



Dream. Believe. Achieve.



THE BLUEGRASS BUGLE



Finding Their Stride!

Momentum is building, and seven weeks in, our cadets are truly hitting their stride. They have embraced the structure and high expectations of the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy, balancing academics, rigorous physical training, personal wellness, and daily responsibilities with focus and determination. Their persistence is producing real results. Many are working diligently toward achieving their Level 2 and Level 3 ranks, motivated by a growing sense of confidence and accomplishment. The transformation is clear, and their commitment to improvement continues to intensify. Class 54 is demonstrating resilience, discipline, and the mindset required to finish strong and succeed.

CLASS 54'S STUDENT COUNCIL!



Each cycle, cadets rise to the occasion with confidence and commitment, seeking the opportunity to serve on the student council and represent their fellow classmates. This longstanding tradition reflects the Academy's dedication to developing responsible citizens while providing cadets with meaningful, real-world experience in the democratic process—preparing them for leadership well beyond their time here. Student council members actively collect input from their platoons, discuss and refine ideas, delegate tasks, and transform plans into action. Prior to election day, each candidate proudly shared their vision and goals, making this one of the most energetic and closely contested elections yet. We are proud to share the results of the Class 54 Student Council Election:

- President: Cadet Bland
- Vice-President: Cadet Pennington
- Secretary: Cadet Perkins

Each platoon also nominated a representative from Squads 1 and 2, and one for Squads 3 and 4!

1st Platoon Wolfpack: Cadet Atchley & Cadet Ridener
 2nd Platoon Bulldogs: Cadet Warren & Cadet DiFilippo
 3rd Platoon Blackhawks: Cadet Murphy & Cadet Turner, D

STUDENT COUNCIL INITIATIVE

I would like to start off saying I know that the other nominees would have done amazing in this position; I feel honored to get to be the one to help make the BCA better for every cadet, and to get to be an example to my fellow cadets and show them what discipline will do for you in the end. In all honesty, it felt good to be elected as Class 54 President. I plan to lead my fellow cadets with the leadership, integrity, discipline, and respect that I listed in my speech because I believe in practicing what I preach. I don't plan to "change" the Academy, only tweak it to bring out the best in every cadet by making our schedules clear and posted in every bay, as well as longer showers for those of higher levels to reward them and to motivate those who lack motivation. My name is Cadet Jake Bland and these are my goals for my Presidency at the Bluegrass Challenge Academy.

**Cadet Bland
 Class 54 President**



COMPASSION IN ACTION



Service to the community is more than a requirement—it is a vital part of developing character, leadership, and a sense of purpose. Each opportunity to serve allows cadets to step beyond their daily routines and experience firsthand the impact they can have on others. Through these moments, they gain perspective, maturity, and a deeper understanding of what it means to lead with integrity. This spirit of service was on full display when the American Red Cross visited campus to host a blood drive. In an inspiring show of selflessness, more than half of the cadet population signed up to donate blood—choosing to give of themselves in a way that could directly save lives. Their willingness to step forward demonstrated compassion in action and a powerful commitment to helping those they may never meet. Experiences like these cultivate empathy and responsibility. Whether supporting local initiatives or contributing to lifesaving efforts, cadets learn that service strengthens both the community and their own character. As they continue to serve, they are not only making a difference today—they are becoming thoughtful, engaged citizens prepared to lead long after graduation.

Upcoming events

Mar. 14/15: Anderson Aquatic Center

Apr. 4: Family Day

May 13/14: Intra-State Competition w/ ACA

June 13: Graduation

(Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff, KY)



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

SGM Mitchell
Assistant Commandant

At Bluegrass Challenge Academy, Assistant Commandant SGM Mitchell consistently goes the extra mile in service to our cadets. Working his way from cadre to cadre supervisor to Assistant Commandant showcases his dedication to the program! Whether serving as head basketball coach, stepping in to assist other athletic programs when needed, or offering steady mentorship and encouragement throughout the day, his commitment never wavers. He doesn't just lead from the sidelines, he leads by example, often joining platoons during physical training and pushing alongside them. His hands-on leadership, steady presence, and genuine investment in each cadet's success make a lasting impact across the entire Academy!

SHARING ANOTHER CLASS WITH PLEASANT VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH!

The faithful support of Pleasant View Baptist Church in McQuady, Kentucky, continues to pour into the lives of our cadets at Bluegrass Challenge Academy through meaningful weekly worship services. Bluegrass Challenge Academy is thrilled to continue their partnership with Pleasant View Baptist Church for Class 54. Each Tuesday evening, cadets come together for a time of reflection, motivation, and spiritual renewal—an encouraging highlight of their week led by Brother Josh Calloway and his dedicated ministry team.

These gatherings offer far more than a moment to pause; they provide lasting encouragement, guidance, and a sense of community. This ongoing partnership has become a vital source of strength, supporting both individual growth and a deeper connection among the cadets.

Looking ahead, the momentum continues to build. Beginning in early May, cadets will have the chance to participate in new elective courses such as culinary arts, carpentry, hunting & tracking, and electrical work. These hands-on opportunities will foster practical skills, leadership development, and pathways toward future success—making this chapter at Bluegrass Challenge Academy one of the most transformative yet.



WHERE GRIT MEETS GROWTH

Excitement has been steadily building across the Academy as preparations intensify for the upcoming IntraState competition. The Bluegrass Challenge Academy will soon face off against our sister program, the Appalachian Challenge Academy, in a wide range of events designed to test both physical endurance and mental sharpness. Cadets have dedicated countless hours to practice—refining techniques, strengthening teamwork, and pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones. Every drill, every workout, and every strategy session reflects their commitment to representing the Academy with excellence.

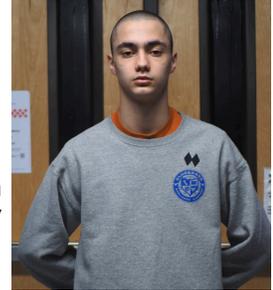
While both academies are determined to perform at their highest level, this event represents far more than a contest for first place. It is an opportunity to display discipline, resilience, unity, and respect—qualities that define who they are becoming. As the competition approaches, cadets continue their preparation with pride and integrity, supporting one another every step of the way. In the end, the greatest victory will not simply be measured on a scoreboard, but in the growth they experience, the bonds they strengthen, and the character they continue to build through this shared journey.

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



“The hardest part adjusting to life at the BCA for me has been the early wake up times and living with 26 other people. What I really hope to improve on while I am at the BCA is my work ethic.” - Cadet Darnell

“The most difficult part of adjusting to the BCA would be being away from the people I love and spend all my time with. While at the BCA, I hope to have my high school diploma by the end of the cycle; I’m already pretty close.” - Cadet Bailey



“The most difficult part of adjusting to life at the BCA is mostly waking up at six and having to be ready by a certain time. What I hope to achieve or improve while at the BCA is to get my grades up and to get myself ready for the world.” - Cadet Jones



“The most difficult part of life at the BCA is being told what to do all the time. While I am here at the Academy, I hope to improve my self-control and finish school.” - Cadet Turner, D



“For me the most difficult part of being at the BCA is now being able to talk whenever I want because I love talking. Another thing I find difficult is waking up so early. While here I hope to become a better person and work on saying positive affirmations everyday so I can have motivation to strive with strength.” - Cadet Wells

“The most difficult part about adjusting to the BCA is getting flash banded at 6 a.m. everyday, and making my bed. While I am at the BCA, I hope to achieve better leadership skills.” - Cadet Warren



“The most difficult part about adjusting to the BCA is changing years of habits in a matter of weeks. Another challenging obstacle is adjusting to people that come from different environments as you and having different mindsets as you. While I spend the next 5 months at the BCA, I plan to improve on controlling my emotions. I’ll also make sure to achieve being a great soldier, son, father, man, and most importantly, a loyal servant to God.” - Cadet Payton



“The most difficult part about adjusting to BCA life is how things are set up, like having some of the same privileges at home but mostly is known when your next step in life is for the next two years. I hope on achieving a healthy lifestyle and possibly recovering from the problems I created, and most those right. I want to fix myself so later I can help others in my community consider joining an ROTC program in my school.” - Cadet Rose



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CENTER STAGE CADETS



Cadet Cole, 1st Platoon Wolfpack

“Living with 26 other females has been the hardest part of adjusting to life at the BCA for me. I never had sisters and this is my first “sister” experience. I’ve learned to care and adapt to each one of them during these first 7 weeks. What I hope to achieve during my time here is to become a better person as a whole, graduate with my high school diploma, and learn more about the military.

After graduation, I plan to go to Indiana University Bloomington for cardiology, going into the National Guard, or combining the two and becoming a combat medic.”



Cadet Lockman, 2nd Platoon Bulldogs

“The hardest part about adjusting is not being able to see your family, even today I have trouble with not being able to see my mom but I use ways to cope with it. Understanding my goals keeps me going and motivated; I do the best I can at the BCA to make my family proud. I will continue to be the best I can for them. While here, I hope to build on my self-discipline. I want to learn how to become a man, how to provide for my country, and those in my life. I want to learn how to have structure so that I can give back to the people that have given me everything. After I graduate the Academy, I plan to build my future with responsible and smart decisions. I also plan to rebuild the burnt bridges I have made with loved ones. Lastly I plan to go to college to make the people in my life proud.”

Bluegrass Challenge Academy Leadership

“Now seven weeks into the program, our cadets have made meaningful strides academically, physically, and personally. Their commitment to improvement and their ability to push through challenges are molding them into focused, confident young men and women. I’m incredibly proud of how far they’ve come and the determination they continue to show throughout this journey.”



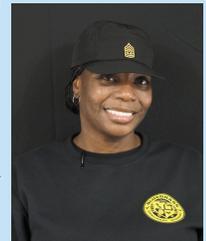
Mr. Timberlake Director

“The cadets are starting to embrace the Academy. We are providing them with more and more ChalleNGes, and they are learning to trust the process. Guided by the eight core components, they are building discipline, purpose, and character. Each new day allows every cadet the opportunity to demonstrate these intangibles; it is up to them to choose.”



Mr. Jensen Deputy Director

“Seven weeks into this journey, our cadets have already demonstrated incredible perseverance, grit, and a daily commitment to self-improvement. They continue to rise to every challenge placed before them, proving they have the resolve to see this through. We have full confidence in their potential and know they are capable of accomplishing far more than they ever thought possible.”



CSM Sanders Commandant

INTERESTED IN ENROLLMENT?
FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION, CALL
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www.bcachallenge.com

HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT HOW YOUR CADET
IS DOING IN SCHOOL?
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