



Dream. Believe. Achieve.



ISSUE: 5102

# THE BLUEGRASS BUGLE



## Embracing a new challenge!

The cycle is in full swing at this point! As the cadets have entered week 6, they have fully embraced the challenge of the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy! They have adapted to their new routine that includes their daily classwork, afternoon physical training, health and hygiene tasks among other duties! Many of them are anticipating having their Level 2 rank very soon, and those that have already earned it are well on their way towards Level 3!

# IN CLASS WITH EMINENCE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



Since week 3, Eminence Independent Schools aims to enhance the educational experience for the cadets through a dedicated team of experienced educators and leaders. The key are teachers Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Legaspi, Mrs. Colbert, Mrs. Hale, and Ms. Sanders, who bring a wealth of knowledge and dedication to their roles. They work closely with cadets to provide instruction, helping them reach their academic goals, whether that involves earning their high school diploma or preparing for the GED. Their teaching not only focuses on academics but also helps build life skills and confidence.

Principal Mr. League oversees the academic side, ensuring that cadets have access to a supportive and structured learning environment that fosters personal growth and educational achievement. Together, the instructors and leadership are committed to helping these young individuals develop the skills they need for a brighter future.

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Bluegrass Challenge Academy Class # 51 is off to a phenomenal start, and I am extremely proud of what our cadets have accomplished so far in six weeks. Please enjoy reading the second edition of the "Bluegrass Bugle". Mr. Black has made a few changes to our newsletter that I think you will be overly impressed. Lastly, the best is still yet to come at BCA, so stay tuned as we will post upcoming information on our Facebook page. Please continue to write and email your cadet and share our Facebook page with your families and friends. We cannot wait to see everyone on Family Day, 31 August 2024. Safe travels and blessings!

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



# PLEASANT VIEW RETURNS FOR CLASS 51!

Pleasant View Baptist Church out of McQuady, KY, has once again partnered with the Bluegrass Challenge Academy to offer weekly worship services for our cadets. Every Tuesday evening, the cadets have the opportunity to attend these services, providing them with a time of spiritual reflection and encouragement during their stay at the Academy.

Led by the dedicated members and pastoral team of Pleasant View Baptist Church, the services are designed to uplift and inspire the young men and women at the Academy as they go through the rigorous program aimed at fostering personal growth, discipline, and responsibility.

Through this partnership, the church continues to extend its outreach by offering a supportive environment where the cadets can explore their faith, find comfort in community, and develop spiritually alongside their leadership training. The collaboration has been a welcome addition to the cadets' weekly schedule, enhancing their overall experience at the Academy.



## Upcoming events

August 28: Red Cross Blood Drive

August 31: Family Day

September 9: Lifetouch Photos

September 16: Ft. Knox First Responders Exercise

October 16-18: Tri-State Invitational

October 22: Capitol Tour & Black Hawk Ride

November 27 - December 1: Thanksgiving Pass



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Haertel  
Staff Training Coordinator

Mr. Haertel started off at the Bluegrass Youth ChalleNGE Academy as a cadre before moving into the staff training coordinator position! Mr. Haertel is now responsible for making sure all of the staff and any new hires are kept up to speed with knowing the policies of the Academy, as well as keeping up with the daily schedule for the cadets routine. You'll often find Mr. Haertel at many of the outings the cadets go on with his camera, as he excels in photography himself! We cannot thank Mr. Haertel enough for being a vital part of the BYCA team!

# STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTED!

In every class, several cadets seize the opportunity to run for student council, stepping up to represent their fellow cadets. This process is an integral part of the Academy's focus on responsible citizenship, as it serves to introduce cadets to the democratic process they will one day encounter in elections back in their hometowns. The student council gathers input from each platoon, discusses upcoming initiatives, assigns responsibility for drafting proposals, and determines timelines for implementing events and plans. Once these decisions are made, the student council presents them to leadership for approval. Each candidate was given a platform to address the Academy before voting commenced, and this cycle saw some of the tightest races to date "I didn't believe it at first, then I processed it and it felt so good! I hope to do good things with the student council; I'd like to make every student feel welcome and heard," Cadet Gunter reported after winning class President. After the election, every platoon selected a representative to ensure their voices would be heard moving forward.



### Student Council Elect

President: Cadet Gunter  
 Vice-President: Cadet Parr  
 Secretary: Cadet Wade

### Representatives

1st Platoon Wolfpack: Cadet Sprague  
 2nd Platoon Bulldogs: Cadet Asay  
 3rd Platoon Blackhawks: Cadet Unsel



## TRI-STATE TEAMS FORMING!

Excitement is already building as the upcoming Tri-State Invitational prepares to host cadets from four Youth Challenge Academies in a thrilling display of athleticism, skill, and camaraderie. Cadets will showcase their talents in a wide range of sports and activities, including flag football, boys' and girls' basketball, volleyball, softball, chess, and cornhole. In addition to the athletic events, teams will compete in a drill and ceremony challenge, testing their precision and discipline, as well as a spelling bee, where academic prowess will take center stage.

This cycle's competition promises to be a memorable event, fostering friendly rivalry and teamwork while highlighting the physical and mental skills these cadets have honed throughout their training. The tournament will serve as a platform to build confidence, character, and unity among the youth from the different states. Fans and families are eagerly awaiting this dynamic competition, which is sure to inspire both competitors and spectators alike.

**Cadet Q & A: We asked several of our cadets what the most difficult part adjusting to life at the BYCA has been, as well as what they hope to accomplish during the cycle!**



“The most difficult part adjusting to life at the BCA is getting up on time or getting adjusted to being away from home. What I would like to improve is to stop back talking and to get better grades. I would also like to improve on learning people’s feelings to know when the right time is to joke or talking to my peers or guardians. It’s going to be a challenging adventure but fun.” - Cadet Speck



“For me, the most difficult part has been the mental aspect of not being able to be with my family. While here, I hope to improve my work ethic and to get physically fit.” - Cadet Vail

“The most difficult part adjusting to life at BCA has been the sleep, or the other cadets. I want to improve my self control while I’m here.” - Cadet Demorest



“The most difficult part was me adjusting to all the cadets around here, but I’m starting to adjust being around them. I hope I can get caught up in school and graduate. I plan to complete the Bluegrass Challenge Academy no matter my ups and downs.” - Cadet Kilgore



“The most difficult part would be mainly being away from my family, but also being on so many different schedules and being around so many females and all the different personalities clashing together. I hope to achieve a sense of self-worth and to be proud of myself. Something I want to improve on is my emotion management and keeping myself together.” - Cadet Nelson

“The most difficult part of adjusting to life at BCA is being separated from my loved ones. I would also state that the routine at BCA is a struggle at first but I’ve come to embrace it. What I’ve done so far at BCA has been unbelievable. I have more self-discipline now than I ever thought I could have. I hope to continue to improve in school and on myself.” - Cadet Wade



“The most difficult part of adjusting to life at the BCA was getting to know people. Socialization has always been a very difficult thing for me, so when it came to meeting the people here, I was very nervous. The thing that I hope to most improve is my confidence. I wish to work on my anxiety issues and continue to improve my social skills.” - Cadet Bagley



“The most difficult part adjusting to life at the BCA was being away from the people and things I care about the most like my fiance and my cat, Hank. While at the BCA, I hope to improve on embracing other people’s differences and being more supportive!” - Cadet Short

## **CENTER STAGE CADETS**



Cadet Gunter, 1st Platoon Wolfpack

“The most difficult part of the BCA is being disconnected from the “real” world. It’s hard not knowing what is happening to the people I care about. I also used to dabble in drug use and fighting off the urge used to be a struggle, but going through the same thing with my peers helps and the BCA is full of good distractions from negative things. I’d like to work on my judgment skills. Coming to the BCA has given me a sense of accomplishment and made me realize my mistakes as a human. By the time I graduate the 51st cycle, I hope to have finished my high school career and go into college to get back on track with a normal life. I had aspirations to be a teacher and rowing coach, and I have the courage to continue on that path.”



Cadet Lorenzo, 2nd Platoon Bulldogs

“The most difficult part adjusting to BCA was waking up every morning to grumpy teenagers, and the second most difficult part was trying to get used to different personalities I’ve never seen nor been around; it’s different than being at home. I hope to mature more and learn to work well with others. Working with a lot of cadets already has shown and taught me that learning to work with and understand is a challenging task. I want to improve my attitude mainly, and not always trying to have the last laugh. After I graduate the program, I plan on being an overall better person to my family and get a job; preferably back at the paintball field I was working.”

### **Message from the Deputy Director:**

“The Cadets have begun to embrace the Academy and are working hard to make it their own. From when we started, until now, the Cadets seem to trust the process. Over the next few months, we will continue to instill in them a sense of purpose, direction, and focus. The eight core components are the guide to their development, and assured success, in the program. We will inspire them to seek, see, and know a new version of themselves, and at the same time lift them up when they need a hand. I am so proud of the changes I am already seeing, and know you will be too.”

### **Rocky Jensen, Deputy Director Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy**



### **Message from the Commandant:**

“We have made it to week 6. I am extremely proud of each and every one of these Cadets. They have pushed themselves beyond what they thought was possible and you can see the growth in them each day. I look forward to what the next 16 weeks will hold. We have Tri-State coming up and I know these cadets will bring our 1st place trophy home. Let’s keep up the amazing work, and again I am so proud of you all.”

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



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