



The Appalachian Challenge Advantage

KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM

APPALACHIAN CHALLENGE ACADEMY

MAY 2024

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June 15th

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The Building Blocks of Success

We are excited to announce that the Appalachian ChalleNGe Academy has been accepted into a new national initiative for career coaching and advocacy. This program will open doors for further education, career opportunities, and a variety of opportunities explicitly in alignment with the Youth ChalleNGe Program within a (24) month post-residential phase. "I am excited that our organization is pioneering a new way forward to not only challeNGe our youth, but provide a mechanism that allows each cadet the opportunity to find themselves", stated Director Josh Coldiron. With the slogan of "Helping YOU find YOU, this new initiative will truly revolutionize what it means to be a Graduate of the Appalachian ChalleNGe Academy.

The Blueprint

We have incorporated new classroom instruction which enables our cadets to use online resources to create a comprehensive plan to find and access information and opportunities that can help them get a start at pursuing a career. Cadets are guided through researching different careers using current U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data to help understand the demand for certain types of labor, wages and current cost of living concepts, what requirements must be met to enter certain job markets, and what steps can be taken NOW to start building a path towards success in their desired career field. Guest speakers from the community are invited to speak directly with cadets and answer questions about popular, accessible careers. Topics may include requirements to overcome barriers to entry and varying compensations. Each cadet will bring this plan with them after they graduate and enter the Post-Residential Phase.

The Assembly

Once graduates have entered the Post-Residential Phase, they are returning to their communities with a new mindset generated from their 8-Core Component curriculum, the blueprint they prepared from career research, and the now 24-month support of our academy-based Resource Advocates. The combination of these tools and resources creates the foundation that our graduates can build into successful futures. The addition of our Resource Advocates also enables us to enrich the community-based support for our cadets upon their return home. Resource Advocates will build partnerships with community stakeholders and compile what resources are available within our servicing areas to provide more focused information and potential connections to graduates during their regular check-ins each month to help them as they face obstacles along their path to success.



Curious about the online career resources we are using?
Visit careeronestop.org or bls.gov/ooh

Government in Action

A Tour of the Kentucky Capitol Eyes of a Cadet

This month's field trip to Frankfort began with an educational journey into the heart of democracy—a tour of the State Capitol Building. With its rich history, architectural grandeur, and significance as a hub of political decision-making, this magnificent structure offered an ideal setting for the cadets to experience the inner workings of their state government. Upon entering the building, the cadets find themselves inside the rotunda—an awe-filling room bathed in natural light that shines in through the stained glass windows of the lofty dome above. The majestic murals painted alongside the dome depict scenes of civic duty, justice, and wisdom, making cadets feel they are not mere spectators but participants in a shared heritage.

As the tour continued, cadets witnessed the grand chambers of the Senate and House of Representatives. The tour guide gave great detail to the roles of these two branches of state government as well as a thorough explanation of the decisions and processes that occur in the chambers. Seeing the very seats occupied by our elected officials, the cadets gained a real sense of the responsibility and significance of public service.

As these young minds left the capitol building, they carried with them a newfound appreciation for the democratic principles upon which their nation was built. Equipped with knowledge and inspiration, we hope the experience will better inform their roles as citizens and better prepare them to actively participate in their community, state, and country.



Hands-On Heritage

A Field Trip to Pine Mountain Settlement School



As cadets immerse themselves in the residential phase of our program, we seek opportunities to introduce them to the rich heritage and culture of Appalachia. One such invaluable experience is a visit to the Pine Mountain Settlement School, a non-profit organization located within our county, dedicated to enriching lives through Appalachian place-based education for people of all ages. For our cadets, this visit to Pine Mountain Settlement School unfolds as a series of workshops, carefully

Did You Know?

The Pine Mountain Settlement School was founded in 1913 by Katherine Pettit and Ethel de Long Zande.

designed to impart essential skills and crafts deeply rooted in the region's traditions. Through hands-on engagement, cadets have the opportunity to delve into the art of sewing, baking, woodworking, and blacksmithing. Each workshop serves as a gateway for them to explore new realms of knowledge and craftsmanship. However, the workshops at Pine Mountain Settlement School offer more than just the acquisition of skills; they provide an avenue for personal growth and a sense of accomplishment. As cadets engage in these immersive experiences, they embrace the challenge of learning a new skillset and witness the transformation of raw materials into cadet creations. From stitching fabrics to forging iron, their efforts yield remarkable results through the tangible reminders of their determination and craftsmanship.

The experience at Pine Mountain Settlement School not only equips our cadets with new skills but also fosters a sense of connection to the land, history, and people of Appalachia. By engaging in these hands-on activities, they forge deeper bonds with the local community and gain a heightened understanding of the importance of preserving and passing down cultural practices. We are immensely grateful to have a local community that shares our commitment to educating and empowering our youth.

ACHIEVEMENT UNLOCKED

Week 20 Promotions



Level 4 MSG

* Denotes Honor Platoon (HP)

Auberry, D. (Crossville)*	Hillyard, W. (Madison)*	Ritchie, K. (Rogersville)*
Aumann, L. (Pulaski)*	Jones, C. (Boyle)*	Setser, G. (Johnson)
Brewster-Hatter, A. (Grant)	Jones, T. (Corbin)	Simpson, M. (Lawrence)*
Campos-Cardenas, C. (Fayette)*	Khalil, M. (Lucas)*	Slone, A. (Laurel)
Cliff, K. (Grant)	Lewis, J. (Elliott)*	Turner, S. (Lincoln)
Cobbs, C. (Montgomery)*	Marshall, X. (Carter)*	Walter, K. (Grant)*
Coyle, H. (Clark)*	Martinez, M. (Scott)	Weaver, C. (Harrison)
Escobar, I. (Harrison)*	May, C. (Fayette)*	Wiglesworth, V. (Scott)
Franklin, P. (Harrison)	Meade, G. (Adams)*	Wyatt, L. (Laurel)
Graham, E. (Boyd)*	Nunn, K. (Bell)*	
Grissett, B.	Parker, H. (Boone)	
Gross, G. (Harlan)	Purcell, C. (Kenton)*	
Hibbitts, D. (Laurel)*	Rieskamp, R. (Boone)	



Level 3.5 SFC

Barnett, T. (Lawrence)	Luna, S. (Kenton)	Wagers, M. (Garrard)
Brown, A. (Knox)	Moore, K. (Estill)	Wilson, K. (Scott)
Day, S. (Knox)	Roll, S. (Campbell)	



Level 3 SSG

Braman, J. (Fayette)
Guy, J. (Montgomery)
Mahan, A. (Kenton)



Level 1 PVT

Breetz, W. (Kenton)
Burlew, A. (Kenton)
Casey, G. (Kenton)
Gibbons, A. (Kenton)
Greer, S. (Johnson)
Johnson, K. (Jefferson)
Littrell, S. (Scott)
Parker, G. (Kenton)
Peace-Entrailgo, M. (Whitley)
Smith, R. (Perry)
Stewart, J. (Whitley)



Level 2 CPL

Cavitt, J. (Apison, TN)
Harkins, D. (Fayette)
Meenach, K. (Carter)
Morgan, I. (Cass)
Smith, H. (Shelbyville)
Tackett, C. (Lee)

Bayes, N. (Lawrence)
Bray, J. (Leslie)
Demarco, E. (Oakridge, TN)
Gullett, K. (Fayette)



Level 2.5 SGT

Banks, S. (Montgomery)
Boateng, L. (Fayette)
Bowers, D. (Fayette)
Draper, O. (Grant)
Jacobson, E. (Fayette)
Marshburn, A. (Kenton)
Martin, M. (Kenton)
Scalf, D. (Harlan)
Watts, S. (Knott)

Jenks, D. (Scott)
Pittman, M. (Hamilton)
Robinson, C. (Fayette)



Level 4
Master Sergeant (MSG)



Level 3.5
Sergeant First Class (SFC)



Level 3
Staff Sergeant (SSG)



Level 2.5
Sergeant (SGT)



Level 2
Corporal (CPL)



Level 1.5
Private First Class (PFC)



Level 1
Private (PVT)



Level 0
Candidate



GLADIATORS

BLACKHAWKS

The Appalachian Challenge Academy is a 22 week, quasi-military program dedicated to advancing foundational development of regional youth. With a focus on 15^{1/2}-18 year olds, it is our goal to provide a diverse skillset through our Eight Core Components that will prepare them to successfully transition into adulthood and create the future they set their sights on. If you would like more information or are interested in joining our community of support, feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!



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