



Youth Challenge Program Facts

National Guard Youth Challenge Program

The National Guard Youth Challenge Program (NGYCP)

- Multi-phased intervention program
- Targets high school dropouts 16 to 18 years of age
- Comprised of a structured, disciplined 5 1/2-month Residential Phase focusing on education and practical life skills followed by a 12-month Post-Residential Phase involving skilled and trained Mentors supporting Graduates engaged in positive, durable placement
- Over 173,319 graduates since Youth Challenge inception in 1993 (including graduates from closed YCPs)
- There are 39 programs in 28 states plus Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico with approximately 2,659 employees

The Challenge Model

- Administered by the Department of Defense (DoD) and implemented by the National Guard Bureau (NGB)
- Funded by Federal and State entities: Federal government contributes 75% and each state contributes 25%
- Utilizes quasi-military discipline and training along with educational instruction, experiential learning, and mentoring
- Focused on improving education, life skills, and employment potential of participants
- Based on eight core components: *Academic Excellence, Life Coping Skills, Job Skills, Health and Hygiene, Responsible Citizenship, Service to the Community, Leadership/Followership, and Physical Fitness*

Challenge Eligibility Criteria

- Economically and educationally disadvantaged youth from within each program state, commonwealth, or territory
- High school dropouts and/or at risk students 16 to 18 years of age
- Voluntary enrollment
- Unemployed or underemployed
- Drug free and not on parole or probation for other than juvenile status offenses, not indicted or charged, and free of felony convictions or capital offenses
- Physically and mentally capable of program participation with reasonable accommodations for disabilities

Challenge Statistics 1993 – 2018

- 408,737 Applicants
- 233,254 Enrollees
- 173,319 Graduates
- 130,062 Academic Credentials Awarded (GED, High School Diploma, High School and/or College Credit)
- 11,617,539 Hours of Service to Communities valued at \$233,920,825
 - Note: <https://www.independentsector.org/resource/the-value-of-volunteer-time/> (national average \$24.69 per hour)

Current Youth Challenge Programs

1. AK – Alaska Youth Challenge Academy – Fort Richardson AK
2. AR – Arkansas Youth Challenge Academy – Camp Robinson, N. Little Rock AR
3. CA – Discovery Youth Challenge Academy – Sharpe Army Depot, Stockton CA
4. CA – Grizzly Youth Challenge Academy – Camp San Luis Obispo CA
5. CA – Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy – Los Alamitos CA
6. DC – Capital Guardian Youth Challenge Academy – Laurel MD
7. FL – Florida Youth Challenge Academy – Starke FL
8. GA – Ft Gordon Youth Challenge Academy – Fort Gordon GA
9. GA – Ft Stewart Youth Challenge Academy – Fort Stewart GA
10. GA – Milledgeville Youth Challenge Academy – Milledgeville GA
11. HI – Kalaeloa Youth Challenge Academy – Barbers Point NAS, Kapolei HI
12. HI – Kulani Youth Challenge Academy – Keaukaha Military Reserve, Hilo HI
13. ID – Idaho Youth Challenge Academy – Pierce ID
14. IL – Lincoln Youth Challenge Academy – Rantoul IL
15. IN – Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy – Knightstown IN
16. KY – Appalachian Youth Challenge Academy – Gray’s Knob KY
17. KY – Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy – Fort Knox KY
18. LA – Camp Beauregard Youth Challenge Academy – Camp Beauregard, Pineville LA
19. LA – Camp Minden Youth Challenge Academy – Camp Minden LA
20. LA – Gillis Long Youth Challenge Academy – Carville LA
21. MD – Freestate Youth Challenge Academy – Aberdeen Proving Grounds MD
22. MI – Michigan Youth Challenge Academy – Battle Creek MI
23. MS – Mississippi Youth Challenge Academy – Camp Shelby MS
24. MT – Montana Youth Challenge Academy – University of MT Western, Dillon MT
25. NC – Tarheel Youth Challenge Academy – Salemburg NC
26. NC – New London Youth Challenge Academy – New London NC
27. NJ – New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy – Fort Dix NJ
28. NM – New Mexico Youth Challenge Academy – Roswell NM
29. OK – Thunderbird Youth Challenge Academy – Pryor OK
30. OR – Oregon Youth Challenge Academy – Bend OR
31. PR – Puerto Rico Youth Challenge Academy – Fort Allen, Juana Diaz PR
32. SC – South Carolina Youth Challenge Academy – McCrady ARNG Training Center, Eastover SC
33. TN – Volunteer Youth Challenge Academy – Nashville TN
34. TX – Eagle Lake Youth Challenge Academy – Eagle Lake TX
35. VA – Commonwealth Youth Challenge Academy – Camp Pendleton, Virginia Beach VA
36. WA – Washington Youth Challenge Academy – Bremerton WA
37. WI – Wisconsin Youth Challenge Academy – Fort McCoy WI
38. WV – Mountaineer Youth Challenge Academy – Camp Dawson, Kingwood WV
39. WY – Wyoming Youth Challenge Academy – Camp Guernsey WY