



# The Bluegrass Bugle



Volume 49 Issue 04 | Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy Newsletter

## *Approaching the end*

Thanksgiving Pass is here and once the cadets return, they have a short three weeks left until that glorious day when they get to walk across the stage and ring the bell for a second time. The work doesn't stop though after returning from Pass, as our cadets still have plenty of events to keep them occupied and new experiences to withhold. From a talent show to a mock trial to rehearsing graduation, the final weeks of Class 49 will have gone by in a blink. The cadets have worked hard, adapted, and made extensive progress and we can't wait for them to show the world!

"If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you."

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## *Touring the Skies and the Capitol*

One of the events we make sure to schedule with every class is the State Capitol Tour and giving our cadets the opportunity to ride in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, courtesy of the National Guard. In late October, our cadets got that opportunity. While many of them were quite fearful and apprehensive of getting into the Black Hawk, once it touched down on landing, they were exhilarated from the flight. Afterwards, Cadet Elliott said "I loved the ride, it was such a good way to learn and spend time with your friends! It also helped me get a little over my fear of heights." Cadet Murray expressed just as much excitement, "The view was incredible; it was like I got to see the world through a different perspective."

Once all the cadets got their ride in the Black Hawk, they were treated to a tour of the State Capitol Building in Frankfort. They were taught not only the history of Kentucky, but what each branch of the government entails and what their duties are. They were shown where the Senate, House of Representatives, and Supreme Court of Kentucky operate when they are in session. We hope to continue sharing this experience with many more future classes that come through the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy!

### **Commandant's Corner**

The cadets will be taking off for Thanksgiving Pass and they are almost at graduation. This is the time we need you to encourage them more than ever to complete the challenge. They have come so far and are nearly ready to cross that finish line. The final few weeks once they return from pass will continue to push the cadets to prove that they can finish what they set out to accomplish. We want each and every one of them to feel that sense of pride when they walk the stage at graduation in just a few short weeks!

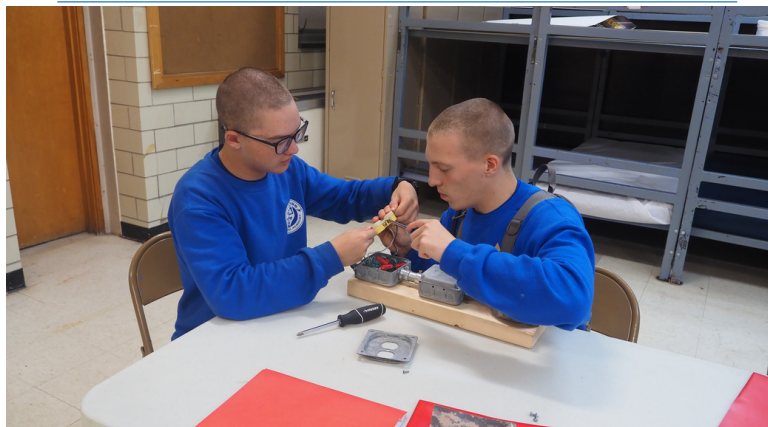
CSM M. Davis



*Our cadets participating in several activities!*







### *Vocational courses with Pleasant View Baptist Church!*

Rep. Josh Calloway and his ministry group have been a long-lasting partner of the Bluegrass Youth ChalleNGe ACademy, where they come in every Tuesday night and offer worship services for any of our cadets who wish to do so. Later in the cycle, they begin vocational courses for our cadets to choose from which include hunting, culinary arts, electrical, and carpentry for four weeks. These courses include hands-on training to learn about these skills that our cadets may be unfamiliar with. Carpentry builds a picnic table from scratch, cutting wood planks to correct measurements and putting them together; electrical learns how to properly wire outlets; hunting is taught how to track wild game and what kind of tools/calls to use to attract those animals, and culinary creates several different dishes throughout the four weeks. Cadet Price, who was part of the carpentry course, stated “I really enjoyed being able to use the machinery and doing hands-on activities with the materials.” In the culinary course, Cadet Smith said “My favorite part of the course was learning the different food types, and putting icing on the cakes.” We cannot thank Rep. Calloway and his ministry group enough for taking their time and providing these opportunities to our cadets!



### STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Willems  
Instructor



Beginning with the Bluegrass Youth ChalleNGe Academy in Class 37 as a Cadre, Mr. Willems has always maintained a calm and collected demeanor with the youth that has come through the program. After being a Cadre, he switched positions to Training Program Coordinator where he helped implement both our Long Range schedule and the daily routine schedule for our cadets as well as assisting with social media and this very newsletter! When the opportunity arose to help out in the classroom, Mr. Willems became one of the instructors for Eminence Independent Schools and now helps our cadets achieve and excel in their academic studies!

### Upcoming Events

November 22 - 26: Thanksgiving Pass

December 7: Christmas Parade

December 11: Mock Trial

December 16: Graduation





## Part of the Team

By Cadet Martin



### Tri-State Invitational

During the third week of October, our cadets got the chance to participate in different events against the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy (Indiana) and the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy. Over three days, they partook in different sports, chess, a spelling bee, and a drill and ceremony demonstration. Each event was scored in coordination in what place each Academy finished in a particular event. While the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy didn't finish first, they did place second overall. Our teams finished each event with the following rankings:

#### 1st Place

Boys Basketball  
Flag Football  
Track & Field  
Spelling Bee

#### 2nd Place

Chess

#### 3rd Place

Cornhole  
Drill & Ceremony  
Girls Basketball  
Volleyball

The Tri-State event was one of the most significant and remarkable excursions that we have taken as an academy. It included a jam-packed 3 days of entertainment and competition with the desire to bring home the trophy for the BCA. Unfortunately, we fell short and finished second to Michigan, but that doesn't take away from the exhilarating experience. One of the best things about Tri-State is the variety of sports and activities the event entailed. With sports such as basketball and football, as well as things like spelling bee and chess, it provided something for everyone so that everyone could be included and triumph.

I participated in basketball, track, and volleyball, which all included reoccurring practices weekly that really gave us cadets things to look forward to.

Preparing ourselves and getting to compete had truly bettered our experience at the BCA, and while I wasn't practicing and competing, I was cheering on my fellow cadets and supporting them. Every day, events were held back-to-back so that there was no getting bored and no significant down time; even when sports were concluded for the day, we would have social activities to get to know the cadets from the other academies. It was very interesting to learn about how the other academies operated, and even though we're all going through the same thing, our experiences still differ.

Overall, this trip was an incredible experience that had a lot to offer for our own personal growth and development. We learned how to act as a team and how to effectively execute a common goal while also having a great time in the process. Conclusively, I can say that the Tri-state event was very influential in the appreciation I have for this academy based on all it had to offer for us cadets during my time here.





***We asked a few of our cadets what their favorite school subject and P.T. activity is, and what they are looking forward to about the holidays!***



"My favorite school subject is English/Language Arts, and my favorite P.T. activity is the burnouts we would do with SFC Jenkins. This holiday season, I'm really looking forward to spending time with my family. SFC Jenkins, SFC Truckey, and SFC Holmes have all helped me greatly during my time here at BCA." - Cadet Woodcock

"My favorite school subject is science because I like what it lets me explore. I don't care too much for P.T., the only thing I like about it is that I have lost weight because of it. I'm really looking forward to being home for my birthday this holiday season, because it's the day before Christmas! SFC Robinson, SFC Smith, SFC Jones, Mrs. Jenny, Mrs. Lisa, and Mrs. Toland all helped me out and encouraged me to do the right thing even when I didn't want to. They'll always have a special place in my heart." - Cadet Beacham



"My favorite school subject is English, and my favorite P.T. activity is walking/running the track. This holiday season, I'm looking forward to seeing my family and showing them how much I've changed/improved through this program. SFC Holmes notices if I'm not in a good mood and usually helps me out." - Cadet Howe



"My favorite school subject is financial math because it helped give me more info on how to save my money and invest it. My favorite P.T. would be full body Friday; I've gained 20 pounds and I feel better than how I used to with the P.T. I'm most looking forward to the holiday is the food and being with my family and my people. SFC Holmes and SFC Chantz have helped keep me out of trouble and always help me out when I run into issues." - Cadet Sands



"My favorite school subject is English, and my favorite P.T. activity is kickball because not only is it fun, but we learn to build and be part of a team. I'm looking forward to spending quality time with my friends and family during the holidays. SFC Smith has helped me the most while here because when I'm having a rough time, she always tries to help and build me back up." - Cadet Morbach

"My favorite school subject is history, and my favorite P.T. activity is weightlifting. I'm most looking forward to seeing my family and spending time with them during the holidays. SFC Jenkins has helped me with weight loss and what I want to do in the future." - Cadet White, J



"My favorite school subject is English, and my favorite P.T. activity is when we do upper body. The thing I look forward to most Holiday season is seeing my family, and wearing my own clothes. SFC Holmes is always in a good mood, so I feed off of that, and SFC Cyr because he is always helping me when I ask him." - Cadet Cooney



"My favorite subject in school is history and math. In history, it's something new and different every unit; and math, I love it, working with numbers is fun to me and there is only one right answer which is even better. My favorite P.T. activity is probably when we do sets of all types of workouts. I am looking forward to the holiday season because I am ready to be with family and eat of course, and just be back home with a different mindset. SFC Robinson has helped me the most at my time at BCA, she has always told me since day one what I needed to hear and not what I wanted to hear." - Cadet Land





## CENTER-STAGE CADETS



"My favorite school subject this year would have to be either Chemistry or financial math. Personally, I loved all the P.T. but my favorite activity would have to be kickball. For the holidays, I'm most looking forward to surprising my sister for her birthday, seeing my family, boyfriends family, and eating good food. SFC Barton has helped me control my anger, and SFC Music has really gotten me out of my comfort zone and talking about things. Ms. Keri has helped me out by preparing me for life after BCA. After I graduate, I'm a bit undecided about National Guard or JobCorps. BCA has opened my eyes on my future. The Academy has helped me out more than I could ever ask for and get my life back on track."

- Cadet Wardle, Directors Platoon



"My favorite school subject is English, I love reading and creative writing. My favorite P.T. activity is long distance running; I've reduced my mile time by minutes, as well as made a new personal record. This holiday, I'm most looking forward to spending time with my mom and little brother. SFC Cyr has helped me out the most, he's been there to help me get back on the right track, calmed me down when needed, and has all around given me the tools needed to succeed. After graduating, I plan on continuing online school and using that extra time to work my two current jobs while saving for college, for architecture and real estate. Creating and owning new style commercial buildings/monuments is the long term goal."

- Cadet McNally, 2nd Platoon Bulldogs

## Message from the Deputy Director:

"We want to wish everyone a wonderful and Happy Thanksgiving! The cadets are on that final lap so we can't wait to see them graduate in just a few short weeks!"

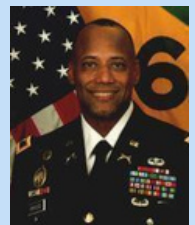
**Scott Brown, Deputy Director**  
**Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy**



## Message from the Director:

"Happy Thanksgiving!! BCA Nation has so much to be thankful for during this holiday season as we get ready to say farewell to Class #49 in a few weeks. As you take a few minutes to read our last newsletter during the holiday season, you will noticed we have completed six of the eight core components and we have only the academic excellence and community service components to go. I'm extremely thankful, humbled, and grateful to serve with a team of professionals, community supporters, parents and guardians who have given these Cadets 100% and then sum each day by sending them words of encouragement to complete the program and letting them know hard work does pays off. But more importantly, the growth, maturity, and positive changes we have seen in these Cadets is priceless. I look forward to seeing all of you at the graduation, as we celebrate these young people accomplishments and achievements. I wish you and your loved ones a safe, wonderful, and blessed Thanksgiving holiday. Blessings!"

**Col. (R) Detrick Briscoe, Director**  
**Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy**



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