



Dream. Believe. Achieve.



ISSUE: 5302

THE BLUEGRASS BUGLE



Accepting the Challenge!

The cycle is in full swing, and week eight has brought out the very best in our cadets! They've risen to the challenge of the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy, mastering the demanding routine of daily academics, intense physical training, health and hygiene, and countless responsibilities with determination and grit. Their hard work is paying off—many are pushing forward with pride as they strive to earn their Level 2 and Level 3 ranks. The progress is undeniable, and the drive for growth is stronger than ever. Class 53 is proving they have what it takes to succeed!

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECT!



With every cycle, cadets step up with determination and pride, campaigning for a seat on the student council to represent their peers and leave their mark on Academy life. This time-honored tradition not only strengthens the Academy's dedication to responsible citizenship, but also gives cadets a powerful, hands-on lesson in the democratic process—equipping them for civic leadership beyond these walls. Council members gather feedback from their platoons, debate ideas, assign responsibilities, and set plans into motion. Once refined, their proposals move forward to Academy leadership for approval—turning cadet-driven vision into reality. Before the ballots were cast, candidates proudly presented their platforms, making this election cycle one of the most spirited and competitive yet! We are excited to announce the results of the Class 53 Student Council Election:

- President: Cadet Pelayo
- Vice-President: Cadet Swint
- Secretary: Cadet Richey

Each platoon also nominated two representatives, ensuring every cadet's voice carries forward in council decisions!

STUDENT COUNCIL INITIATIVE

I'm Cadet Pelayo and I am the Class 53 Academy President. I plan on doing my best to make the BCA feel more like home to it's cadets, bring more fun incentives, more community service ideas, and making the BCA the best it can while were here. I can't do this alone, so I'm very happy with the cadets that will be by my side to help with all the change I would like to bring to the BCA. My prestigious Vice-President, Cadet Swint, from 3rd Platoon Blackhawks and secretary, Cadet Richey, from 2nd Platoon Bulldogs; as well as representatives Cadet Bigham and Cadet Brown from 1st Platoon Wolfpack; Cadet Dailey and Cadet McDuffie from 2nd Platoon Bulldogs, and Cadet Love and Cadet Villar from 3rd Platoon Blackhawks.

I'm very proud that the cadets voted for me as class president and I plan on doing as much as I can to make everyone feel heard and welcomed here at the Bluegrass Challenge Academy!

**Cadet Pelayo
Class 53 President**



THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY!



Service to the community is more than just volunteer work — it's an essential opportunity for cadets to grow as individuals while making a meaningful impact on the world around them. By participating in service projects, cadets step outside of their everyday routines and gain valuable experiences that help shape both their character and their future. One of the greatest benefits of service to the community is the development of empathy and compassion. When cadets give their time to support others whether it's helping at a food pantry, cleaning up local parks, or helping set up an event, they begin to understand the challenges faced by different groups within their community. This awareness fosters a stronger sense of responsibility and encourages students to become active, caring citizens. When cadets serve their communities, everyone benefits. Communities grow stronger, and cadets discover the values of leadership, compassion, and responsibility that will guide them long after graduation!

Upcoming events

Sept. 8: LifeTouch Picture Day

Oct. 8 - 10: Tri-State Invitational

Oct. 11: Family Day

Nov. 5: Blood Drive



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Regis
Charge Nurse

Ms. Regis ensures the health, safety, and overall well-being of the cadets during their time at the BCA. She serves in this critical position, providing both medical expertise and compassionate care to support cadets throughout the residential phase. Nurse Regis does it all from monitoring cadet health, administering prescribed medications, responding promptly to medical needs or emergencies, and offering guidance on topics such as hygiene, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle practices. Her work not only addresses immediate health concerns but also equips cadets with the knowledge and habits necessary for long-term well-being, making her an invaluable part of the Academy!

PLEASANT VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH RETURNS FOR CLASS 53!

The unwavering dedication of Pleasant View Baptist Church from McQuady, KY, continues to bless the cadets of Bluegrass Challenge Academy with powerful weekly worship services. Every Tuesday evening, cadets gather for a time of spiritual reflection, encouragement, and renewal—an uplifting part of their Academy journey led by Brother Josh Calloway and his passionate ministry team.

These services are more than just a gathering; they are a source of strength and inspiration. This partnership has become a cornerstone of support, nurturing both personal growth and community connection.

And the excitement doesn't stop there—starting in early November, cadets will also have the opportunity to explore new elective courses in culinary arts, carpentry, hunting & tracking, and electrical work. These hands-on experiences will open doors for learning, leadership, and future opportunities—making this season at Bluegrass Challenge Academy one of the most impactful yet!



ON THE MARCH



Cadets at the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy laced up their boots and pushed through a six-mile road march, an exercise that tested their endurance, discipline, and determination. More than just a physical challenge, the march symbolized their commitment to growth and their ability to overcome obstacles together as a team.

Physical training is a cornerstone of the Academy experience. It not only builds strength and stamina but also instills habits of discipline, perseverance, and resilience. Through activities like the road march, cadets learn the value of setting goals, pushing past limits, and supporting one another along the way.

The benefits of physical training extend far beyond fitness. It sharpens focus in the classroom, boosts confidence, and prepares cadets for the challenges of life after the program. By completing the six-mile road march, cadets proved to themselves that with determination and teamwork, they can go further than they ever imagined.

Cadet Q & A: We asked several of our cadets what the most difficult part adjusting to life at the BCA has been, as well as what they hope to accomplish during the cycle!



"Being away from family has been the most difficult part of BCA life for me. What I hope to improve on while I am here is to improve myself mentally and physically, improve my school grades, and my overall attitude." - Cadet Riker

"I would definitely say missing and not seeing your family on a daily basis is the most difficult part adjusting to life here. I hope to get score on the ASVAB and improve my physical appearance and gain more muscle mass." - Cadet Britt



"The most difficult part adjusting to life at BCA has been being away from my family. What I hope to achieve is to better my life skills, and to improve myself mentally and physically." - Cadet Villar



"The most difficult part of adjusting to life at the BCA for me has been keeping a level head when things get crazy. I hope to achieve being the PLT Sergeant for Directors Platoon while I'm here, and I hope to improve my discipline with school and P.T." - Cadet Feistritz



"For me, the most difficult part of adjusting to life at BCA has been getting to know the rules set by the cadre. What I hope to achieve while I am here is to become the best I can be!" - Cadet Graham

"Being away from family and friends is the most difficult part of life here at BCA. What I would like to improve while I am at the BCA is my military bearings." - Cadet Nally



"The most difficult part of adjusting to life here for me was the homesickness. I hope to achieve more discipline and to catch up on my credits to graduate." - Cadet Sweesy



"The most difficult part of adjusting to life at the BCA for me has been adjusting to the routine. What I hope to improve while I am here is my attitude towards others." - Cadet Balentine

CENTER STAGE CADETS



Cadet Milner, 1st Platoon Wolfpack

“The most difficult part adjusting to life at the BCA is being without my family, my phone, having to be on the same schedule everyday, and the group punishments. What I really hope to improve on while I am here is my communication skills and my time-management. When I graduate the program, I plan to finish high school, get a job, and go to college; maybe go to Job Corps.”



Cadet McDuffie, 2nd Platoon Bulldogs

“The most difficult part of adjusting to life at the BCA would probably be finding a group of real friends who will help you adjust. What I hope to achieve is I would like to have higher standards, more discipline, and to stay involved. When I graduate the program, I plan on trying to get enlisted in the Army, but if that doesn’t go as planned, I will most likely become a full-time content creator.”

Bluegrass Challenge Academy Leadership

“At the eight-week mark, our cadets have already shown impressive growth in education, physical training, and personal development. Their dedication and resilience are shaping them into disciplined, capable young men and women, and I’m proud of the progress they’ve made on this journey.”

Mr. Timberlake
Director



“Our cadets are embracing the Academy, meeting every challenge, and learning to trust the process. Guided by the eight core components, they are building discipline, purpose, and character, transforming into future leaders with determination and strength.”

Mr. Jensen
Deputy Director



“After eight weeks, our cadets have shown remarkable strength, resilience, and determination to grow each day. There’s no doubt they have what it takes to finish this journey, and we believe in their ability to achieve more than they ever imagined.”

CSM Sanders
Commandant



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