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DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parents:

Thank you for entrusting us with your young person. This handbook is an informative guide to assist you in building a strong positive relationship with the academy and developing a rewarding environment for your child.

Although the information found within is not all-inclusive, you will be able to use this hand book as a tool to guide you through the next 17 months.

As a parent, you are responsible for helping the Cadet with love and support while they attend the five-month residential portion of this program. This may prove tough at times and cause you to second guess your decision to allow your child to attend this program. Stand firm on your decision and know your child is being cared for in every way. While both tough and demanding, Youth ChalleNGe is the best program of its type in the country. Additionally, you will help your child achieve goals of continued education, gainful employment, or both during the next 17 months. More importantly, we look forward to helping your Cadet make positive and effective changes that are required of successful adults.

Again, thank you for your support. A fair and firm parent can make a positive difference.

Sincerely,

COL Jackie Fogle

Director

SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

MISSION STATEMENT

To intervene in and reclaim the lives of 16-18 year old high school dropouts, producing program graduates with the values, and life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens.

ABOUT US

The South Carolina National Guard currently operates the Youth ChalleNGe program on the southeastern side of Fort Jackson at the McCrady Training Center. Nationwide there are 37 programs in 27 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. Since 1993, over 145,000 at risk youth have graduated, turned their lives around and have gone on to be productive citizens. The ChalleNGe is a community-based program supported by the SC National Guard which leads, trains, and mentors at-risk youth so they may become productive citizens in South Carolina's future. The South Carolina National Guard wants to challenge you with a second opportunity for success.

We offer two classes per year, in January and July. The Youth ChalleNGe Academy is not for everyone. It is not a summer camp...it is TOUGH. When your child enrolls, they commit to NO alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs. They commit to discipline which is the critical factor in helping build their own confidence, self-respect, and physical training. Not all who enroll will graduate, but those who do find they have turned the corner in getting their lives together.

The Youth ChalleNGe Academy is designed to help youth acquire the basic skills and education necessary to succeed in life. Youth ChalleNGe Academy is a two-part program. The first part, the Residential Phase, is 22 weeks long. The Residential Phase includes a two week Acclimation Phase, a short opportunity to adjust to rigors and discipline of the program. The second part, the Post-Residential, is when students pursue their academic and vocational goals with the guidance of a mentor from their home community. The mentor helps the graduate to explore continued opportunities for success by assisting with career planning and decision making.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hours of Operation

Normal hours of operations for administrative staff, teachers, and RPM staff are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays)

The Cadre provides supervision for the candidates/cadets 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the cycle. Please place your phone calls to the Academy during normal daytime hours of operation.

Telephone Numbers

CSM Parker, Commandant.....	(803) 920-1768
CSM Parker's office/Ms. Sherrill.....	(803) 299-4873
1SG Solomon.....	(803) 360-5407
Senior Team Leaders/Duty Phone.....	(803) 608-1085
Mr. Allen, Crisis Counselor.....	(803) 760-9836
Ms. Gilyard, RPM Coordinator.....	(803) 299-4870
Ms. Raspberry, Media Specialist.....	(803) 363-9268
Ms. Kelly, RPM Assistant/Admissions Office.....	(803) 299-4872
Mr. Zabullah, RPM Assistant.....	(803) 299-4709
Ms. Cunningham Mentor Department.....	(803) 299-4879
Ms. Dresser, Case Manager.....	(803) 299-4878
Ms. Gilmore, Case Manager.....	(803) 299-5459
Ms. Robinson, Case Manager.....	(803) 299-4708
Ms. Williams, Case Manager.....	(803) 703-0021
Nurse Baskerville, Medical Department.....	(803) 391-0164
Nurse Wood, Medical Department.....	(803) 360-5098
Education Department.....	(803) 299-4876
FAX number.....	(803) 299-4880
EFAX number.....	1-888-812-5215

Directions to SC Youth ChalleNGe Academy @ McCrady Training Center
5471 Leesburg Road
Eastover, SC 29044

These are **general directions from cities throughout the state**. Find the city which is closest to your town of residence. If you have any problems with these directions you may want to map it from your home address on your home or local library computer. You may call (803) 465-3265 or (803) 422-0899 if you need further assistance.

Please note that this is a military installation and you must have proper identification to enter. Be aware of the strict posted speed limits (usually 25 mph) on post due to heavy foot traffic. Additionally, remember the Youth ChalleNGe Academy is a “Smoke Free” environment.

***POST DIRECTIONS (after you arrive to 5471 Leesburg Road, Eastover, SC 29044)**

STOP at the Check-in/Guard gate.

Please note adults in your vehicle will have to present a valid identification card to enter.

Once cleared proceed past the guard gate and turn right.

Turn left at the second street on the left.

Go to the end of that street and turn right into the last parking lot.

Arrive at Building #3891 and come through the front entrance.

From Charleston Area

Take I-26W for 74.98 miles.

Take Exit #145B/St. Matthews onto US-601 go 39.00 miles

Make a sharp Left turn on Leesburg Road (SC-262)

Arrive at 5411 Leesburg Road, Eastover, on the right

*See Post Directions

From Myrtle Beach Area

Follow US-501 for 14.18 miles

Bear left onto US 378 go 78.59 miles

Continue on US-76W go 22.74 miles

Take ramp toward St. Matthews/US-601/Camden go 0.28 miles

Bear right on McCords Ferry Road (US-601) go 5.02 miles

Make a sharp left on Leesburg Road (SC-262) go .09 miles

Arrive at 5411 Leesburg Road, Eastover on the right

*See Post Directions.

From Florence Area

Take I-20 West for 50.17 miles

Take Exit #92/Lugoff/St. Matthews onto US-601 go 12.9 miles

Bear Right onto Leesburg Road (SV-262) go 0.93 miles

Arrive at 5411 Leesburg Road, Eastover on the right

*See Post Directions

From Hardeeville Area

Take I-95 N toward Florence go 77.93 miles

Take exit 86B/Columbia onto I-26 W go 23.4 miles

Take Exit #145B/St. Matthews onto US-601 go 38.11 miles

Make a sharp left onto Leesburg Road (SC-262) go 0.90 miles

*See Post Directions

From Greenville/Spartanburg Area

If Greenville-Take I-385 S go 42.05 miles

(Both) Merge onto I-26E towards Charleston

If coming from Greenville– go 55.34 miles

If coming from Spartanburg-go 86.61 miles

Take Exit #107B/Florence onto I-20E go 17.59 miles

Take Exit #82/Sparks Creek Church Road/Pontiac go 0.32 miles

Turn Right on SC-53 go 0.22 miles

Turn Left on Percival Road (SC-12) go 0.43 miles

Bear Right on Screaming Eagle Road (SC-268) go 7.8 miles

Turn Right on McCords Ferry Road (US-601) go 3.55 miles

Bear Right on Leesburg Road (SC-262) go 0.93 miles

Arrive at 5411 Leesburg Road, Eastover on the right

*See Post Directions

From Rock Hill Area

Take I-77 S toward Columbia 59.74 miles

Take Exit #16A Florence onto I-20 E go 5.93 miles

Take Exit #82/Sparks Creek Church Road/Pontiac go 0.32 miles

Turn Right on SC-53 go 0.22 miles

Turn Left on Percival Road (SC-12) go 0.43 miles

Bear Right on Screaming Eagle Road (SC-268) go 7.8 miles

Turn Right on McCords Ferry Road (US-601) go 3.55 miles

Bear Right on Leesburg Road (SC-262) go 0.93 miles

Arrive at 5411 Leesburg Road, Eastover on the right

*See Post Directions

From North Augusta/Aiken Area

Take I-20 E toward Columbia 80.16 miles

Take Exit #82/Sparks Creek Church Road/Pontiac go 0.32 miles

Turn Right on SC-53 go 0.22 miles

Turn Left on Percival Road (SC-12) go 0.43 miles

Bear Right on Screaming Eagle Road (SC-268) go 7.8 miles

Turn Right on McCords Ferry Road (US-601) go 3.55 miles

Bear Right on Leesburg Road (SC-262) go 0.93 miles

Arrive at 5411 Leesburg Road, Eastover on the right

*See Post Directions

From Georgetown Area

Take High Market Street/US-521 go 45 miles
Turn right on US-521 go 15.13 miles
Continue on W Boyce Street (SC-261) go 4.76 ft
Turn right on US-301 go 1.77 miles
Bear Left on US-521 go 14.12 miles
Turn left on S. Guignard Parkway go 0.89 miles
Turn Right on US-15 go 4.64 miles
Turn Left on N. Pike W go 0.17 miles
Turn left to ramp onto US-76 toward US-378 W go 20.3 miles
Take ramp toward St. Matthews/US-601/Camden go 0.23 miles
Bear Right on McCords Ferry Road (US-601) go 5.02 miles
Make a sharp Left turn on Leesburg Road (SC-262) go 0.90 miles
Arrive at 5411 Leesburg Road, Eastover on the right
*See Post Directions

From Sumter Area

Take N. Washington Street (US-521) go approximately 3 miles
Bear Left on Broad Street go 8.89 miles
Continue on US-76 W go 9.25 miles
Take ramp toward St. Matthews/US-601/Camden go 0.28 miles
Bear Right on McCords Ferry Road (US-601) go 5.02 miles
Make a sharp Left turn on Leesburg Road (SC-262) go 0.90 miles
Arrive at 5411 Leesburg Road, Eastover on the right
*See Post Directions

From Allendale Area

Take S. Main Street to Allendale-Fairfax Hwy go 1.05 miles
Continue on Burton's Ferry Hwy (US-301) go 7.08 miles
Continue to follow US-321 go 37.05 miles
Turn Left on US-601 go 42.94 miles
Make a sharp Left turn on Leesburg Road (SC-262) go 0.90 miles
Arrive at 5411 Leesburg Road, Eastover on the right
*See Post Directions

From Gatson Area

Take Mack Street to N. Main Street
Turn Right pm N. Main Street (UD-321) go 1.03 miles
Continue to follow US-321 go 4.84 miles
Bear Left on Charleston Hwy (US-21 N) go 2.38 miles
Turn Right on SC-73 go 0.18 miles
Take ramp onto I-77 N go 8.34 miles
Take Exit #9/Garners Ferry Road/Leesburg Road onto Leesburg Road (SC-262) go 14.29 miles
Arrive at 5411 Leesburg Road, Eastover on the left
*See Post Directions

“HANDS-OFF” POLICY

The following is a description of the SC Youth Challenge Academy “Hands-Off” Policy:

- a) **“Hands-Off” means that no staff member may touch a cadet or use abusive language as a means of coercion.** Challenge staff is expected to lead through positive methods which do not include the use of physical force or verbal abuse. Use of such tactics must be considered a leadership failure.
- b) “Hands-Off” leadership also prohibits staff members from using unprofessional language, including profanity, vulgarity or off-color jokes when interacting with correcting or motivating cadets. This includes joking and horseplay which is easily carried too far. The uncompromising standard for behavior and language on the part of the staff is nothing less than complete transparency and total professionalism.
- c) Candidates/cadets or staff shall not be subject to disciplinary action or any other form of retaliation for reporting an alleged violation.
- d) Any candidate/cadet experiencing or witnessing any violation of this directive is to immediately report it to their superior or the next member in the chain of command.

NOTE: THIS POLICY IN NO WAY PREVENTS CHALLENGE STAFF FROM THE USE OF TOUCH AS A RESPECTFUL AND PROFESSIONAL WAY TO CONNECT WITH AND TEACH A CADET IN ADDITION, THIS POLICY DOES NOT IN ANY WAY INTERFERE THAT A STAFF MEMBER CANNOT DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST AN OUT OF CONTROL CADET, NOR MEANT TO INTERFERE WITH ANY INSTANCES WHERE A STAFF MEMBER MAY NEED TO REACT PHYSICALLY AND/OR QUICKLY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE CADETS OR OTHERS.

DISCIPLINE POLICY (REVISED 06/2013)

Category A Offenses

- Fighting
 - Verbal threatening**
- Horse playing
- Disrespectful Behavior/Misconduct
- Possession of Contraband
- Disturbing Class
- Refusing to Participate
- Fraternalization
 - Passing notes or letters**
- Making phone calls at unauthorized times
- Failure to follow instructions

Consequences:

1 Day of Discipline Platoon per offense

After 3rd offense: referral to Counseling and call to the parent or legal guardian

Category B Offenses

- Fighting
 - Shoving and pushing (requires someone to separate)
- Fraternalization
 - Openly display of physical contact, affection, or any sexual misconduct
- Destruction of Academy property (\$100.00 and under)
- Theft (\$10.00 and under)
- Possession of any Medication
- AWOL-On Campus
- Using Obscene/Vulgar Language Towards a Cadre/Staff
- Accumulation of five (5) Category A Offenses

Consequences:

3 Days of Discipline Platoon, referral to Counseling and call to the Parent or Legal Guardian

Discipline Policy (Continued)

Category C Offenses

- Fighting
 - Punching/physical blows with intent to do physical harm**
- Threatening Another Cadet or Staff
- Bullying
- Fraternalization
 - Sexual intercourse or any other sexual acts**
- Any Gang Related Activity
- Failure to Comply with Medical Instructions
- AWOL Off Campus
- Behavior Unbecoming of a Cadet
 - Uncontrollable**
 - Explicit Behavior**
 - Behavior that is dangerous to self or others**
- Theft
- Tobacco Products
 - Refer to Tobacco-Free Regulation File JCDAAR-08/97**
- Destruction of Property
- Disruption of Any Standard Testing
- Disruption of Program
- Branding/Self Mutilation/Notching Eye Brows
 - Notch brows will result in student shaving both brows off**
- Accumulation of five (5) Category A Offenses=Cat B Offense
- Accumulation of two (2) Category B Offenses=Cat C Offense

Consequences:

Violation will result in referral to the Disciplinary Review Board. The Disciplinary Review Board will determine consequences, with the possibility of a recommendation for dismissal to the SC Youth Challenge Academy Director.

Category D Offenses

- Physically Assaulting a Staff Member
- Failure to Pass Drug Test
- Possession of Any Weapon, or Using any Item as a Weapon
- Possession of Illegal Drugs

Consequences:

Violation will result in automatic removal from the program by the Youth Challenge Academy Director unless determined otherwise by the Disciplinary Review Board

NOTE: Discipline Platoon will operate Monday-Saturday from 3:30 pm-5:00 pm. If a student quits DP, their parents will be called, and the student will be referred to the Discipline Board.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The pass dates and times are listed on the following page for your cadet's class. Let me remind each of you that these passes are **MANDATORY** and you or your designee must pick your cadet up at the appropriate place and time.

Cadets **ARE NOT ALLOWED** to leave early for appointments, family gathering, etc. Cadets must complete a required number of days in order to graduate. If there are any questions please contact me.

All cadets will be signed out from and returned on time to the academy. Any cadet who returns late will lose any earned privileges.

Sincerely,

CSM Michael Parker
Commandant

CYCLE 40 – MANDATORY PASS DATES

(The cadets “must” be picked up
by someone on the authorized pickup list!!)**

FAMILY DAY PASS

March 2-6, 2018

Pass begins on Friday, March 2, 2018

**Please arrive on Friday no later than 9:00 a.m. (0900 hours) Program begins promptly at 10:00 am (1000)
There will be a Classroom Visitation, Dorm Tour and Drill and Ceremony Competition.**

Sign Out begins at 12:00 Noon. (1200 hours)

Cadets must return from pass on

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

between 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. (no earlier) (1700 – 1900 hours)

JOB PASS

March 30-April 2, 2018

Sign Out begins on Friday, March 30, 2018
at 9:00 a.m. (0800 hours)

Return / Sign In on Monday, April 2, 2018
no earlier than 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (1700 – 1900 hours)

MOTHER’S DAY PASS

May 11-14, 2018

Sign Out begins on Friday, May 11, 2018
at 9:00 a.m. (0800 hours)

Return / Sign In on Monday, May 14, 2018
no earlier than 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (1700 – 1900 hours)

GRADUATION DAY

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Location: Sims Center

Time: 10:00 a.m. (1000 hours)

Parents may enter the building at 9:45 a.m. (0945 hours)

EMERGENCY AND FUNERAL LEAVE POLICY

Purpose: This policy gives guidelines regarding emergency and funeral leave for South Carolina Youth Challenge cadets and also defines immediate family members and emergencies as it applies to this policy.

Definitions: This policy defines immediate family member and emergencies as follows.

1. Immediate family member is defined as a cadet's mother, father, brother, sister, child, grandmother, grandfather, and/or legal guardian
2. Emergencies are defined as any act or incident that results in significant property loss, serious injury (i.e. loss of hearing, limb, sign, and/or death).

Leave: At the discretion of the Academy Director or his designee a Challenge cadet may be permitted up to 72 hours of emergency leave beginning at the time of pick up. The Academy Director or his designee will determine on a case-by-case basis the length of any extended leave.

MILITARY RECRUITMENT POLICY

Purpose: This policy set guidelines regarding military recruitment for South Carolina Youth Challenge cadets.

Recruiters: In accordance with this policy no military recruiter from any branch of service will be permitted to actively engage in recruitment of SC Youth Challenge during the first six weeks of the Challenge cadet's residency. Recruiters; however, are permitted to be present at inception, and during ASVAB testing. Recruiters are also permitted to act as mentors/volunteers for the Youth Challenge Academy and to provide career development training. There will be a scheduled military day during each residential cycle in which recruiters will be given ample time to present their branch of service.

Testing: All Challenge Cadets will take the ASVAB test on the scheduled academy testing date. No recruiter will be permitted to individually test any Youth Challenge cadet prior to the first academy scheduled test.

Military Obligation: At no time will any military recruiter tell or lead any Challenge cadet, their parents or guardians to believe there is a military obligation associated with attendance at the SC Youth Challenge Academy. In accordance with the Master Youth Programs Cooperative Agreement there is no military obligation associated with attendance at any SC Youth Challenge Academy.

Leave for MEPS: At the discretion of the Academy Director or his designee a Challenge cadet may be permitted leave for MEPS processing and swearing in ceremony. During this leave the Challenge cadet must remain in the academy issued uniform, unless the Academy Director or his designee has permitted other approved attire. The Academy Director or his designee on a case-by-case basis will determine the length of any extended leave.

MEDICAL POLICY

Purpose: This policy sets guidelines regarding medication(s), refills, medical appointments, dental appointments, medical billing, medical cards, and proof of insurances for SCYCA cadets.

Medications: In accordance with this policy it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure all prescription(s) are filled in a timely manner. Controlled drugs that require a doctor's prescription every thirty (30) days is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. These controlled medication(s) can be picked up by the LPN/medical staff only if the doctor calls in the prescription(s) to the CVS Pharmacy on Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209, 803-776-6605. If the prescription(s) is called in the LPN/medical staff must be notified and the cadet must be covered by insurance. The LPN/medical staff will notify parent/guardian when medication(s) are low, thus allowing time to refill, send or bring medication(s) to McCrady Training Center.

If cadet(s) are on pass, the LPN/medical staff will prepare medication(s) and medication sheet to be given to the Senior Team Leader to be signed out by the parent/guardian they received the medication(s). A seven (7) day(s) supply of medication(s) will be signed out by parents/guardians. When cadet(s) return from merit pass; the parent/guardian must return medication(s) and refills to Senior Team Leader and initial the amount of medication(s) returned. If any discrepancies, STL will document discrepancy on medical sheet and notify LPN/medical staff the next day. If the parent/guardian forgets to return with medication(s) to medical.

Over-the-counter (OTC) medication(s) is discouraged at SC Youth Challenge unless doctor recommendation of certain brand, or the cost of generic verses non generic.

Refills: The SCYCA Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)/medical staff will not be responsible for medication(s) refills. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make sure that all refills are filled in a timely manner. Parents should request 90 day prescription(s) if applicable.

Medical Appointments: Transportation to and from medical appointments is the responsibility of parent/guardian. The SCYCA Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)/medical staff may assist in transportation of Youth Challenge cadet(s) only during emergency situations. Parent/guardian is to call the SCYCA at 803-299-4873 (office) 803-360-5098 (Nurse Lane) or (803) 391-0164 (Nurse Baskerville) to notify of date and time of appointment. LPN/medical staff will notify Commandant to obtain approval if that appointment date is sufficient. If approved by Commandant, LPN/medical staff will notify parents/guardian that the appointment is sufficient. Parents are encouraged to schedule appointments on Fridays and arrange a pickup and return time. The SCYCA LPN/medical staff is responsible to make appointment(s) deemed an emergency or life threatening. The LPN/medical staff will notify the Commandant and parent/guardian when these situations arise or present itself.

All surgery should be scheduled after completion of program. If medical emergency occurs, parent/guardian should make arrangements with Commandant and LPN/medical staff on how many days will be missed due to surgery.

Dental Appointments: Transportation to and from medical appointments is the responsibility of parent/guardian. The SCYCA Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)/medical staff may assist in

transportation of Youth Challenge cadet(s) only during emergency situations. Parents/guardians are to call the SCYCA at (803-360-5098 or (803) 391-0164 to notify of date and time of appointment. LPN/medical staff will notify Commandant to obtain approval if the appointment is deemed sufficient. Parent/guardian is encouraged to schedule appointment(s) on Fridays and arrange a pickup and return time. The SCYCA LPN/medical staff is responsible to make appointment(s) deemed an emergency or life threatening. The LPN/medical staff will notify the Commandant and parent/guardian when those situations arise or present itself.

All surgery or major dental work should be scheduled after completion of program. If medical emergency occurs, parent/guardian should make arrangement with Commandant and LPN/medical staff on how many days will be missed due to surgery.

Medical Billing: It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian of Youth Challenge cadet to pay all medical bill incurred by their cadet. (No insurance) All medical bills will be forwarded to parent/guardian for payment. SC Youth Challenge Academy will not be responsible for payment of medical/dental bills.

Medical Cards/Proof of Insurance: All SCYCA cadets must have a medical card, insurance card, or proof of insurance to be accepted in this program. Insurance cards are required by Medicare and hospital for proof of insurance.

Special Accommodation: Any candidate/cadet presenting to the SC Youth Challenge Academy with any pre-existing condition such as diabetes, sickle cell, hemophilia, etc will be accommodated in order to maintain participation in the program.

We will provide a safe environment, attendance to their medical concerns and ensure specific directives are maintained. Staff members will compassionately assist cadets in the overall treatment of the condition as needed.

Physicals, Dentals, and Pregnancies: All candidates applying for SC Youth Challenge Academy program must have sports physical and dental checked prior to being accepted into the program. Any condition(s) noted on sports physical will be addressed during interview process to make sure cadet(s) can participate. If cleared by physician to participate, then admission shall be granted without restrictions.

All female candidate(s) are required to take a pregnancy test prior to applying for SC Youth Challenge Academy. If pregnancy test result is negative at the time of entering the program, then admission shall be granted. If pregnancy test is positive, then candidate will have the opportunity to participate with physical from her physician stating her restrictions. If candidate pregnancy test result is negative prior to entering program, but went home on a pass and believes she is pregnant, a pregnancy test will be given by the medical staff to verify pregnancy. The candidate will then have to be cleared by her physician to participate into the program with her restrictions.

EDUCATION POLICY

To: Parents/Guardians

From: Lead Teacher

Subject: Education Policy

In preparation for taking the South Carolina Department of Education General Education Development (GED) test, the academic department prepares cadets by teaching to visual, aural, kinesthetic learning styles in the areas of writing, mathematics, science, social studies, and reading. The GED Official Practice Test (GED Ready) will be administered to cadets up to three times in order for the cadets to meet the GED qualification level. Those cadets who meet the GED qualification level will be given the Official GED test

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

*****Cost: Cap & Gown: \$30.00***

Will be taken out of the cadet account

Female Cadet Graduation Attire

Pants or Skirt: Black, skirts no shorter than 1 inch above and no longer than 2 inches below the knees.

Shirts: White dress shirt with a collar, long or short sleeves.

Shoes: Black. No clogs or platforms, no heels higher than 2 inches.

Stockings: Flesh tone only.

Hair: Must be neat.

Makeup: Must be conservative.

Male Cadet Graduation Attire

Dress Slacks: Black

Shirt: White dress shirt with collar and long sleeves.

Tie: Black No designs or logos. No bow ties.

Socks: Black

Belt: Will need to be worn through loops if the pants require one.

NOTES: ALL CADET ATTIRE MUST BE CLEAN AND NEAT. GRADUATION ATTIRE WILL BE INSPECTED TO ENSURE IT IS APPROPRIATE. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS POLICY WILL RESULT IN CADET(S) BEING PROHIBITED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE GRADUATION CEREMONIES.

CLASS RINGS

To: Parents/Guardians

From: Ms. Gilmore
Case Manager

Subject: SCYCA Class Ring

A special ring has been designed exclusively by Balfour as the official SC Youth ChalleNGe Academy Ring. This ring will feature the spell out name base with your choice of birthstone. One side will have the South Carolina Flag in color with the year & date above. The other side will feature the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe seal, your class number and name. Located below is a similar design of the ring. Class ring day will be announced at a later date. The full price of the class ring will be sent to you at a later date.

If you decide to purchase a ring, please plan to pay a \$60.00 non-refundable deposit in the form of cash, check, money order, or major credit card on CLASS RING DAY. Please make your check or money order payable to "Balfour". The Academy will have a Class Ring Ceremony the week before graduation. Your child will be presented with his/her ring at that time. Therefore, you must have your child's ring balance paid in full within 6 weeks of placing your order. Your child will not be allowed to participate in the ring ceremony, if the balance is paid in adequate time to get his or her ring back before the class ring ceremony.



Balfour®

MENTOR PHASE

Parents/Legal Guardians:

All candidates/cadets are required to have a mentor before graduating.

When the youth returns to their home communities, after the residential phase he or she will **work with a mentor during the 12-month Post-Residential Phase** to maintain and build upon their lifestyle changes and plans developed during the residential phase.

Mentor Prospect Qualifications:

Must:

- Be at least 21 years old
- Be the same sex as the young person
- Live within a reasonable locality of the youth's home address (no more than 25 +/- miles)
- Be a good role model
- Complete, sign and return the entire application
- Consent to undergo a background screening

Must Not:

- Live in the same residence of the young person
- Be a relative of the young person (No parents, step-parents, or siblings)
- Be a romantic interest of a relative of the youth, or relative of the youth's romantic interest
- Be a ChalleNGe staff person or spouse of a staff person

If your prospect is qualified then ask them to initiate the application process as follows:

- **Complete and Sign (pg 3 & 4) the Application**
- **Complete and Sign the Mentor Authorization to Release Information Form**
This form grants the Academy permission to conduct a background screening process.
Note: We cannot process your application without this form.

· **Provide Two (2) References**

Give the two reference forms to two (2) people who know you well. Ask them to complete the reference forms about you. You must ensure these are returned with your application

The **“Primary Mentor Prospect’s” basic responsibilities are** as follows:

- Complete and submit an application and to an application process.
- Complete a telephone interview
- Attend a “one-time” “one-day” training session, usually scheduled on a Saturday here at the academy.)

The **“Matched Mentor’s” basic responsibilities are** as follows:

- During the Residential Phase-Participate in the “letter writing campaign”. This begins around residential week 14 and occurs biweekly.
- During the Post-Residential phase-Meet with mentee four times monthly (2 face to face contacts, other contacts may be telephone, letter, email, etc...)

You may return your application to the address above or you may fax it to (803) 299-4880 or eFax 1-888-812-5215.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact me at (803) 299-4879.

Sincerely,

Tamiko Cunningham
Mentor Coordinator
Post-Residential Department

POST RESIDENTIAL PHASE

The twelve (12) month post-residential phase will begin immediately upon completion of the twenty-two (22) week residential phase. To successfully complete the Post Residential Phase the graduate must:

- Have four (4) contacts per month with his or her designated mentor. A minimum of two (2) of these contacts must be face to face, complete the monthly mentor report and mail report to the Post Residential Department.

AND

The graduates must meet the following guidelines in order to meet the SCYCA

placement requirements:

- Be enrolled and have been accepted into an academic institution (college, tech school, etc.) (12 semester hours is considered full-time. If enrolled less than 12 semester hours, graduate must be working part-time or enlisted in the military reserves.
- Be employed part-time and enrolled in classes to earn the GED if the GED was not awarded during the residential phase to fulfill the ChalleNGe placement requirements.
- Be enlisted in the armed forces with a confirmed reporting date after graduation. (If not enlisted active duty, graduate must be in the military reserves and working part-time or enrolled in school part-time). If the ship date is more than 30 days after graduation, graduate must be placed in a part-time job directly after graduation.).
- Received a job offer from an employer for a job that starts after graduation. (32 hours per week is considered full-time). If working less than 32 hours, graduate must be either enrolled in school part-time, enlisted in the military reserves, or working another part-time job.

During the Post Residential Phase, their case manager will contact your child monthly.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Will my child be able to get a GED at ChalleNGE?**

Academic classes are offered at every ChalleNGe program. Many youth are able to obtain their GED during the five and a half-month Residential Phase, but all youth are expected to raise their math and reading levels in order to graduate from the program. Please understand that your child must meet a certain score on Pre-GED in order to be eligible to take the GED test.

- **Is military service required upon completion of the ChalleNGe program?**

No although ChalleNGe is “quasi-military” in structure, cadets are not obligated or expected to join the service.

- **Is military service an option after graduating from the ChalleNGe program?**

Completion of the ChalleNGe program with a GED enables graduates to enlist in the military, upon meeting other recruitment criteria.

- **Is this a voluntary program?**

YES, all youth participating in the ChalleNGe program must do so **VOLUNTARILY**.

- **Are there any costs to participants of this program?**

Parents are not required to pay for tuition, room and board, books or other costs associated with the program. The program is free to those accepted; however the costs for some personal clothing items, medical co-pays, graduation expenses, etc. are the responsibility of the cadet.

- **What is the cost per student and who pays for it?**

The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is one of the most cost-effective programs for high-risk youth in the nation. It costs approximately \$14,000 for each youth to complete the 17-month program. These funds are provided by federal and state partnership.

- **When did the program begin?**

The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program began as a ten-state pilot program in 1993 by an act of Congress. In 1998, following a comprehensive evaluation, Congress approved the ChalleNGe program as a permanent program. Since then, the program has grown to include thirty-seven sites in twenty-seven states and Puerto Rico and District of Columbia.

- **Will I earn any high school credits? Can I call and talk to my child?**

NO, but you will have the opportunity to earn your General Equivalency Diploma (GED). We do not offer high school credits at SC Youth ChalleNGe Academy. With a GED you may enter most colleges and several branches of the military service.

- **How may I communicate with my child while they are enrolled at SCYCA?**

We encourage parents and children to communicate through letter writing. This helps to develop the cadets writing skills and build self-confidence.

- **Can I send money, cookies, birthday cakes, balloons, flowers, snacks, etc. to my child?**

NO, candidates/cadets are not allowed to have any outside food or contraband, even if it is a special occasion. If the cadet needs money our staff will contact parents or they will be allowed to withdraw funds from their weekly stipend account. Do not send money unless you are contacted by our staff.

There is a one page online application. Applicants interested online @ Apply Now button and then press submit. Someone from the admissions department will contact them within 48 hours.

- What is the address for my child?

SC Youth ChalleNGe Academy

Candidate/Cadet: (First Name & Last Name) Platoon # _____

5471 Leesburg Road, Bldg# 3891

Eastover, South Carolina 29044

- What is the website address for South Carolina Youth ChalleNGe?

www.scyouthchallenge.com

CADET CREED

I am a South Carolina Youth ChalleNGe Academy Cadet.

I will always conduct myself to bring credit to my family,
country, school, and the Corps of Cadets.

I am loyal and patriotic.

I am the future of the United States of America.

I do not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do.

I will always be accountable for my actions and deeds.

I will always practice good citizenship and patriotism.

I will work hard to improve my mind and strengthen my body.

I will stand prepared to uphold the constitution of the American way of life.

May God grant me the strength to always live by this creed.

EIGHT CORE COMPONENTS

- **Academic Excellence:** Increase grade levels in reading and math, earn your GED, and pursue a higher education.
- **Health and Hygiene:** Understand nutrition basics, substance abuse, awareness, and personal relationships.
- **Job Skills:** Learn basic work skills; resume writing, job interview techniques and career exploration.
- **Leadership/Followership:** Learn positive leadership and followership responsibilities, ethical standards and roles with social groups.
- **Life Coping Skills:** Learn personal financial management, teamwork skills, anger management, and drug & alcohol avoidance strategies.
- **Physical Fitness:** Improve personal fitness through daily exercise activities and intramural sports.
- **Responsible Citizenship:** Understand civic responsibilities and the role of positive citizens within your community.
- **Service to the Community:** Give back to the community by performing a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer service to the community.

ACRONYMS AND OTHER ACADEMY TERMS

0530hrs-5:30 AM

1700 hrs-5:00 PM

1800 hrs-6:00 PM

1900 hrs-7:00 PM

1SG-First Sergeant

ASVAB-Armed Services Vocational Battery

AWOL-Absent Without Leave

COL-Colonel

CSM-Command Sergeant Major

D&C Drill and Ceremony

DP-Discipline Platoon

GED-General Equivalency Diploma

KP-Kitchen Patrol

MSG-Master Sergeant

NLT-Not Later Than

NET-Not Earlier Than

PRAP-Post Residential Action Plan

RPM-Recruitment/Placement/Mentoring

PT-Physical Training

SFC-Sergeant First Class

TABE-Testing Adult Basic Education

TBD-To Be Determined

