What is Challe*NG*e?

Challe*NG*e is a residential alternative education academy with a quasi-military style structure that promotes discipline, academics and leadership skills while improving self-esteem, pride and confidence.

Mission

The mission of the Commonwealth Challe*NG*e Youth Academy (CCYA) is to intervene in the lives of 16-18 year old teenagers by providing the values, skills, education, and self-discipline needed to produce responsible, productive citizens, and to do so in a highly structured learning environment.

Eligibility Criteria

This FREE, highly structured educational and mentoring program is available to Virginia's teens who:

- ⇒ **are 16—18 years old on class start date**
- ⇒ **volunteer to participate in the program**
- ⇒ **do not have any pending felony charges or any felony convictions**
- ⇒ **are a citizen or legal resident of the United States**
- ⇒ **are physically and mentally capable of participating in the program with reasonable accommodations**

Classes begin each year in March and October.

There are a limited number of students selected for each class and the spaces fill quickly.

Apply now for your opportunity to make a positive change in your life!

Contact Information

1-800-796-6472 (toll free)
1-757-491-5932 (phone)
1-757-491-5934 (fax)

Commonwealth Challe*NG*e Youth Academy
Camp Pendleton
Bldg. 253 C Street
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
www.vachallenge.org

Are you up for the ChalleNGe?

Are you ready for your second chance?

How Challe*NG*e Works

Challe*NG*e is a 17 and a half month three phase program

⇒ **Phase 1** - **Acclimation Period (2 weeks)**
Subjects the candidates to physical, leadership, and mental challenges designed to assist them and prepare them to successfully complete the program. Focus is on teamwork, honor code, leadership/followership, physical fitness, drill and ceremony, military customs and courtesies.

⇒ **Phase 2** - **Residential Phase (20 weeks)**
Focus is on academics, the development of the 8 core components and post residential goals.

⇒ **Phase 3** - **Post-Residential Phase (1 Year)**
Cadets graduate from the residential phase of the program but remain in the program for an additional 12 months where they will work with a trained mentor to assist them in achieving their goals. Placement during this phase is mandatory. Cadet's placement options include continuing their education by returning to high school, attending an institution of higher education or trade school, full time employment, or volunteering for military service.

Challe*NG*e Academics

⇒ Certified Principal

⇒ Certified teachers provide instruction in all core academic areas

⇒ Students are administered the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) for academic placement

⇒ Two educational tracks to choose from:

SOL aligned Credit Recovery Program for all core high school subjects, cadets can earn up to 5-7 credits

Lesson plans designed to prepare students to test for the GED

⇒ Special Education teacher provides instruction in the classroom (inclusion) and individualized instruction when needed. IEP accommodations are implemented

⇒ Computerized lesson plans are also developed for students based on their testing and demonstrated abilities

⇒ Accommodations are requested for GED and SOL testing

⇒ Tutoring is available

8 Core Components

The Challe*NG*e Program is built on 8 core components designed to develop life skills.

⇒ **Academic Excellence**
TABE Test, GED testing, credit recovery

⇒ **Physical Fitness**
Based on the President's physical fitness challenge, various team sports and athletics

⇒ **Leadership/Followership**
Performance evaluations in leadership positions with a student command structure

⇒ **Responsible Citizenship**
Student government association, voter registration and selective service registration

⇒ **Job Training**
Job shadowing, lessons on resume writing and interviewing skills

⇒ **Service to Community**
Community service projects

⇒ **Health Hygiene**
Lessons on personal hygiene and substance abuse

⇒ **Life Coping Skills**
Anger management, conflict resolution