



Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe Academy



The Indiana National Guard's Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe Academy is a federally and state funded "At Risk" youth academy. **Participants must be 16-18 years old, volunteer to participate in the program, be a high school dropout/expellee, unemployed, drug free, and have no felony convictions or pending court cases.** The Hoosier ChalleNGe Academy is a 17 ½ months, two phase, quasi-military training academy. In the course of this academy, students referred to as Cadets, are assisted in attaining their Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) and are instructed in the Eight Core Components, which are valuable life skills, during the first five months. Cadets receive support in the development of Post Residential Action Plans (PRAP) or life plans which are used as guides to accomplish educational and vocational goals set while in the residential phase of the program. Cadets are encouraged and assisted in continuing their education onto college, trade or technical school or programs. Each Cadet obtains additional assistance from a Mentor, who offers guidance and advice with the PRAP during the remaining 12 months. This program is offered to residents of Indiana at **100% tuition free (No cost to parents or participants).**

During the Resident Phase, Cadets are supervised at all times and must remain at the facility unless participating in an authorized off-site activity. There are scheduled breaks during which all Cadets return home for a specified amount of time, such as Memorial Day and Thanksgiving. Cadets may also be dismissed for excessive disciplinary problems or if they fail one of the random drug tests. While in the residential phase Cadets are subject to several additional educational and vocational opportunities. All Cadets must complete the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) which assesses their skills and interests to determine which career best fit their abilities while at the academy.

Residential Phase

The first 5 ½ months of the program is referred to as the Residential Phase in which Cadets live at the Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe campus in Knightstown, Indiana. **Cadets are not allowed to smoke or use any tobacco products during the Residential Phase of the Academy.**

The Eight Core Components

Life Coping Skills is one of the most all-encompassing objectives of the academy. This involves the understanding of basic economics and personal coping strategies (i.e. ability to deal with emotions such as anger, grief, conflict resolution strategies) and the ability to set and achieve goals.

Academic Excellence Cadets are encouraged to increase their educational grade level or obtain their TASC. They are coached on strategies for continuing their education or obtaining verifiable employment. Additionally, to make them more marketable HYCA Cadets are instructed on keyboarding to keep up with upcoming technology.

Job Skills Cadets are trained in the art of making themselves more marketable for job hunting. Cadets are instructed how to obtain a job to maintain employment. Some specific skills that are emphasized are: completing a job application, developing a resume, responding to employment ads, gaining appropriate appearance and behavior skills during job interviews. The Cadet must demonstrate knowledge and skills required to seek, obtain and maintain employment not only during the Residential Phase but through the Post Residential Phase.

Responsible Citizenship enables Cadets to have a basic understanding of the Constitution, U.S. Government, and state rules and policies. This includes an understanding of the election and voting process.

Service to the Community is designed to give Cadets an understanding of their role as a community member. Cadets are taught that part of being a responsible citizen is giving back to the community. While at HYCA, Cadets are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of service to community projects and demonstrate an awareness of the value of giving back to their community in humane service initiatives.

Leadership/Followership Cadets are taught how to follow the rules and policies of the program. They are placed in leadership positions based on their attainment and ability to show evidence of personal motivation and self-discipline on a continual basis. Cadets must demonstrate moral and ethical leadership skills, good citizen values, respect for oneself and others, honesty and loyalty.

Health & Hygiene consists of the Cadet demonstrating an understanding of proper hygiene skills, substance abuse awareness, first aid and CPR skills, and physical health. They must show an understanding of proper nutrition, sexually transmitted diseases and the importance of achieving and maintaining good health.

Physical Fitness is determined by the participation in regularly scheduled physical fitness training, as well as, demonstrating knowledge of fitness concepts. Cadets participate in physical training daily while in the program. Cadets must improve their level of fitness in all categories of the President's Council on Physical Fitness Training.

- ✚ These Objectives are taught during the 200 hours of classroom instruction, and during daily activities
- ✚ Cadets also attend classes for computer literacy to become familiar with current computer software applications
- ✚ There is **NO MILITARY OBLIGATION** for those who participate.

Post Residential Phase

The remaining 12 months of the academy is the Post Residential Phase. Here Cadets return to their community to continue their education (college or trade school) or enter into the job market. Along with their Mentor, which serves as a role model and advocate for the next 12 months of the program, the Cadet builds on the initial successes the Cadet obtained during the Residential Phase, and is encouraged to continue their growth and change. The Mentor, Cadet and Parents must communicate monthly to the Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe Academy Post Residential Staff concerning the Cadet's education, employment, military or volunteer activities.

There are only a few times in life when you get a second chance. The Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe Academy is one of them. For more information please contact us at:

1-866-477-0156 or visit our website at hoosieryouthchallenge.org

The Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe Program does not exclude any person based on race, color, national origin, gender or religion.
"As required by the USDA National School Lunch Program, this institution is an equal opportunity provider".



**We Support
Second Chances**

