



# Texas ChalleNGe Academy

Texas National Guard  
Youth ChalleNGe Program

A YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM OF THE TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD FOR AT-RISK TEENS

NOT A BOOT CAMP OR ROTC PROGRAM!

Texas ChalleNGe Academy is a 5 ½ month residential military academy operated by the Texas National Guard and Great State of Texas. We are a tuition-free education program for 16-18-year-olds who are disengaged from school. We offer academic instruction, but more importantly we provide structure and discipline to help our Cadets develop personal accountability and become successful adults.

The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program currently operates in 39 programs in 28 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. The Texas ChalleNGe Academy is located in Eagle Lake, Texas. Cadets live on the campus for 5 ½ months during the residential phase of the program. They may recover credits, earn GEDs, or if qualified, earn a high school diploma. After program graduation, cadets return home and work with a community mentor for 12 months to assist with reintegration back into their home communities and help stay focused on personal goals. The program's mission is to help reclaim the potential of at-risk youth and decrease Texas high school drop-outs. TCA helps youth become successful, responsible, and productive citizens through a program of mentoring, education, physical fitness, and volunteer service to the community. Academies are tuition-free, accredited high schools, and based on Equal Opportunity principles.



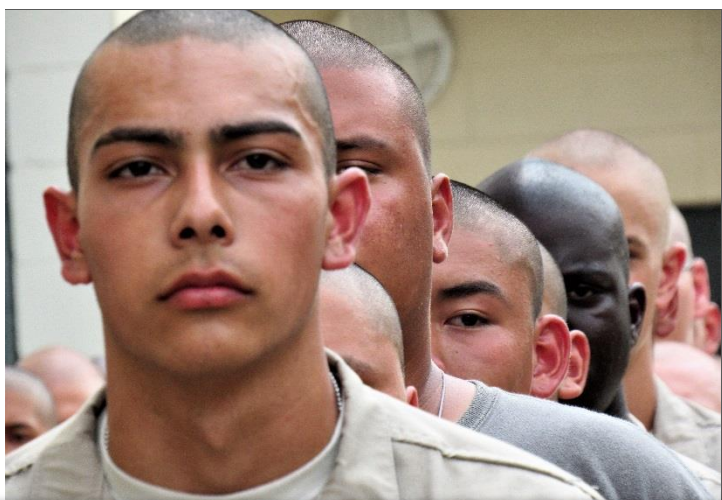
**Accepting Applications  
throughout the State of Texas**



**Rebuild. Restructure.  
Educate. Restore.**

## Applicant Eligibility

- 16-18 Years of Age
- U.S. Citizens/Texas Residents
- No Felony Adjudications/Convictions
- Juvenile Probation is acceptable for a juvenile status offense only
- No Pending Court Issues
- Physically/Mentally Capable of Completing the Program
- Must Be In-Need of a High School Diploma or GED
- Must Be Willing to Be Drug-Free


**Structure**
**Discipline**
**Accountability**

Formerly known as Seabone Conservation Corps and Seabone Challenge Corps, TCA became part of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program in July of 1999 as the program's 26<sup>th</sup> state. Seabone was an initiative of Texas A&M University at Galveston, the United States Navy, Americorps, and the Texas National Guard. Due to the devastation of Hurricane Ike's landfall on Galveston Island, the program was relocated to Sheffield in west Texas. A second campus was added in 2015 in Eagle Lake. Currently, we have consolidated both campuses into one campus located in Eagle Lake to provide more opportunities. TCA is an accredited high school based on a quasi-military training curriculum and an academic partnership with the Rice Consolidated Independent School District. Teens ages 16-18 from across the state can begin classes in January and July each year. Applicants must be committed to 5 ½ months of residential education and training, followed by 12 months of mentoring in their home communities. TCA Cadets are offered the opportunity for high school credit recovery, obtaining their GEDs and in some cases, earning their high school diplomas. TCA is **tuition-free** to the families we serve, with funding provided by both the federal and state governments, as well as private foundations. TCA is open to all students without regard to race, sex, religious affiliation, or household income. Applicants must **attend a presentation**, complete an application, **attend a presentation**, and submit to an interview to determine their suitability and likelihood of success in the program.

The Texas Challenge Academy is not a juvenile detention center, a court-ordered boot camp, mental health facility, or a drug or alcohol treatment center. It is not affiliated with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or ~~the~~ Texas Juvenile Justice. There is also no military obligation after graduation.

## Training & Teachings

Academic Excellence

Leadership & Followership

Responsible citizenship

Job Skills and Vocational Training

Life Skills

Health & Hygiene

Volunteer Services

Physical Fitness

### CONTACT US

#### Website and Applications

[www.texaschallengeacademy.com](http://www.texaschallengeacademy.com)

#### Main Phone Line (Toll Free)

1-877-822-0050

#### Call a Program Recruiter Near You

San Antonio/Valley/El Paso: (979) 232-1589 / [\(979\) 232-0944](tel:(979)232-0944)

Dallas/Fort Worth: (979) 232-1594

Houston/Corpus/East Texas: (409) 939-3772

West Texas/Austin: [\(979\) 232-1100](tel:(979)232-1100); ~~(432) 693-7152~~

#### Email:

[tca\\_admissions@tmd.texas.gov](mailto:tca_admissions@tmd.texas.gov)