



Dream. Believe. Achieve.



ISSUE: 5203

THE BLUEGRASS BUGLE



Nearing the peak of the mountain!

Tri-State has come and gone and our cadets gave it their all! However, the hard work isn't done just yet and they still have several weeks to get to that finish line! They have undoubtedly come a long way since stepping through our doors on Intake Day and have accomplished so much that they likely didn't think they could! We still have plenty planned for our cadets over the next 6 weeks; we hope that after Tri-State, many of them will seize the opportunities left ahead of them and finish Class 52 out strong!

GETTING A LOOK AT JOBCORP



Recently, a handful of our cadets visited the Muhlenberg Job Corps Center in Greenville, Kentucky, to explore the center's educational and vocational training opportunities. This visit provided the students with firsthand insight into the programs and resources available at the center. During their tour, the students learned about the various career training programs offered at Muhlenberg Job Corps, including Certified Nurse Assistant, Clinical Medical Assistant, Heavy Construction Equipment Mechanic, and Heavy Equipment Operations. They also discovered that the center provides academic support, such as classes in reading and math, opportunities to earn a high school diploma or equivalent, and tutoring services. The visit aimed to inform students about the pathways available through Job Corps for gaining valuable skills and credentials that can lead to successful careers. By experiencing the campus environment and learning about the programs firsthand, the students were able to better understand how Muhlenberg Job Corps can support their educational and professional goals.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our cadets who achieved second place at Tri-State. Your dedication, teamwork, and perseverance are a testament to the spirit and resilience of our Academy. You have made us proud. I also commend all the families who took part in Family Day. Your participation reflects the strong values of unity and support that are the cornerstone of our environment. Moments spent with loved ones are invaluable, and we are grateful for the time you chose to spend together. As we enter the final six weeks of this cycle, we encourage everyone to remain focused and committed. Let us finish strong, continue to support one another, and strive for excellence in all that we do. Together, we move forward with pride and purpose.

Mr. Timberlake
Director

Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy



ENJOYING FAMILY DAY AT BCA!



Family Day is an unforgettable event that brings families and cadets together for an afternoon packed with excitement, laughter, and connection at the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy. The day was filled with lively activities from sports matches, shared meals, and food trucks. A true highlight was watching the Academy as a whole perform their drill and ceremony as they initiated the opening of Family Day. Cadets quickly dispersed and joined their families, many of them waiting with a favorite meal requested by our cadets. The energy was contagious as families experienced a glimpse into their cadet's daily life and the incredible skills they're building. More than just a fun day, Family Day was a powerful celebration of resilience, growth, and the strong bonds that continue to inspire and unite our cadets and their loved ones.

Upcoming events

May 5: Blood Drive

May 8: Capitol Tour & Black Hawk Ride

June 3: Mock Trial

June 11: Kentucky Kingdom

June 14: Graduation



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Keri
WellFront Director

As Director of WellFront, Ms. Keri has gone above and beyond in supporting our cadets, demonstrating unwavering dedication to their mental well-being. From organizing team building workshops to personally ensuring cadets have access to timely and compassionate care, her leadership has made a lasting impact on the lives of countless cadets that have come through the Academy. Ms. Keri and her team have created a safe, supportive environment that empowers the cadets to thrive emotionally and mentally. When she's not aiding a cadet, you can often find her with her great dane, Gipsy, or prepping for the next cycle of cadets of the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy!

TRI-STATE INVITATIONAL!

In mid-April, our cadets had the exciting chance to compete against the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy (Indiana) and the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy in a series of events in Michigan. Over three days, they showcased their skills in various competitions, including sports, chess, a spelling bee, and a drill and ceremony presentation. Each event was judged individually, and teams were ranked based on their performance. The Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy ended up claiming an overall second-place finish, with Michigan Youth Challenge Academy taking the top prize. Here's how our teams placed in each event:

1ST PLACE

Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Flag Football

2ND PLACE

Boys Track
Chess
Spelling Bee
Volleyball

3RD PLACE

Cornhole
Drill & Ceremony
Girls Track
Softball



ACADEMY LIFE

By: Cadet J. Johnson

This is coming from Cadet Johnson J. personally. The beginning of Class 52 was hectic, and asking the other girls opinions on it, was tough. This was due to homesickness, not feeling comfortable in a new environment, and learning from actions that resulted in being here. Naturally of course, it's human to be anxious! Yet I welcomed the new growth to come into my life with this Academy, and as a result, I've been flowing along and taking in new sides of me that I will continue to bring along with me as I become a radiant, responsible, young lady. The girls and staff are great; I've always been a quiet girl, but more and more they bring out the best of me socially and make me laugh every day. It is a joy being in Wolfpack and I am thankful.

Since I have been putting myself out there, I was originally scared to be judged or embarrassed because I tend to be a clumsy girl; but the girls and coaches have encouraged me endlessly and helped me with volleyball and drill and ceremony. I hope to accomplish more self-confidence in feeling secure and strong-mindedness, as well as assurance on my career choices as I go forth with my education. Life is good, I choose happiness here and in my future. I hope you do too!

Cadet Q & A: We asked several of our cadets leading up to Tri-State, what have they learned about themselves and hope to improve upon, their favorite activity, and what they are most looking forward to!



"I hope to improve on my patience and being impulsive in some situations. I have improved on my time management and leadership skills. I enjoy being Class President and being on the track team. I'm looking forward to Tri-State and Family Day." - Cadet Winburn

"What I've learned about myself is that I need discipline in order to succeed in life. During my time at BCA, I hope to improve my job skills, to become a better person, and get on the right track academically. My favorite activity to participate in is details, free time, and church on Tuesday nights." - Cadet Tabor



"What I've learned is that I'm patient and decent at softball. I hope to improve on my school work. My favorite activity to participate in is drill and ceremony. I'm really looking forward to the Black Hawk ride." - Cadet Russell



"I've learned that I can cheer people up when they are feeling down. What I hope to improve on is minding my own business and not getting involved in others. My favorite activity to participate in is football. I am really looking forward to Kentucky Kingdom." - Cadet Hanna



"I have learned that I can control my anger and not let people get the best of me. I hope to finish my class, continue to control my anger, and to keep my past in the past. My favorite activity is probably track, and the event I look forward to the most is Tri-State." - Cadet Hoosier

"Once thing I've learned while at BCA is that if you want to stay out of trouble, you should just worry about yourself and do what's right. I want to improve on putting more effort in to things and saying how I feel instead of just holding it in. My favorite activity is when we do 5v5 games on the weekends. The event I'm looking forward to most is Kentucky Kingdom." - Cadet Minor



"While here, I've learned more about who I really am and what I must work on to be the best that only I can be. I hope to improve my level of discipline and respect to those in authority over me. My favorite activity to participate in would have to be volleyball. I'm looking forward to Tri-State and the trip to the Capitol." - Cadet Akin



"There have been many things that I have learned about myself but the biggest thing I have learned is I can do hard things and things are going to challenge you in life. I hope to improve the most in my confidence but the BCA is helping me so much! My favorite activity to participate in is volleyball, and I am looking forward to Kentucky Kingdom." - Cadet Morris

CENTER STAGE CADETS



Cadet McFarland, 1st Platoon Wolfpack

“I’ve learned about myself that I’m a good peace maker, I’ve shown great leadership skills, and I’m very understanding. I want to improve on keeping calm in certain situations. My favorite activity at the BCA is basketball, and how we went skating and Taco Tuesday. I am looking forward to Family Day and Kentucky Kingdom! When I graduate the program, I plan to do NTI or go to Butler High School, get a job, and spend time expanding my hair business. I want to go to hair school and get a specialty in locs.”



Cadet Miller, Directors Platoon Wolverines

“I’ve learned that I really enjoy reading and I hope to improve upon maintaining a daily schedule and just all around time management. My favorite activity at the BCA is softball games. I’m looking forward to Tri-State and other sporting events. When I graduate the program, I plan to finish high school and join the National Guard artillery unit.”

Message from the Deputy Director:

“As we continue to work towards graduation, the Cadets progress daily. It’s a process. During our Family Day, I spoke with many parents who could see a change in their young adults. This is human nature. As we adapt to our environment, the cognitive process of psychological assimilation can take shape. Youth Challenge is designed to do this. This process helps individuals adjust to new situations and build a positive mindset. It takes time, and we will continue to foster a positive environment for the Cadets to grow as we march towards graduation.”

Rocky Jensen, Deputy Director Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy



Message from the Commandant:

“We have made it to week 14 and I am so proud of you all getting to this point. With only 6 weeks left, you have accomplished and experienced so much. We just completed the Tri-State competition and came in 2nd place. For the first time in BCA history, our female cadets brought home 1st place in basketball. This allowed both male and females to take home 1st place in that event. You all did extremely well and I am proud I was able to witness your hard work pay off. Let’s keep moving forward and finish strong.”

CSM Sanders, Commandant Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy

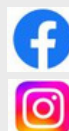


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