



Texas Challenge Academy

A Youth Education Program of the Texas National Guard

WHAT WILL YOU DO WHILE ATTENDING THE TCA?

There are 8 core components that are broken into tasks that each student must master for graduation:

- Academic Excellence –you will take classes in language arts, math, science, social studies, computers, and career/ technical education. Our certified teaching staff is provided by the Iraan/Sheffield Independent School District or the Rice Consolidated Independent School District and classes are small enough to ensure plenty of personal help and attention.
- Leadership and Followership – you will learn how to work in large and small groups while developing a sense of personal responsibility and accountability.
- Life Coping Skills – you will learn about anger management, teamwork, drug and alcohol avoidance strategies, and relationship building.
- Job Skills – basic work skills, resume writing, job interview skills, and how to look for a job.
- Service to Community – you and your classmates will perform a minimum of 40 hours of projects involving service to community, usually on Friday or Saturday.
- Responsible Citizenship – learn about our forms of government, your civic rights and responsibilities, and how to be a positive member of the community you live in.
- Health and Hygiene – personal hygiene, good nutrition, substance abuse awareness, and personal relationships.
- Physical Fitness – you have daily exercise activities including calisthenics, jogging, and Intramural sports; you will leave TCA in the better shape than you arrived.

Your days are full and you will be busy from 5:00 am to 9:00 pm. You will learn to set your priorities, manage your time, and focus your attention. You will continually surprise yourself at what you can achieve and accomplish when you apply yourself.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I GRADUATE?

That depends on you, your age, how many credits you have towards diploma, and what goals you set for yourself. As part of the program, you will be required to prepare a post-residential action plan for everything like: housing, transportation, education, or career placement. You may decide to continue your education by returning to high school or going to the college or a vocational school, find a job, join the Job Corps, join AmeriCorps or enlist in the military.

NOTE: even though the TCA operates in a structured quasi-military format, it is not a military recruiting program and there is no requirement, expectation, or pressure to join the military; that is simply one of your MANY options after you graduate the residential phase.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO ATTEND THE TCA?

Funding for the TCA is provided by the federal government and the State of Texas. There is no cost to the students.