



SEPTEMBER 2025

VOLUME XXVII ISSUE III

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IMPORTANT DATES

Cadet Virtual Reward Days:

Sept 27-28

Oct 25-26

Nov 27-28

Commandants Cup:

Oct 13-16

FTX

Sept 22-24

Shoot Hoops Not Drugs:

Sept 29

Blackhawk:

October 28



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 027 Elected Officials.



STUDENT COUNCIL



Student Council President, McMillian, N

I'm a cadet here at the ACA, and I'm the president of the student council. This role means a lot to me because I get to listen to other cadets and hear their ideas about what we can add to make this place more enjoyable. I don't want cadets to feel bored while working to complete the program—I want their time here to be the best it can be.

I truly want to make a positive change at the ACA and prove to people that I am a strong leader. My name is Noah McMillian, and I'm proud to serve as president of the ACA student council.

"Let's Make ACA Great."

Student Council Vice President, Smith, O.

To me, being vice president means helping others by listening to their ideas and speaking up on their behalf. While I am here, I want to make a positive change for my fellow cadets, helping them build better lives. I want to show that I care, and I want to prove to the world that I can change and grow into a strong leader.

Student Council Secretary, Cooper, S.

Serving as the secretary of the student council is a big deal. I want to gather the opinions of every representative and platoon member I can and bring them to light. I believe everyone deserves to have their opinions heard and considered. This position is, for me, a way to help others in ways I've never helped before.

I wish I could do even more than what I'm able to as secretary, but I genuinely want to support my fellow cadets and help us all feel like this place isn't so bad—maybe even help make it feel a little more like home. To me, this position is not just a responsibility but also a gateway to becoming a better person and a role model for those who may need help or someone to look up to.



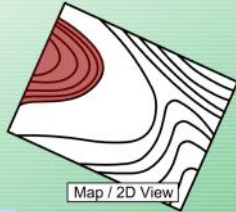
OFFICERS

Land Navigation

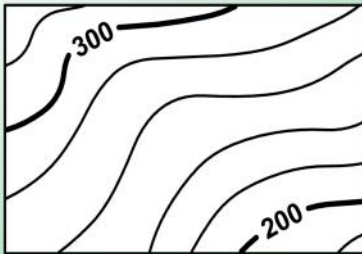
Determine Your Location

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.



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.

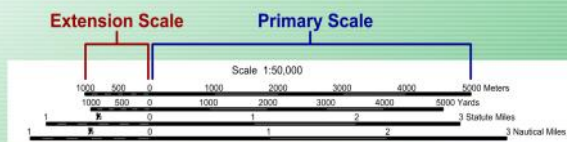
For example, numerous contour lines that are close together indicate hilly or mountainous terrain; when far apart, they represent a gentler slope.

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.



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



The Way You Get There!



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 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!

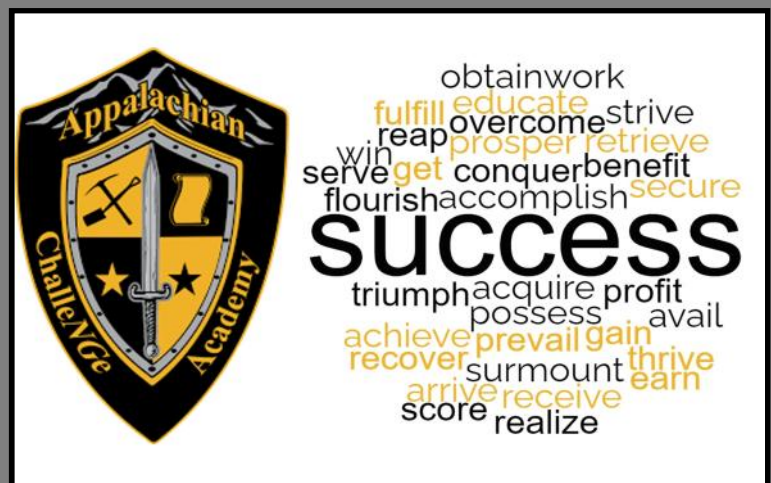
What Is Ahead

Few things motivate us more than knowing that someone who cares will be checking in on our progress and ready to encourage our success. Recently our Post Residential, Resource Advocates, had the opportunity to introduce themselves and the Post Residential portion of our program to our Cadets.

The Post Residential portion of our program continues for 24 months after graduation from the ACA. The first year is built around monthly contact, while the second year is quarterly contacts. It makes a significant difference that each graduate of the ACA has someone who not only contacts them to see how they are doing, but also is available to be that resource when life happens, as a challenge arises, as they pursue a new endeavor, or to celebrate their success and their victories.

One of the key parts of this contact is that it is done with the security and well being of all involved. It is why “there is an app for that”. While other contact methods are possible, our preferred method is through the app, MentorPro, which provides us with a secure, monitored web and app based method of communication. The app also contains many resources and tools to aid graduates night or day.

The Post Residential program not only reinforces the lessons learned while at the ACA but is a solidifying piece of helping each graduate to put those lessons into practice when they get home. Allowing them to pursue their success long term.



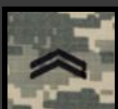
ACHIEVEMENT UNLOCKED



Level 2.5
SGT

Week 7 Promotions

Adams	Gribbins	Martin	Sandlin
Adkins	Griggs	McMillian, N	Scholes
Barnes	Gross	Merrell	Smallwood
Basford	Guzman	Napier	Smith, A
Begley	Hackman	Newland	Smith, C
Bell	Hamblin	Nichols	Smith, R
Bradley	Hamilton	Osborne	Summers
Click	Hatton	Parks	Sumpter
Cooper	Helton	Pegg	Thornsberry
Coppedge	Jones	Potter	True
Cunningham	Lane	Renfro	Velazquez
Dragoo	Larson	Roark	Wilson, B
Fletcher	Ligier	Rodriguez, C	Wilson, J
Fondaw	Marcum	Salisbury	



Level 2
CPL

Bailey	Futch	Morton	Smith, O
Bernstorf	Gibson	O'Neal	Sobecki
Burchett	Gillum	Pace	Stevens
Clark	Glenn	Porter	Thoroughman
Coutina-Guizar	Hopper	Proffitt	Valdez
Evans	Howard	Riggins	Waggoner
Evans	Kiser	Rodriguez, N	Wallace
Fisk	Lewis	Rose	Whitt
Fitch	Marshall	Sidell	
Fultz	Miller	Sitamza-Kamdem	



Level 1.5
PFC

Brooks	Brooks
Dennis	Dennis
Elswick	Elswick
Gray	Gray
Hambrick	Hambrick
Mcknight	Mcknight
Ross	Ross
Thompson, E	Thompson, E



Level 1
PVT

Brooks
Dennis
Elswick
Gray
Hambrick
Mcknight
Ross
Thompson, E

Level 0

Cornelison	Long	McMillian, I
Dyko	Maggard	Peck
Hughes	Massey	Sizemore



Level 2.5
Sergeant
(SGT)

Level 2
Corporal
(CPL)

Level 1.5
Private First
Class (PFC)

Level 1
Private
(PVT)

Level 0
Cadet

6 years out



I didn't realize it then but I was uncontrollable and didn't listen to anybody. I was getting into a lot of trouble and doing things that would get me into a lot more. I now also realize that if it was not for the Appalachian Challenge Academy I would either be dead or locked up today, I have no doubt about that at all. Coming into the Academy I had real anger issues but with the help of the Cadre there, it allowed me to really get that under control. It was my first time away from home and that wasn't easy but the other boys became like family. The other cadets became friends who with their encouragement and push helped me be better and really made my experience great.

Before going to the ACA I really struggled in school often being put in a corner with a coloring book instead of someone even trying to help me learn. At the Academy the teachers tried and though it wasn't easy I learned how to learn. I remember most, the time and effort that was given to me to learn math, which I struggled with really bad. It was hard but because of that teacher I was able to pass the math portion of my testing. Because of their hard work with me, I was able to graduate High School! I didn't think that was even possible before I went to the ACA.

The challenge of the workouts especially at Artemus where we were challenged to whole new levels and the opportunity to ride on a Blackhawk helicopter were opportunities I still think about often and appreciate as they have helped me to overcome some serious obstacles in life even today. But just as important as those big opportunities has been, lessons like the nurse at the ACA helping me learn breathing techniques that I still use today are things that I don't take for granted. When I got to the ACA I was 230 pounds, I lost a lot of weight there and because of the workouts which I still do to this day I am a strong 160 pounds. I am gainfully employed and I take care of my parents who are both in their 80's. None of which I think I would have if I hadn't gone to the Academy. I really am glad that I got to go to the ACA and I still have friends that I talk to that I met from the Academy. It was worth it!

Tommy Kendrick Class 14

Tommy came home from school one day with a paper and said he might want to go to the ACA. The paper had a phone number and so we called. Let me tell you he was a pure terror, we couldn't do a thing with him! He was a little monster! I had come to the point I cringed when he came home because I knew he was going to break something or do something. We called that number and we ended up speaking with two gentlemen from the Appalachian Challenge Academy and we decided we had to send him.

In the beginning he asked a number of times for us to come and to bring him home, I knew that was not an option, and I said no. Along the way though he stopped asking and the contact we had with him began to reveal a very different Tommy. He was changing and being so respectful and kind.

When Tommy graduated it looked like Tommy but it was a whole new guy inside. The terror that he was when he left was no more. I thank God everyday for letting us know about the ACA because it did miracles. I would suggest that anyone who has a child who is having trouble or is trouble that they would consider the Appalachian Challenge Academy. I am so glad we did.

Evelyn Kendrick, Proud Mother of Cadet, Tommy Kendrick, ACA Class 014



Recruiting News

Now Accepting New Applications for Class 028

Meet our Recruiting Admissions Team



Rusty Bailey



Dexter Day



Eric Gray



Sarah Lawson

Fall 2025 Orientation Dates

All times are from 3pm to 7pm

Somerset Holiday Inn

50 Stevie Lynn Lane

September 22

October 20

November 24

December 15

London Holiday Inn (exit 38)

506 Minton Drive

September 23

October 21

November 25

December 16

Lexington Holiday Inn

(exit 108 Hamburg)

1976 Justice Drive

September 24

October 22

November 26

December 17

Florence Holiday Inn/

Cincinnati Airport

1055 Vandecar Way

September 25

October 23

December 4

December 18

Williamsburg Hampton Inn

(exit 11)

530 KY 92

October 8

November 20



Rusty Bailey

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Eric Gray

Cell: 606-371-3436

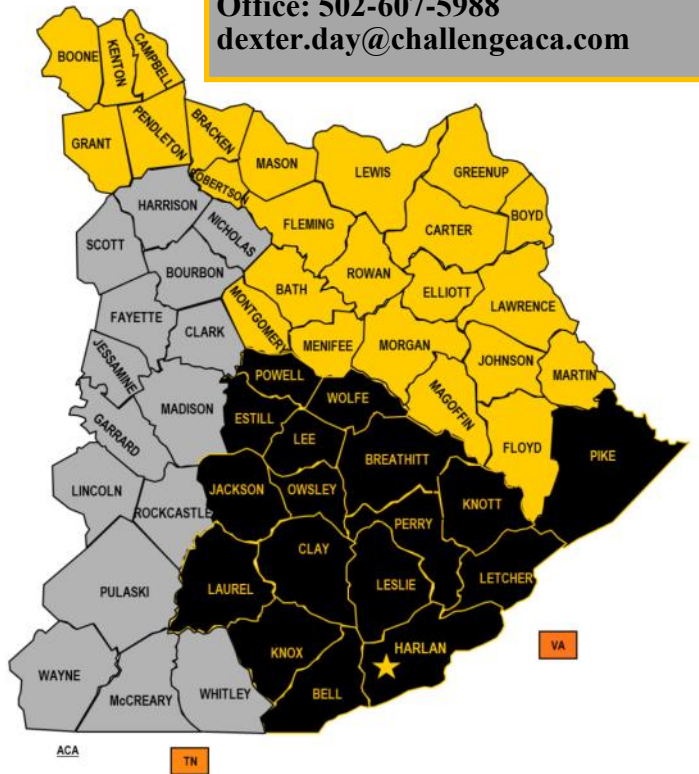
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**Don't limit
your challenges,**

**ChalleNGe
your limits!**

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!



facebook.com/acaharlan



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