



Our Mission

To intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth and produce program graduates with the values, skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens of Tennessee.



Contact Us

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DREAM



BELIEVE



ACHIEVE

TENNESSEE VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE ACADEMY



“VOLUNTEER 2 CHANGE”



Purpose

To enhance life-skills and employability potential for 16—18 year old “at-risk” youth, TNVCA will provide a quasi-military environment with discipline, structure, education, service to the community and mentoring that will positively impact their future. TNVCA will provide the 8 Core Components during the 22-week residential phase followed by a 12-month post-residential phase of the program.

Eligibility Requirements

- 16-18 years of age
- Cannot be charged or convicted of an adult felony, not on parole or probation, or awaiting sentencing.
- A high school dropout.
- Legal resident of the state of Tennessee
- Unemployed, or underemployed.
- Free from use of illegal drugs or substances.
- Physically and mentally capable to participate in the program.



Our Program

TNVCA is an alternative program which offers youth, who have dropped out of school, the opportunity to change their future. Participants looking for a way to succeed outside of a traditional school setting learn self-discipline, leadership, and responsibility while working to obtain a high school equivalency diploma.

The program begins with a two-week **Acclimation period** that precedes the Residential Phase and orients candidates to the Challenge program environment by allowing them to adjust to the physical, mental and social discipline required to successfully complete the program.



The **Residential Phase** consists of a structured and disciplined schedule that focuses on developing their social, emotional, academic, and basic life skills. This is accomplished through the implementation of the 8 Core Components, the foundation of the ChalleNGe program intervention model. Mentors are matched with cadets midway through the Residential Phase.

The 12-month **POST-RESIDENTIAL PHASE** begins when graduates return to their communities, to return to high school, pursue higher education, find a job, join the military, or volunteer at least 30 hours a week. The goal of this Phase is for graduates to sustain and build on the gains made during the Residential Phase. The mentors, matched with cadets during the Residential Phase, play a critical role in ensuring their continued success.

8 Core Components

LEADERSHIP/FOLLOWERSHIP
Cadets develop strong character by applying individual moral and ethical Standards to perform various roles and responsibilities in a structured group environment.

RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP
Cadets discover their role in the democratic process and learn their rights, privileges, and obligations as United States citizens.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Cadets attend daily academic classes to increase math and reading comprehension and prepare them for their high school equivalency diploma.

JOB SKILLS
Cadets explore career goals through career assessments and interest inventories, job-specific skills orientations, resume building, and interviewing skills.

LIFE COPING SKILLS
Cadets learn how to identify and self-regulate emotions, such as anger, grief, frustration, and stress and how to utilize conflict resolution strategies.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE
Cadets learn the value of a healthy, well-balanced lifestyle that includes nutrition basics, substance use and abuse education and how to maintain healthy relationships.

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY
Cadets realize the value and importance of giving back to the community while performing a minimum of 40 hours of service to the community

PHYSICAL FITNESS
Physical fitness becomes an integral part of cadet daily life. Cadets perform physical training based on the President’s Challenge.