



Dream. Believe. Achieve.



ISSUE: 5303

THE BLUEGRASS BUGLE



The Journey Continues!

Tri-State has concluded, and our cadets demonstrated exceptional effort and determination throughout the event. Their commitment to excellence was evident, yet their journey is not complete. With only a few weeks remaining, the finish line draws near, offering continued opportunities for growth and achievement. Since their arrival on Intake Day, these cadets have shown remarkable progress and resilience, accomplishing more than they once believed possible. The final eight weeks promise to be both challenging and rewarding, and we look forward to witnessing them conclude Class 53 with strength, discipline, and pride!

TRI-STATE RESULTS!



In early October, our cadets traveled to Indiana for an unforgettable three-day competition against the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy (Indiana) and the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy! The energy was high as they went head-to-head in a variety of events, including sports, chess, a spelling bee, and an impressive drill and ceremony performance. Each challenge put their teamwork, focus, and determination to the test—and they rose to the occasion! When the scores were tallied, the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy proudly secured an overall second-place finish, with Michigan taking the top spot. Check out how our cadets ranked in each event below!

<u>1ST PLACE</u>	<u>2ND PLACE</u>	<u>3RD PLACE</u>
Boys Basketball	Boys Track	Cornhole
Girls Basketball	Chess	Softball
	Drill & Ceremony	
	Flag Football	
	Girls Track	
	Spelling Bee	
	Volleyball	

STUDENT COUNCIL INITIATIVE

I want to let you all know that student council is actively working to make your Academy experience better. We're currently pushing for more student incentives, more opportunities to earn community service hours, more food options in the DFAC, and more flexibility with co-ed activities. I'm really happy and thankful that you've all been so patient with the things I promised—I haven't forgotten, and I'm doing everything I can to get them approved as soon as possible. I'm truly grateful to still have your support, and I hope to bring you some good news very soon! All the representatives bring in very good opinions and have discussed that there has been some bumps in there job but they always seem to overcome it. So thank you to Cadet Bigham, Cadet Brown from Wolfpack, Cadet McDuffie and Cadet Daily from Bulldogs, and Cadet Love and Cadet Villar from Blackhawks.

I also want to give a special shout-out to both Cadet Swint and Cadet McDuffie. Cadet Swint does an outstanding job in his position—he helps keep our meetings on track, makes sure we follow through with what we've discussed, and always gives honest, straightforward input that helps guide our decisions. Thank you, Cadet Swint, for your consistency and leadership.

Cadet McDuffie also deserves major recognition. He is incredibly involved in his role and takes great pride in everything he brings to the table. He does a great job keeping us on track, always speaks up when something needs to be said, and consistently contributes valuable and direct opinions that help us improve. Thank you, Cadet McDuffie—I truly appreciate your dedication and the energy you bring to student council.

Cadet Pelayo
Class 53 President



SHARING A DAY WITH FAMILY



Family Day is always a memorable occasion at the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy, bringing cadets and their families together for an afternoon filled with joy, excitement, and connection. The event featured plenty of fun—from friendly sports games and shared meals to an array of delicious food trucks. The day kicked off with a standout moment as the entire Academy showcased their precision and pride through a drill and ceremony performance to open the festivities. Afterward, cadets eagerly reunited with their families, many of whom came prepared with their cadet's favorite meal in hand. The atmosphere was electric as families got a first-hand look at the growth, discipline, and teamwork their cadets have developed. More than just a celebration, Family Day served as a heartfelt reminder of the strength, progress, and support that define the Bluegrass experience.

Upcoming events

Oct. 18, Saturday: Skating

Oct. 28, Tuesday: Blackhawk Ride

Nov. 1, Saturday: Land Navigation Exercise

Nov. 5, Wednesday: Red Cross Blood Drive

Nov. 8, Saturday: Road March/Obstacle Course

Nov. 26, Wednesday – Nov. 30, Sunday:
Thanksgiving Pass



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Randy
Therapist

Mr. Randy is a dedicated therapist from WellFront who excels in helping cadets navigate life's challenges with confidence and resilience. Through compassionate guidance and practical strategies, he empowers our cadets to develop healthy coping skills, strengthen emotional awareness, and build the tools needed to thrive in everyday life. His commitment to supporting youth growth and well-being makes him an invaluable part of their journey toward personal success! The BCA is grateful for Mr. Randy and everything he does for our cadets!

AMBASSADORS OF THE ACADEMY

From the very start, our cadets are encouraged to step outside their comfort zones and embrace new experiences that build essential life skills. They've already completed land navigation training and will soon put those skills to the test during an upcoming November exercise—followed by a friendly competition with Appalachian Challenge Academy. Some cadets have also lent a helping hand to the local VFW, assisting with event setups and serving lines. Another exciting highlight on the horizon is the highly anticipated Black Hawk ride in Frankfort, KY. In addition, military recruiters from every branch will be visiting the Academy to share valuable insights about opportunities and benefits within their respective services. With so many events still ahead, we're eager to provide even more experiences that help our cadets grow, learn, and provide them an opportunity they might not have received before!



ONE GOAL, ONE TEAM

BY CADET LASSITER



Starting from the beginning, I was pretty excited about going to Tri-State and participating in events. I wish that everyone could have gone so they could have experienced it but I know that everyone who stayed back to a lot to work on. From the bus ride to getting to Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy, everyone was pumped and euphoric about winning. Although I knew we had a very good chance to win, deep inside, teamwork would be the sole purpose and goal. Sadly, we didn't have much effort on the first day which was Chicago Ball. Maybe it was stress or all the energy wasted on the bus, but I know we could have done better. Throughout the games, I realized that just being there was enough to satisfy me, win or lose. I can positively say that I had a good time playing against the other Academies. I hope and feel that everyone that went to Tri-State had a good time and realize how grateful this Academy can be to us. All you need to do is put in what BCA gives out.

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



"I've learned that I can adapt and overcome anything. I hope to improve my mental health and graduate my senior year. My favorite activity to participate in was track and the road marches. I am looking forward to going home and seeing my family." - Cadet Stamper

"What I've learned about myself is I've got more potential than I thought I had. I want to improve being a better leader for people who can't control their emotions. My favorite activity to participate in is the road marches; I'm really looking forward to Thanksgiving and graduation." - Cadet Sims



"While at the BCA, I've realized I wasn't a bad kid, I was just in a bad situation. I want to improve on continuing being a good person outside of here. My favorite activities to participate in are the times of fellowship and team building exercises. I look forward to fellowship and the daily challenges we face with each other." - Cadet Moffitt



"What I have learned here is to control what I am feeling, and to be respectful to those around me. One of my favorite activities while at the Academy is the ruck marches, and I really enjoyed Tri-State as well." - Cadet Durbin



"I've learned that being here is good for me, it's helped me able to be in real life situations and to be able to handle/do the right thing during those situations. My favorite activity at BCA is track, I really like running. I'm looking forward to riding in the Black Hawk." - Cadet Gambon

"During my time here, I've learned that some cadets have a harder time adapting. I try to keep away but I'm here to bring it my self. My favorite event at BCA was Family Day, because it makes you push harder for your goal to finish the program. I'm looking forward to skating." - Cadet Mulholland



"What I have learned from being a cadet at BCA is that no matter what, there is always going to be something or someone testing you, but always take it head on with confidence and positivity. I want to improve on while I'm here is encouraging my peers how not to let anything effect their performance. My favorite activity would probably be drill and ceremony, it was a great way to learn discipline and how to follow orders given. I'm really looking forward to the Black Hawk ride." - Cadet Rittenberry



"I have learned so much in my time here; I've learned how to appreciate the little things, I also figured out which sports I love. One thing I need to improve on is how I communicate and talk to others, and to be strong and courageous. My favorite activity I have participated in was the Tri-State when we got first place in basketball. I am looking forward to roller skating and graduation, when I walk across the stage and can say I made it through this program." - Cadet Christl



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CENTER STAGE CADETS



Cadet Choate, Directors Platoon Wolverines

"I've learned that I'm more capable than I think. I hope to improve my actions and my life choices. My favorite activity to participate in would definitely be drill and ceremony. I'm looking forward to finishing this program and getting where I need to be in school. Once I graduate, I plan to go to JobCorps until I'm 17, then I can enlist in the Army. I plan to graduate early when I enlist; I haven't decided about reserves or active duty yet."



Cadet Love, 3rd Platoon Blackhawks

"While at the BCA, I've learned that respect goes a long way; to treat others the way you want to be treated, and to have empathy for others because you don't know their past or what they're going through at the moment. Things that I want to improve on are my anger; some days I take my anger out on others and after I say what I have to say, I realize that it wasn't right, and that is where empathy and sympathy come into play. My favorite event by far was Tri-State. Just to be able to get out of the Academy for more than an hour or two was really nice, and I got to play the sports I love while interacting with other academies. The event I'm looking forward to in the future is the Black Hawk ride, I've always wanted to ride in a helicopter and I love that the BCA is giving me that experience. Once I graduate the BCA, I plan to go to my home school and finish my high school diploma. Then I want to in-list in the Tennessee Army National Guard and go to college after basic training."

A message from the Director and Deputy Director:

"A huge congratulations to our incredible cadets for earning second place at Tri-State! Your hard work, teamwork, and determination truly embody the strength and spirit of our Academy—you've made us all proud! A heartfelt thank-you also goes out to the families who joined us for Family Day. Your presence and support remind us what makes our community so special—unity, encouragement, and shared purpose. As we move into the final six weeks of this cycle, let's keep our momentum going! Stay focused, stay driven, and continue lifting one another up. Together, we'll finish strong and carry forward with pride, passion, and purpose!"



Mr. Timberlake Director

"As we move steadily toward graduation, our cadets continue to demonstrate meaningful progress each day. Growth is a gradual process, and during Family Day, many parents expressed how noticeably their young adults have changed. This transformation is a natural part of human development. As individuals adapt to new environments, the process of psychological assimilation begins to take place—an outcome intentionally fostered through the Youth ChalleNGe Program. This structured approach helps cadets adjust, develop resilience, and cultivate a positive mindset. With time, dedication, and continued support, we remain committed to providing an environment that nurtures their growth as they advance toward graduation."



Mr. Jensen Deputy Director

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