



Dream. Believe. Achieve.



**ISSUE: 5401**

# THE BLUEGRASS BUGLE



## REVVING UP FOR SUCCESS

Welcome to the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy, Class 54! A new wave of candidates has arrived, bringing with them excitement, determination, and the courage to begin a journey of personal growth. We are thrilled to welcome these driven young men and women as they take the first steps toward reaching their fullest potential. As the 22-week experience gets underway, our dedicated team looks forward to learning each candidate's story and providing support, mentorship, and encouragement throughout the process. Our ultimate goal is to see every candidate who completes the Acclimation phase move forward with confidence and pride—ready to cross the graduation stage and celebrate all they have achieved.



# WHERE THE TRANSFORMATION BEGINS



Intake Day marked the beginning of the journey for Class 54, as candidates stepped onto campus feeling a blend of excitement, nerves, and plenty of unknowns—often with the anticipated haircut at the top of their minds. The opening two weeks, known as the acclimation phase, are widely regarded as the most challenging stretch of the program. During this period, candidates are introduced to a structured daily routine that emphasizes early mornings, maintaining orderly bunks and lockers, personal hygiene standards, and preparing for the academic phase set to begin in week three. As these habits take hold, the tempo of the program steadily increases.

Throughout these first weeks, candidates are immersed in the expectations and responsibilities that define life at the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy. Guided by briefings from Training Coordinator Mr. Haertel and supported by dedicated cadre staff and WellFront Readiness Solutions therapists, candidates gain a clear understanding of the standards they will be expected to meet throughout the 22-week cycle. Accountability, respect, and consistency form the foundation of this experience—and for many, the simple act of rising on time each morning becomes the first meaningful step toward lasting change.

## DIRECTORS CORNER

The toughest phase of the journey is officially behind them, and the real momentum begins now. Over the next 20 weeks, these Cadets will dive headfirst into mastering the eight core components of the Youth ChalleNGe Program—building skills, confidence, and purpose every step of the way. Our mission is clear: to ensure every young man and woman graduates from the Bluegrass ChalleNGe Academy with a strong vision for their future and a solid plan to achieve it.

Throughout this transformational period, we will challenge, guide, and support their growth—mentally, physically, emotionally, and morally—pushing them to discover just how capable they truly are. By the end of this 22-week journey, each Cadet will stand with pride, knowing that through discipline, perseverance, and teamwork, there is no limit to what they can accomplish.

They have conquered acclimation and accepted the challenge. Now it's time to finish strong and turn potential into success.

**Mr. Timberlake**  
Director  
Bluegrass Youth ChalleNGe Academy





# MOMENTUM IN MOTION



Life at the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy moves fast, and the pace only picks up once acclimation wraps up. After completing this essential opening phase, candidates are promoted to Level 1 and officially welcomed as Cadets—an exciting milestone that launches a busy and rewarding cycle. From there, the classroom becomes the center of daily operations, where focus and effort drive progress. By Week 4, the momentum builds even more with the first promotions to Level 2. Each Friday that follows offers Cadets new chances to advance, earn recognition, and continue climbing toward their goals.

And the opportunities don't stop there. Cadets who put in the work can look forward to experiences that are both memorable and motivating—from special trips and an unforgettable UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter ride. Beyond the excitement, Cadets also learn the importance of service, with two upcoming American Red Cross blood drives providing meaningful ways to give back. Before long, attention will turn to graduation—celebrating the dedicated young men and women who accepted the challenge, stayed the course, and successfully completed the program.

## Challenge Me Creed

It if is to be, it is up to me.

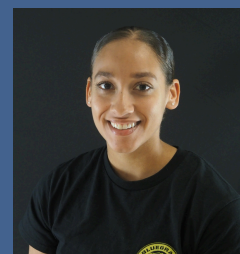
I am in charge of my future.

I will do all I can to make my future a success.

I will not accept failure.

I will succeed.

Challenge me!



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

SFC Carroll  
Cadre

SFC Carroll consistently goes above and beyond in service to the Cadets of the Bluegrass Challenge Academy. Whether she's assisting Mr. Major in coordinating the drill and ceremony team, supporting the Wolfpack track team, or stepping in when medical support is needed, SFC Carroll is always ready to help. She brings professionalism, skill, and calm leadership to every situation. Her dedication, versatility, and genuine care for Cadets make a lasting impact on the program and those it serves!

# BUILT BY DISCIPLINE, DRIVEN BY PURPOSE

Two demanding weeks of Acclimation have come to a close, and with them came a powerful milestone. On the afternoon of Monday, January 26, Cadets stood tall and rang into the Bluegrass Challenge Academy, officially crossing the threshold into the residential phase of the program. It was a moment charged with pride, excitement, and well-earned achievement.

Those first 14 days push Cadets to their limits, challenging both mental toughness and perseverance. Yet, in true BCA fashion, they answered the call. In a short time, these young individuals have embraced a new way of life—one rooted in discipline, accountability, and teamwork. From crisp bunks and precise uniforms to learning drill and ceremony, they've already begun laying the groundwork for future success. Now wearing the title of Cadet with confidence, they move forward into the next phase ready for what lies ahead. With this level of determination and drive, one thing is certain: this class is just getting started, and their journey is only going up from here.



## THE DEFINING MOMENT

From day one, Cadets at the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy step into a life-changing experience guided by eight essential focus areas. These aren't simply subjects to be completed—they are the building blocks that develop discipline, strengthen character, and provide Cadets with real-world skills they can carry well beyond graduation. Every part of the program is intentionally structured around these core areas, ensuring Cadets grow into capable, confident individuals ready to face future challenges.

The Eight Core Components include:

- Academic Excellence
- Life Coping Skills
- Job Skills
- Health & Hygiene
- Responsible Citizenship
- Service to the Community
- Leadership & Followership
- Physical Training

Central to a Cadet's progression is the Blue Book, which outlines the academy's rank and promotion system. Through consistent effort, accountability, and growth, Cadets advance through the ranks and earn increased responsibility and privileges.





## **CLASS 54**

### **1st Platoon Wolfpack**

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| - Cadet Adams     | - Cadet Jones    |
| - Cadet Atchley   | - Cadet Perkins  |
| - Cadet Bennett   | - Cadet Peterson |
| - Cadet Brown     | - Cadet Pittman  |
| - Cadet Cole      | - Cadet Ridener  |
| - Cadet Darnell   | - Cadet Rofkahr  |
| - Cadet Dixon     | - Cadet Rose     |
| - Cadet Gamble    | - Cadet Smith    |
| - Cadet Gorney    | - Cadet Stewart  |
| - Cadet Gust      | - Cadet Stith    |
| - Cadet Henderson | - Cadet Teeters  |
| - Cadet Hicks     | - Cadet Wells    |
| - Cadet Huysman   | - Cadet Winters  |
| - Cadet Jackson   | - Cadet Wright   |

### **2nd Platoon Bulldogs**

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| - Cadet Alexander  | - Cadet Johnson, G    |
| - Cadet Bell       | - Cadet Kumar         |
| - Cadet Bland      | - Cadet Lockman       |
| - Cadet Burnett    | - Cadet Martin-Taylor |
| - Cadet Caldwell   | - Cadet Moser         |
| - Cadet Cintron    | - Cadet Payton        |
| - Cadet Craig      | - Cadet Pennington    |
| - Cadet Crowe      | - Cadet Pha           |
| - Cadet DiFilippo  | - Cadet Smith         |
| - Cadet Drummond   | - Cadet True          |
| - Cadet Edwards, D | - Cadet Turner, C     |
| - Cadet Followell  | - Cadet Warren        |
| - Cadet Friedel    | - Cadet Whittington   |
| - Cadet Holt       | - Cadet Wiley         |

### **3rd Platoon Blackhawks**

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| - Cadet Bailey     | - Cadet Murphy          |
| - Cadet Ball       | - Cadet Oliver          |
| - Cadet Berhanu    | - Cadet O'Neil          |
| - Cadet Brooks     | - Cadet Ongoy           |
| - Cadet Bundy      | - Cadet Reeves          |
| - Cadet Burrows    | - Cadet Shack           |
| - Cadet Cole, J    | - Cadet Thomas          |
| - Cadet Cole, M    | - Cadet Tipton-McDaniel |
| - Cadet Crawford   | - Cadet Turner, D       |
| - Cadet Edwards, J | - Cadet White           |
| - Cadet Estep      | - Cadet Williams        |
| - Cadet Glenn      | - Cadet Wright          |
| - Cadet Johnson, J | - Cadet Yeaples         |
| - Cadet Lee        |                         |

## **Message from the Deputy Director:**

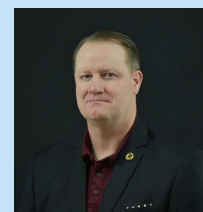
You've taken a courageous step toward a stronger, more promising future, and that choice deserves recognition. What lies ahead will test you, develop you, and bring out the determination and ability that's been inside you all along.

This program is more than a challenge—it's an opportunity. It's where growth begins, leadership takes shape, and the foundation for your next chapter is built.

Stand together. Support one another through every obstacle and every victory. Face each lesson with commitment and confidence, knowing that teamwork and perseverance open every door. We're here to support you throughout the journey—now trust yourself, stay focused, and chase the success you're capable of achieving.

Step forward with purpose.  
Welcome to the Challenge.

**Mr. Jensen, Deputy Director**  
**Bluegrass Youth ChalleNGe Academy**



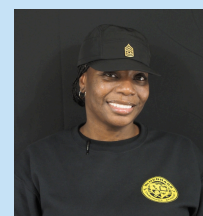
## **Message from the Commandant:**

"Class 54 has officially arrived, and the excitement is contagious! From the very beginning, these cadets have shown curiosity, courage, and determination—even while working through a few first-day jitters. One thing is already certain: they're ready to learn, grow, and discover where they belong.

The road ahead won't always be easy, but the opportunities waiting for them have the power to change lives—for their families and, most importantly, for themselves. As they enter the residential phase, encouragement and support matter more than ever. A short message, a positive word, or a show of belief can make a lasting difference. From here on out, their journey will be shaped by perseverance, commitment, and the strength of the community standing behind them.

Let's support them, celebrate them, and cheer them on all the way to the finish line.

**CSM Sanders, Commandant**  
**Bluegrass Youth ChalleNGe Academy**



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FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION, CALL

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