



The Bluegrass Bugle

Volume 50 Issue 05 | Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy Newsletter



Time to make their mark!

When they first arrived, 22 weeks seemed like an eternity for many of our cadets. Now, as graduation day nears, the time seems to have flown by. We've cherished the chance to create unique experiences alongside this class. At the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy, we strive to offer opportunities that wouldn't be readily available elsewhere. As these cadets depart, their futures are wide open. We have faith they'll carry the skills and life lessons learned at the BCA far beyond these walls. Let's give them a round of applause as they embark on their next chapter!

"If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you."

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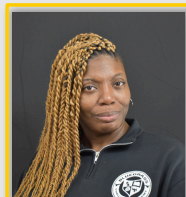
Remembering Those who Gave All

Memorial Day weekend was a packed weekend for our cadets. Before their Family Day visit, many of the cadets went to the Veterans Cemetery in Radcliff, KY to lay flags at the headstones of the veterans that rest there. After their day finished there, they were joined by their families, friends, guardians, and mentors for the second Family Day of Class 50. This time, in addition to the many activities the BCA offers, a waterslide was rented for those to partake as well as the opportunity to shop at the local Post Exchange here on Fort Knox. The cadets reveled the day away with their loved ones. On Memorial Day, several cadets were taken to the Boone Center in Frankfort to pay respects at the Memorial located there. Memorial Day stands as a powerful testament to the bravery and dedication of those who have given their lives in service to the United States. As the nation comes together to honor these heroes, it reinforces the enduring values of sacrifice, freedom, and unity that define the American spirit. Through remembrance, their legacy lives on, guiding and inspiring future generations. Commemorating the sacrifices of past generations serves to inspire and educate future ones. Memorial Day instills values of patriotism, service, and sacrifice ensuring that the legacy of the fallen continues to live on.

Commandant's Corner

"You've conquered the program's foundation! This is just the beginning, though. We're excited to see what unfolds in the next year – we have no doubt it will be a journey of triumph. Let's be honest, it wasn't always smooth sailing. You faced moments of doubt, but you persevered, and here you stand! It may have been effortless for some, a true test for others, but remember – this accomplishment is proof that you can achieve anything you set your mind to. Congratulations!"

CSM J. Sanders



Our cadets participating in several activities!





Pleasant View offers their Vocational Courses!

Pleasant View Baptist Church has taken a commendable step towards empowering our cadets by offering a series of vocational courses. Over four weeks, the cadets had a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in electrical work, hunting and tracking, culinary arts, and carpentry. This initiative stems from the church's commitment to not only spiritual growth but also practical skill development among the younger generation. Each cadet got to choose their desired course beforehand so they knew they would be placed in a field of interest to them. The Pleasant View Baptist Church's vocational training program is more than just a series of classes; it's a stepping stone for our cadets to explore potential career paths. By offering these courses, the church hopes to instill a sense of confidence and skill in the participants, equipping them with practical knowledge that can be built upon in the future. The courses are expected to foster not only new skills but also stronger community bonds, demonstrating Pleasant View's unwavering dedication to serving its congregation and beyond.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Black
Network Analyst



From making sure cadets Chromebooks are operating properly, to assisting with just about any technological need, Mr. Black is all over the Academy. From day one, cadets first interaction with him are usually “the one that takes pictures” around the Academy but they quickly learn he does much more than that. Mr. Black has assisted with student council, served as spelling bee coach, assistant coach in volleyball for Tri-State, and helps the cadets put their class yearbook together. He also maintains the Facebook and Instagram pages of the Bluegrass Challenge Academy, posting as often as possible. By the end of a cycle, cadets have taken to singing or quacking his name when they see him roaming the halls!



Upcoming Events

June 15: Graduation

July 14: Class 51 Intake Day





Shifting Gears to the National Corvette Museum!

Nestled in the heart of Bowling Green, KY, the museum provided an immersive experience into the history and engineering marvels of one of America's most iconic sports cars - the Corvette. The museum offers a treasure trove of experiences that ignite a passion for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in young minds. Cadets explored the rich history of the Corvette, from its early design stages to its cutting-edge modern marvels. Interactive exhibits allowed them to delve into the engineering and technology that make these American icons purr.

One of the highlights of the visit was the "Skydome," a striking area of the museum that houses some of the rarest and most significant Corvettes ever produced. The students were captivated by the sight of these pristine vehicles, each with its own story and place in automotive history. The McMichael Family Education Gallery, a haven for future innovators, likely saw a surge of inspiration. Here, the cadets could get hands-on with interactive displays, exploring design concepts and the intricate workings of these powerful machines.

This trip wasn't just about horsepower; it was about horsepower for the future. By sparking an interest in STEM fields, the National Corvette Museum is helping to cultivate the next generation of engineers and designers who will keep the legacy of the Corvette - and innovation itself - roaring down the road.



From the Streets to the Skies!

The Capitol Tour and the UH-60 Black Hawk ride is one of the most anticipated days of the cycle. However, this cycle due to an unforgiving weather forecast, one day in Frankfort turned into multiple days for our cadets. On their original trip, the Black Hawk ride was cancelled due to thunderstorms in the area, though they still got to tour the State Capitol building and learn of it's history and the way state government works. From the House of Representatives, to the Senate, all the way up to the Supreme Court and Governors office, they learned of how bills are passed and become state laws.

A few weeks later, just mere days after their trip to the Corvette Museum, they were scheduled to head back up to Frankfort and experience the Black Hawk ride! Cadet Jewell shared her excitement, "The Black Hawk ride was the best event of the BCA; it was so fun! Going side to side was the best part. 10/10, would recommend!" Fellow Cadet Asay stated, "The Black Hawk ride was amazing. The view from the window was breath taking." Many of the cadets who were fearful of the idea of flying yearned for the opportunity to ride it again!



We asked a few of our cadets their favorite memory during their time at the BCA and any words of advice they would like to share for Class 51!



“My favorite memory from the BCA was the Black Hawk ride. My words of advice to the next class are ‘Don’t give up, look forward to the small things.’ SFC Jenkins helped me the most by helping my become disciplined by smoking me whenever he got the chance.” - Cadet Armstrong

“My favorite memory from the BCA is when Cadet Adams fell backwards down the bleachers. To Class 51, stay strong; the first two weeks are tough but when they pass, your stay at the BCA will go really fast. CSM Timberlake has helped me out a lot. I remember in the beginning I was struggling a lot but he helped get me through it.” - Cadet Polley



“My favorite memory was when we all lived in old Blackhawk Bay before we moved to Bulldog Bay. To Class 51, keep your circle small. Don’t trust everyone and what they say, mind your business and you won’t have any arguing or bad interactions. Just have fun. MSG Mitchell has helped me the most. He is funny so whenever I was heated, he could always make the best out of a bad situation.” - Cadet Duncan



“My first week here, I was walking in the hall and I busted my butt, and my shower shoe flew across the hall, THEN SFC Music told me the floor was wet. Class 50 might have been special but Class 51, please do better than us! We were a gift wrapped jack in the box with a bow in it that had no warning. Also, DON’T FRATERNIZE! SFC Stivers and SFC Ray have my heart and soul; I love and respect them, they do their best!” - Cadet Dunivin



“Tri-State and the first game night after Tri-State was my favorite memory; we all came together to get that trophy. To Class 51, I would say ‘No mater what, you can achieve anything you want. You don’t need to be something you’re not to make others happy. If I needed to talk, all staff and cadre were there; but my worse times, SFC Music and SFC Smith were there for me.” - Cadet McKernon

“My favorite memory of the BCA is the trip to the Corvette Museum. Words of advice I would give to Class 51 are ‘Always keep your head up and don’t let other people get the best of you.’ SFC Scalia has been the one that helped me out the most, as he always keeps it real with me no matter what it is.” - Cadet Asay



“My favorite memory happens everyday when I get pulled out of class to help around the BCA. Words of advice for Class 51 would be ‘Don’t give up and do what they tell you.’ The cadre that has helped me out the most has been SFC Holmes. He tries to make your day and he’s fun to be around.” - Cadet Hardin



“My favorite favorite memory was when me and Dunivin got the zoomies and ran around Wolfpack Bay. To Class 51, simply try to mind your own business and stay out of trouble. SFC Jones has helped me a lot even though she yells at me sometimes; she encourages me to stay out of trouble myself.” - Cadet Roach



CENTER-STAGE CADETS



“My favorite memory at the BCA is when Wolfpack had a karaoke night one day, it was fun for all of us. My words of encouragement I would give to Class 51 is to try to stay out of all the drama. You are going to have your moments with the other females and have your days, but stick them out the best you can. It is always okay to ask for help, and don't let anyone get the best of you! My therapist, Mrs. Smith, is one person I can really get everything off my mind with. She is also a great support system, a great listener, and great person. Once I graduate the program, I am going to practice to get my license, do the free gym thing for teens at Planet Fitness, and go back to North Hardin as a senior, get back into sports, and have a great senior year!”

- Cadet Anderson, 1st Platoon Wolfpack



“My favorite memory of BCA was when we did the State Capitol tour and got to see all the eccentric furniture and structure of the building; as well as learning about how the government works, especially the Supreme Court. My advice for Class 51 is to those who want to improve themselves, change is not going to come unless you actually put in the effort. That includes changing your habits, friends, and environment. Also, make sure to take school seriously. In terms of how much they helped me and served as an inspiration, no one did better than Col. Briscoe. When I get the time to talk to him, we are always able to have meaningful conversations where he shares his wisdom as a successful African American with a rough upbringing. He's someone who I want to be like, not letting their environment or past struggles define who they are, or prevent them from achieving their dreams. After I graduate, I'm going to return to high school all caught up on credits and focus on my academic future so that I can get a good job in the military.”

- Cadet Brown, 2nd Platoon Bulldogs

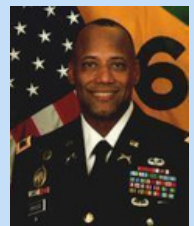
Message from the Director:

“I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make Class #50 a memorable and world class cycle. For the pass 22 weeks, Team BCA has given these cadets a sense of pride and hope that they can do anything with hard work, determination, and teamwork.

They have challenged our cadets mentally, emotionally, morally, physically, and spiritually to be a better me. We have provided them with the best academics, leadership training, equipment, and quality life.

What make BCA special is their loyal and faithful supporting cast, our parents, guardians, staff, cadre, teachers, recruiters, therapist, and community supporters. I am humbled, honored, and grateful to serve with you!”

**Col. (R) Detrick Briscoe, Director
Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy**



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