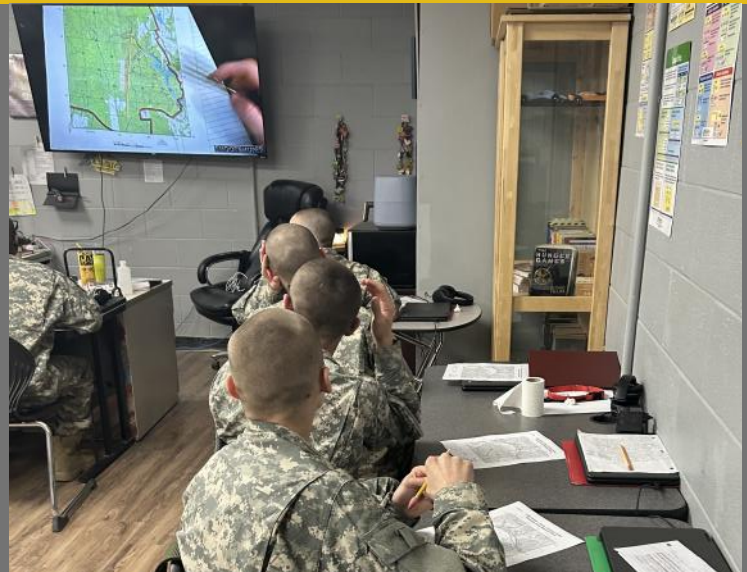
Land Navigation

Shooting an Azimuth

Use your compass to determine or follow an azimuth. The arrow on the compass points toward magnetic north. The arrow is also attracted by any mass of metal; for example, a truck, your rifle, your helmet, and even electrical power lines. Thus, be sure you use your compass away from metal objects so it will not give a wrong reading.

The lensatic compass must always be held level and firm when sighting on an object and reading an azimuth.

There are two methods of holding the lensatic compass and sighting:
 - Compass-to-cheek
 - Center-hold method



On Tuesdays at the Appalachian Challenge Academy, if you were to enter one of the classrooms, you might come across cadets surrounding a map with a pencil and protractor in hand, feverishly talking with their group about their given task. This class is none other than land navigation. Land navigation, taught by SFC Pittman, is a course dedicated to teaching cadets how to determine and follow a route in an unknown area using only a topographic map, compass, and other navigation tools. Cadets will learn to decipher a map, measure distance, and utilize a compass to determine the direction of their desired location. On the left, you will see a few examples of the information provided in the class that cadets will put to the test during their field training exercise next month. But the most important lesson cadets learn from this course is that they don't have to rely on modern technology to get them where they're going. They have all of the capabilities necessary to do it themselves!

ACHIEVEMENT UNLOCKED



Level 2
CPL

Week 5 Promotions

Barker, E
 Beckerle, K
 Bragg, A
 Brewer, M
 Brooks, G
 Bruce, L
 Diaz, L
 Dotson, G
 Durbin, M
 Eden, L
 Ehling, S
 Ellison, A
 Fields, O
 Fields, S
 Fryman, J
 Gabbard, T
 Gillum, A
 Gillum, W
 Goble, A
 Goforth, J
 Grace, J
 Haskins, A
 Heckert, G

Hernandez, D
 Hutchinson, M
 James, I
 Jenkins, T
 Johnson, A
 Johnson, L
 King, E
 Lawrence, N
 McCalvin, B
 McElrath, M
 McKenzie, B
 Miller, L
 Miller, G
 Miracle, J
 Noto, G
 Pennix, M
 Perry, T
 Phillips, J
 Phipps, E
 Picard, Z
 Pullen, C
 Reeder, D
 Rice, H

Roberts, A
 Ruark, N
 Slusher, A
 Smith, R
 Smith-Miller, S
 Snyder, M
 Sprader, P
 Staten, F
 Stephan, M
 Stephens, C
 Thomas, J
 Thomas, Z
 Thompson, C
 Tilbe, D
 Tilley, L
 Tiravanti, P
 Vance, T
 Walsh, A
 Weaver, B
 Wheeler, R
 Williams, Z
 Woods, C



Level 1.5
PFC

Bowen, J
 Goforth, P
 Johnson, K

Lacourt-Granado, A
 Metcalf, I
 Perkins, L

Slone, M
 Spencer, A



Level 1
PVT

Alcorn, A
 Anthony, K
 Ball, J
 Barker, D
 Clark, S
 Deaton, Z
 Evans, B
 Geers, K

Good, R
 Harrod, D
 Harvey, K
 Hocker, C
 Holcomb, M
 Hurley, I
 Jones, T
 Jordan, J

Manifold, C
 Newton, B
 Pennix, N
 Plowden, M
 Robinette, J
 Rose, S
 Snyder, H
 Steele, B

Level 0

Arabie, M
 Calderon-Lopez, A
 Englert, M

Griffin, K
 Hernandez, G
 Presson, L

Saylor, D
 Smith, B
 Sturdivant, A





The Appalachian Challenge Academy is a 22 week, quasi-military program dedicated to advancing foundational development of regional youth. With a focus on 15^{1/2}-18 year olds, 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!



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