



# Texas Challenge Academy

*A youth education program of the Texas National Guard*

## SAVE THE DATE CLASS 2014-1

Dear TCA Parent:

This document provides you with critical information regarding Family Day, Mentor Match, PRAP Pass and Graduation. Please read it carefully and contact us if you require any additional information.

### FAMILY DAY

TCA will have Family Days for families and mentors to come and enjoy a 4 hour visit with their cadet. The dates are:

**Echo Platoon: September 13;**  
**Alpha Platoon: September 20 and**  
**Bravo Platoon: September 27.**

All Family Day events will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the TCA gymnasium. The day begins with a drill demonstration; families will then have time to visit with cadets. We will have meals available for purchase from our Dining Facility, **each family will pay \$5.00 per person for lunch** or you may bring your own lunch for your family. You will also have time to visit with various members of our staff to discuss your cadet's progress.

**Please call your cadet's Case Manager if you haven't already done so, to let them know how many people you are bringing to the picnic and if you will be purchasing meals or bringing food for your family.** If you plan to bring your own food we would still like for you to RSVP and let us know you will be attending. If you are traveling from the east, Ozona will be the last town where you can buy prepared meals, if traveling from the west Ft. Stockton will be the last town for purchasing prepared meals, drinks, etc.

Please consider inviting your cadet's mentor. Mentors that are trained, have a complete application and attend the picnic will be matched with their mentee and will not be required to attend the **Mentor Matching Ceremony in Austin on October 4, 2014**. We will have mentor training on that day also for those that need to be trained.

- **This family day is not for the cadets' girlfriends/boyfriends so please do not bring them.**
- **We don't have BBQ pits on site, but you may bring a portable pit.**
- **Dress Attire: No miniskirts/dresses, short shorts, sleeveless shirts/blouses.**
- **No pets allowed.**

\*\*\* EL PASO PARENTS/GUARDIANS PLEASE KEEP IN MIND ALL TIMES ARE CENTRAL TIME ZONE WHICH IS AN HOUR AHEAD OF EL PASO MOUNTAIN TIME.

### MENTOR MATCH

Mentors that have not been formally matched to their mentees (cadets) must attend the Mentor Match Ceremony in the RTI (Regional Training Institute) building # 82 at Camp Mabry, 2200 West 35<sup>th</sup> Street,

Texas Challenge Academy  
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Austin, TX on 4 October 2014. The Match Ceremony is for mentors only; families are not allowed to attend. Untrained mentors must report for training at 9 a.m. The Match Ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m. Following the ceremony the cadets will be released for lunch with their mentors. The mentors must provide their own lunch. TCA will provide lunch for the cadets. All mentors are highly encouraged to attend even if they were matched on Family Day.

### PRAP PASS

The National Guard Bureau Youth Challenge guidelines allow some days for Post Residential Action Planning (PRAP) Pass. Based upon these guidelines it is our desire to coordinate the periods of PRAP Pass with holidays. The Program Director may deny PRAP Pass due to disciplinary action. Unscheduled family visitation is not authorized. However, the Mentoring Department may schedule dates that mentors are allowed to visit cadets after they have been matched. Mentors must contact the cadet's Case Manager to schedule these visits. Your cadet will not be released for PRAP Pass with anyone other than the parent/guardian or to commercial transportation. Your cadet is expected to remain alcohol and drug free during PRAP Pass; they will be tested upon their return.

Thanksgiving Weekend: PRAP Pass begins @ 1 p.m. Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> and ends at 7 p.m. Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. **Please make flight reservations for departures on the 25<sup>th</sup> for after 5 p.m. from Midland or you will have to make arrangements to pick up your cadet in Sheffield. We will NOT transport cadets to the airport for flights prior to 5:00 p.m. Please make the return flights on the 30<sup>th</sup> for arrival at Midland no earlier than 1 p.m. and not later than 7 p.m. Please contact us as early as possible for late arrivals or missed flights.**

### GRADUATION

The Graduation ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m. on 20 December 2014 in the Iraan High School Gymnasium. The ceremony will last approximately 2 ½ hours. The address is 103 Farr Street, Iraan, TX 79744. Restaurants and lodging are very limited in Iraan.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information or details. I can be reached at 432-836-1509 or you may contact your child's case manager.

Sincerely,  
Anita Vela  
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RPM Coordinator

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