



Dream. Believe. Achieve.



ISSUE: 5103

THE BLUEGRASS BUGLE



Mid-course of the Cycle!

Class 51 has reached its midpoint in what feels like no time at all! The cadets have been hard at work with their academics, physical training, and off-campus activities to diversify their routines. There's no sign of slowing down either, as the upcoming weeks are packed with events, including the Tri-State Invitational, where they'll compete against the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy (Indiana) and Michigan Youth Challenge Academy. Just as the first half of the cycle flew by, we expect the second half to pass just as swiftly!

AIDING IN FIRST RESPONSE!



Recently, cadets from the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy participated in a First Responders exercise at Fort Knox. The simulation involved a high-pressure, real-time scenario of a chemical leak from a train derailment where cadets worked alongside first responders to administer medical aid to the injured and evacuate those at risk. This well-planned drill pushed participants to their limits, testing their ability to remain composed and make rapid decisions under stress. Despite the intensity, the cadets and first responders maintained focus, displaying their training and commitment. Their quick thinking, communication, and aid to the victims highlighted the strength of their preparation and the vital role of interagency cooperation. The joint effort between the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy cadets and Fort Knox first responders not only sharpened their skills but also underscored the resilience of the local community. Together, they showed that unity, readiness, and collaboration are key to effective emergency response.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I can't believe we're almost halfway through Class #51 and we're doing phenomenal as an academy. I cannot thank BCA Nation our families enough for their unwavering support and love they have given our cadets. Let's keep up the momentum and finish strong by continuing to write, inspire and lift our cadets up. We have a few major events coming up that I would like to share with you for your situational awareness that our cadets will be participating in: Tri-State, Halloween, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. Lastly, please let us know if you need anything from us, and we hope that you enjoy our newsletter.

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



FAMILY DAY AFTERNOON AT THE ACADEMY!



Family Day is a meaningful event that brings families together, allowing them to close the distance and enjoy an afternoon filled with fun activities, shared meals, and quality time with their cadet at the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy. A highlight of the day was the opportunity to see each platoon perform their drill and ceremony, and for families to pin rank insignias on cadets who were promoted during the celebration. Amid the joyful atmosphere, families and cadets participated in sports, engage in activities from a bounce house and water slides, enjoy their favorite meals, and connect with other families and peers at the Academy. For many, this day offers a unique glimpse into their cadet's daily life and the valuable skills they are gaining through the program. It serves as a powerful reminder of their cadet's resilience and strength, reinforcing the strong bond that unites them.

Upcoming events

October 16-18: Tri-State Invitational

October 22: Capitol Tour & Black Hawk Ride

November 14: Red Cross Blood Drive

November 27 - December 1: Thanksgiving Pass



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

SFC Holmes
Cadre

SFC Holmes has been with the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy for two years, and he has brought both a sense of joy to be around but also the stern discipline needed when building the structure and expectations of the cadets. To further this point, SFC Holmes was voted cadre of the cycle by the male cadets of Class 49! Many of the cadets seek out SFC Holmes for comfort, reassurance, and helping them keep their attitudes in check. Whether he's spending time with the cadets on the basketball court or flag football field, or taking charge of the Bulldogs, SFC Holmes knows how to genuinely connect with the cadets.

EXPANDING THEIR HORIZONS

Getting our cadets out of the Academy and experiencing new things is one of the life skills that is instilled into them from day one. The cadets have had the opportunity to experience a job fair with over three dozen employers in attendance, where they got to learn more about some fields they may be interested in, as well as asking questions to their hearts content. They received a demonstration from the K9 unit here on Fort Knox, which showed them the rigorous training and obedience the dogs have. Some cadets even had the opportunity to wear the K9 training gear, to show them how strong it has to be to withstand a bite from a dog. Another Ft. Knox staple that the cadets have experienced has been the General George S. Patton Museum, where they learned about the history of Patton and were able to see many of his own artifacts. A few of our cadets were chosen to go along to the Directors of People Personnel conference in Lexington, where they spoke on behalf of the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy and what it has done for them in the short time they have been here. With another half of the cycle to go, we are hoping to provide even more outings and opportunities for these cadets to spread their wings!



DONATING BLOOD, SAVING LIVES

Numerous cadets at the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy stepped up to make a difference by donating blood to the American Red Cross. With each pint of blood having the potential to save up to three lives, these contributions play a vital role in supporting healthcare. Over half of our cadets signed up to donate, with even more eager to participate when the opportunity arises again later in the cycle in November. Donating blood serves as a powerful learning experience, helping cadets understand the significance of community service and giving back. This selfless act nurtures a sense of empathy and responsibility, instilling values that can guide them throughout their lives.

Cadet Q & A: We asked several of our cadets what they have learned about themselves and what they hope to improve on, and what they are looking forward to the most left of the cycle?



“What I’ve learned during the BCA is discipline and I’m better off minding my own business. I hope to improve my self control during my time here. My favorite thing to do is P.T. or walking the track; I’m looking forward to all the new clubs we are going to be getting.” - Cadet Shepherd

“I’ve learned I don’t need to rely on other people’s thoughts of me to be enough for myself. I hope to improve on me and my moms relationship. My favorite activity to participate in is P.T. because I feel so much better afterwards; the event I’m really looking forward to is choir.” - Cadet Reid



“I have learned that my actions have consequences and to treat others with the same respect you want to be given. My favorite activity at the BCA is track. I’m looking forward to Tri-State so my team can get there and have fun.” - Cadet Gipson

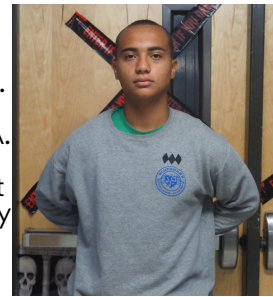


“I have discovered that peer motivation is a big help for a lot of people, including myself. I hope to improve my weight loss while also improving my social skills. My favorite activity is definitely P.T. for the fact that the cadre make it fun; I am looking forward to Tri-State the most.” - Cadet Mize



“I’ve learned to get ready on time and to make my bed properly and fold my clothes nicely. I hope to improve my attitude and my communication skills so that I can better talk to my mom. My favorite event that BCA has had is Family Day because I got a chance to see my family and spend a few hours with them and when we went swimming. I am really looking forward to the Black Hawk helicopter ride.” - Cadet Lashley

“One thing I’ve learned about myself while being at the BCA is that I’m mentally stronger than I thought I was. I hope to improve even more on my physical training while here at the BCA. There is a whole lot of fun activities at the BCA but the ones I enjoy the most are the hikes and marches. The activity I’m looking forward to the most is the Black Hawk ride.” - Cadet Garrett



“Being in the BCA, I’ve learned to control my anger and how not to be behind in school. What I’m hoping to do in the BCA is graduate my junior year and move onto my senior year, and work on my attitude towards people. My favorite activity to do here is the P.T. I’m hoping to get in Directors Platoon while I’m here.” - Cadet Maness



“I’ve learned a lot of things about my self, not all good, like I’m not perfect and I need to improve on a lot before I graduate. The biggest thing I need to improve on while in the program is my attitude and facial expressions. My favorite activity in the BCA, hands down, is probably volleyball. I’m looking forward to Tri-State and Thanksgiving break.” - Cadet True

CENTER STAGE CADETS



Cadet Hoffman, 1st Platoon Wolfpack

“I’ve learned that when I’m mad, it doesn’t always have to be a fight or argument, and I don’t always have to comment and focus on pointless, petty stuff. I hope to improve on personal courage and to be a more positive and caring person. I really like all the fun trips we get to go on every weekend, like going to Bernheim Forest, swimming, and the movies. I’m really looking forward to be able to get on a helicopter and fly around with my friends. When I graduate, I want to go back to school and work hard to keep my grades up so I can get a job and my permit.”



Cadet Poindexter, 3rd Platoon Blackhawks

“What I’ve learned about myself is that I’m more social than what I was when I was out of here. I hope to improve P.T. so I can get stronger and more fit. I really like the free time here because I like playing basketball with my peers. I’m looking forward to more events where we can get food from a snack bar. After I graduate, I want to get a job for 6 months, while I think about joining the Navy and try to find a career I actually want to do.”

Message from the Deputy Director:

“The quote, “Believe you can and you're halfway there”, is attributed to Theodore Roosevelt. It’s about a mindset fostered in forward thinking and a self-belief in achieving goals. It means that believing in your ability to overcome obstacles makes you better equipped to face them. As Class 51 approaches the halfway point, lets acknowledge how incredible their progress has been. The dedication and growth we’ve seen from each cadet is inspiring, and we’re excited to see what the second half brings.” ”

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



Message from the Commandant:

“Time flies when you have accepted the Challenge! We have finally made it to the halfway point of the cycle. Has it been all roses and sunshine? Absolutely not! But what it has been is Cadets persevering through the grit and challenges. Cadets taking themselves to the limit to achieve results they never thought were possible. Cadets developing and sharpening the skills needed to overcome any situation in life. Cadets who have been tested to the limits, but not fold. To say, I am so proud and honored to see the growth in these Cadets is an understatement. You have made it this far, now let's finish strong. You can do all you put your minds to and you have proven that each and everyday. So let's keep up the fight and remember, a bump in the road doesn't stop you, it just slows you down a little, pick up your speed and keep it moving.”

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



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