



Appalachian ChallaNGe Advantage

Kentucky National Guard Youth Challenge Program

VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE V



Academy Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2025



Commandant's Cup

The Commandant's Cup, challeNGing the physical, strategy, and scholarly abilities of our Cadets.

Events include Drill and Ceremony, Flag Football, Track, Chess, Spelling Bee, E-Sports, Basketball, Trivia, Volleyball, Softball and Cornhole.

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IMPORTANT DATES:

Pine Mtn Settlement

Nov. 10-12

College Fair

Nov 12

Red Cross

Nov 13

Cadet Virtual

Reward Day:

Nov 27-28

Graduation:

June 14th

Intake Class 028

July 13th



Dual Credit

Welding



Fiber Optics



Dual Credit classes at the Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College are offered to eligible cadets and award them with the opportunity to gain college credit and, in some courses, a certification. Cadets can take fiber optics or welding courses. We are proud of our partnership with Southeast, as it helps us to provide additional opportunities to make our cadets' lives successful with skills that can be used for future employment and self improvement.



On Top of the World

Knobby Rock, in the Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve



Halloween

Our staff dressed the part for the event plus an abundance of candy.



Career and Education



Recently a contingent of our cadets had the opportunity to tour and visit the Health Expo. The Health Expo is a place where different colleges throughout Kentucky come and give students information about what medical degrees they have at each college such as nursing, surgery tech, sonography, and physical therapy. Students can get information on specific programs or colleges and they can get an idea of what the classes for each program will consist of.



Community



Recently our 3rd Platoon put in some service to their community by painting the press box and concession stand for the Evarts Elementary school. Giving service to our community strengthens the ideals of our “Service to Community” Core Component. In this one of eight core components Cadets gain an understanding of the benefits of volunteering their time and services to assist others in need and to maintain a clean, safe environment in which all citizens can live. This component provides hands on experiences in performing community service opportunities in and around Harlan, KY area.



Cadet Achievements



Level 4
MSG

Week 17 Promotions

Adams	Guzman	Merrell	Scholes
Barnes	Hackman	Napier	Smallwood
Begley	Hamilton	Newland	Smith, A
Bell	Hatton	Nichols	Smith, C
Bernstorff	Howard	Pegg	Sobecki
Bradley	Jones	Proffitt	True
Click	Lewis	Roark	Velazquez
Cooper	Ligier	Sandlin	Wilson, B

Level 4
Master
Sergeant
(MSG)



Level 3.5
SFC

Adkins	Griggs	Pace
Brooks	Helton	Parks
Davis	Larson	Summers

Level 3.5
Sergeant First
Class (SFC)



Level 3
SSG

Evans, J	Hamblin	Salisbury
Fletcher	Marshall	Thompson
Gray	Martin	Waggoner

Level 3
Staff Sergeant
(SSG)



Level 2.5
SGT

Bailey	Evans, M	Kiser	Strunk
Cody	Fisk	Marcum	Sumpter
Dyko	Fondaw	Sitamza-Kandem	Thomsberry
Edelen	Gribbins	Smith	Wallace

Level 2.5
Sergeant (SGT)



Level 2
CPL

Basford	Fultz	O'Neal
Clark	Hopper	Renfro
Coppedge	Hughes	Rose
Costello	Mcknight	

Level 2
Corporal (CPL)



Level 1.5
PFC

Dennis	Long	Thoroughman
Dougherty	Maggard	Wilson, J
Gibson	Peck	
Glenn	Sidell	

Level 1.5
Private First
Class (PFC)

10 Years Out



Meet Cameron Campbell a graduate from 2015 in Class 006. "My name is Cameron Campbell I attended the Appalachian Challenge Academy Class 006. Before attending the ACA, I was never home, always gone, getting in trouble. Didn't like anyone to tell me what to do. The ACA truly saved me from what could have been a bad road. Securing my education while at the Academy was a huge success for me.



Take all the opportunities this amazing program offers you and I promise you won't regret it.

They are setting you all up for a life long career and success. Today, I'm happily married for 8 years and father to a beautiful little girl and work a full time job. I deer hunt when in season and go kayaking when I can. I'm proud to have been a cadet and to have attended the Appalachian Challenge Academy."



Cameron is a great example of a young man who took the skills and discipline that the ACA provides and used it to give him and his family the solid footing to succeed long term. We are proud of all of our graduates and truly excited to see how each employ the skills and lessons they found at the Appalachian Challenge Academy.

Recruiting News

Now Accepting New Applications for Class 028

Meet our Recruiting Admissions Team



Rusty Bailey



Dexter Day



Eric Gray



Sarah Lawson

Fall 2025 Orientation Dates

All times are from 3pm to 7pm

Somerset Holiday Inn

50 Stevie Lynn Lane
November 24
December 15

London Holiday Inn (exit 38)

506 Minton Drive
November 25
December 16

Lexington Holiday Inn

(exit 108 Hamburg)
1976 Justice Drive
November 26
December 17

Florence Holiday Inn/ Cincinnati Airport

1055 Vandecar Way
December 4
December 18

Williamsburg Hampton Inn

(exit 11)
530 KY 92
November 20



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WE'RE NOT TELLING YOU
IT'S GOING TO BE EASY

WE'RE TELLING YOU
IT'S GOING TO BE WORTH IT!!!



ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN



**CLASS 28 STARTS
JANUARY 11, 2026**

DREAM
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF & NEVER GIVE UP!

BELIEVE
THINK POSITIVE & ALWAYS GIVE YOUR ALL

ACHIEVE
ALWAYS ENCOURAGE & DREAM BIG!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION: **WWW.2ABETTERME.COM**

 [FACEBOOK.COM/ACAHAARLAN](https://www.facebook.com/acaaharlan)

 [INSTAGRAM.COM/ACA4CHANGE](https://www.instagram.com/aca4change)

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.

Appalachian ChalleNGe Academy

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