



Dream. Believe. Achieve.



ISSUE: 5501

THE BLUEGRASS BUGLE



WELCOME TO THE CHALLENGE

We're excited to welcome Class 55 to the Bluegrass Challenge Academy! Each candidate arrives with their own goals, challenges, and dreams, and we're proud to be part of the journey ahead. Over the next 22 weeks, they'll be challenged to grow, learn, and discover what they're capable of while building confidence, discipline, and lifelong skills. Our staff is committed to supporting them every step of the way, and we can't wait to watch this class develop, overcome obstacles, and work toward the moment they proudly walk across the graduation stage.

FROM DAY ONE FORWARD



Class 55 found themselves entering the Academy for Intake Day, ready to begin a journey that brought plenty of excitement, a few nerves, and more than a little curiosity about what was ahead. And yes—for many candidates, the first haircut was still one of the biggest things on their minds. The first two weeks, known as the Acclimation Phase, are often the toughest part of the entire program. During this time, candidates begin adjusting to a structured schedule filled with early mornings, learning how to maintain their living areas, practicing good personal hygiene, and preparing for academics, which officially begin during week three. Each day builds on the last, and before long the pace starts to pick up.

As candidates settle into the routine, they are introduced to the expectations that come with life at the Bluegrass Challenge Academy. Through guidance from BCA staff, support from the cadre, and presentations from the WellFront Readiness Solutions therapists, they begin learning what it takes to succeed throughout the 22-week cycle. The focus is on developing accountability, respect, discipline, and consistency. While the changes may seem small at first, even something as simple as getting out of bed on time every morning can become the beginning of new habits that carry well beyond the academy.

DIRECTORS CORNER

It would be impossible for me to count the number of times I've heard cadets shout "ChalleNGe Me!" during the 23 years I was a member of the ChalleNGe family. Once you grasp the possibilities of what "ChalleNGe Me" means it can send chills up your spine. Demanding to be challenged is not something I see too often in youth today. Cadets come to BCA with eyes wide open, expecting the ChalleNGe that they were promised. Some will rise to the ChalleNGe, some may not. All will be stronger for having faced it. I'm excited to come back to the place I called home for so long. I look forward to getting to know Class 55, and see them grow. ChalleNGe ME!

Mr. Hampton
Director
Bluegrass ChalleNGe Academy



MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER



Now that the Acclimation Phase has come to an end, Class 55 officially becomes Cadets with their promotion to Level 1, marking the first major milestone of the program. From there, the pace quickly picks up as classrooms become the focus, routines become second nature, and Cadets continue developing the discipline and responsibility needed to succeed. By Week 5, the first Level 2 promotions begin, with additional opportunities each Friday for Cadets to earn advancement through their hard work, positive attitude, and commitment.

The weeks ahead are packed with opportunities that make the experience both rewarding and unforgettable. From exciting activities and the chance to ride in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to giving back through upcoming American Red Cross blood drives, Cadets continue growing both personally and as leaders. Before long, graduation will be on the horizon as they look back on everything they've accomplished and prepare for the next chapter beyond the Bluegrass Challenge Academy.

Challenge Me Creed

It if is to be, it is up to me.

I am in charge of my future.

I will do all I can to make my future a success.

I will not accept failure.

I will succeed.

Challenge me!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Jensen
Deputy Director

As he begins his second year serving as Deputy Director at the Bluegrass Challenge Academy, Mr. Jensen continues to play an important role in helping cadets make the most of their Academy experience. His mission is simple: to help every cadet leave the program as a better version of themselves than when they first arrived. One of the many ways Mr. Jensen connects with cadets is through extracurricular activities that challenge them to learn new skills and step outside their comfort zones. He leads activities such as archery and land-navigation, giving cadets opportunities to build teamwork, problem-solving abilities, and confidence while having fun along the way. Mr. Jensen is also a key part of supporting the Academy's Student Council by helping review cadet ideas, working through the approval process, and helping turn their suggestions into positive changes that improve the Academy experience for everyone!

OFFICIALLY CADETS

After two challenging weeks of Acclimation, Class 55 has officially reached its first major milestone. On Monday, July 27, the candidates proudly rang into the Bluegrass Challenge Academy, earning the title of Cadet and officially beginning the Residential Phase of the program. It was a moment filled with excitement, pride, and a sense of accomplishment after two weeks of hard work.

Those first 14 days aren't easy, but they help build the habits and mindset needed for success. From learning daily routines and drill and ceremony to developing discipline, accountability, and teamwork, these new Cadets have already come a long way. With acclimation now behind them, they're ready to take on the weeks ahead, continue growing, and make the most of every opportunity the academy has to offer.



THE PATH TO PROGRESS



From the moment Cadets begin their journey at the Bluegrass Challenge Academy, they are introduced to the eight core components that shape every part of the program. These areas go far beyond the classroom, helping Cadets build confidence, develop important life skills, and create habits that will benefit them long after graduation. Each component plays a role in helping Cadets become more prepared, responsible, and successful individuals.

The Eight Core Components include:

- Academic Excellence
- Life Coping Skills
- Job Skills
- Health & Hygiene
- Responsible Citizenship
- Service to the Community
- Leadership & Followership
- Physical Training

Throughout the program, Cadets also follow the Blue Book, which serves as their guide for rank progression, responsibilities, and earned privileges. Through hard work, accountability, and a willingness to grow, Cadets have the opportunity to advance through the ranks while gaining valuable leadership experience along the way.



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CLASS 55

1ST PLATOON WOLFPACK

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| - Cadet Barber | - Cadet Lusher |
| - Cadet Chronister | - Cadet Mahaffa |
| - Cadet Clark | - Cadet Martinez-Gonzalez |
| - Cadet Davis | - Cadet Mason |
| - Cadet Garwood | - Cadet McNutt |
| - Cadet Gross | - Cadet Milliner |
| - Cadet Hawkins | - Cadet Page |
| - Cadet Henderson | - Cadet Pohl |
| - Cadet Humphries | - Cadet Stabile |
| - Cadet Lawrence | - Cadet Taber |
| - Cadet Luckett | - Cadet Vandermolen |

2ND PLATOON BULLDOGS

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Cadet Adams | - Cadet Lamonds |
| - Cadet Angle | - Cadet Lozano |
| - Cadet Brent | - Cadet Martinez-Gonzalez |
| - Cadet Brown | - Cadet McGill |
| - Cadet Cole | - Cadet Moore |
| - Cadet Daugherty | - Cadet Nichols |
| - Cadet Garcia-Contreras | - Cadet Riles |
| - Cadet Gerald | - Cadet Swanson |
| - Cadet Gibson | - Cadet Turcios |
| - Cadet Gonzalez | - Cadet Varner |
| - Cadet Grant | - Cadet Wall |
| - Cadet Guenther | - Cadet Watts |
| - Cadet Jones, D | - Cadet Wilson |
| - Cadet King | - Cadet Yates |

3RD PLATOON BLACKHAWKS

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| - Cadet Ader | - Cadet Nguyen |
| - Cadet Adkinson | - Cadet Nolt |
| - Cadet Carroll | - Cadet Padgett |
| - Cadet Durham | - Cadet Rayhill |
| - Cadet Embry | - Cadet Reed |
| - Cadet Ford | - Cadet Robinson |
| - Cadet Hardin | - Cadet Ross |
| - Cadet Holton | - Cadet Starrett |
| - Cadet Hudson | - Cadet Swain |
| - Cadet Huffer | - Cadet Thompson |
| - Cadet Jones, A | - Cadet Tipton |
| - Cadet Klehammer | - Cadet Villazon |
| - Cadet Martinez-Cruz | - Cadet Ward |
| - Cadet Massey | - Cadet White |
| - Cadet Meredith | - Cadet Willard |
| - Cadet Meyer | |

Message from the Deputy Director:

“Welcome, Class 55! We are excited to have you here today. This academy stands for excellence, integrity, and service. Our goal over the coming weeks is not just to teach you skills, but to transform you into great Cadets. The path ahead will be demanding. You will be physically, mentally, and intellectually challenged. When it gets tough, remember two things: stay curious by asking questions, and never leave a classmate behind. Your peers are your lifeline. Look out for each other, support each other, and face every challenge as a unified team. Today is Day One. The standard is high, but we know you have what it takes to meet it. Class 55, take a deep breath, focus your mind, and let’s get to work.”



**Mr. Jensen, Deputy Director
Bluegrass Challenge Academy**

Message from the Assist. Commandant:

“Congratulations on successfully completing the Acclimation Phase. As you enter the Residential Phase, expectations increase, and so do the opportunities for personal growth. This is your chance to strengthen your discipline, leadership, teamwork, and commitment to excellence.

Every challenge you overcome brings you one step closer to graduation and achieving your goals. Stay focused, support one another, and remember that your attitude and effort will determine your success. Continue to embrace the challenge and strive to become the best version of yourself.”



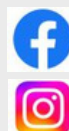
**SGM Mitchell, Assist. Commandant
Bluegrass Challenge Academy**

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