



SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FINDING YOUR MENTOR APPLICANT(S)!

Dear Youth Academy Applicant and Parent(s),

The Commonwealth Challenge Youth Academy is a 17 1/2-month program. The time spent living at the program site is called the residential phase. The 12 months after the cadet returns home is referred to as the post-residential or mentoring phase. During both of these phases the Cadet is required to be in contact with his/her Mentor weekly, beginning as soon as the two are officially matched. All Cadets must have a Mentor. No exceptions will be made. Your Mentor applicant(s):

1. Must be the same gender as the youth
2. Should be at least 21 years old
3. Must **NOT** be a member of the immediate family (including parents, in-laws, significant others of parents, siblings, etc.), nor a current or past resident of the same address
4. Should live within a reasonable distance of where the youth will live during the **post-residential phase**. Reasonable distance is defined as the distance acceptable to both the Mentor and the youth
5. **Must consent to a criminal history background check. This check must be free of any sex crimes. It must also be free of felonies, alcohol or substance abuse within the last five years**
6. Must have a desire to volunteer some of their time for the youth and the program.

Prior to acceptance you must recruit ONE DEPENDABLE ADULT ROLE MODEL - called a PRIMARY MENTOR - that meets the criteria listed above, and that can attend the four-hour Mentor Training. This training is available at scheduled times throughout the year. It is Cadet Applicant's responsibility to keep the Mentor Applicant informed about their acceptance status. **Primary Mentor Nominees must complete training on or before the first day of the class.** The youth does not need to know the adult but should do the "asking" for their help. The Mentor Brainstorm Worksheet is provided for your use and has helped 9 out of 10 youth find a dependable mentor nominee. We suggest the following as good sources for Mentor recruits:

1. Ask retired adults from your community.
2. Ask at local Churches for interested members.
3. Ask at local Civic Organizations (Lion's, Kiwanis, Rotary, Elk's, VFW, etc.).
4. Ask work associates, friends, or neighbors of immediate or extended family members.
5. Ask your community protectors such as firemen and police officers.
6. Ask National Guard members from your community.

Experience has shown that recommending adults whose primary responsibilities involve mentoring such as schoolteachers, counselors, coaches, ROTC leaders, military recruiters, as well as pastors do not have time and energy for additional mentoring duties, or they may have conflicting interests. Please discuss thoroughly the Challenge Academy's 17 month mentoring program with them before asking them to be a mentor. If you have any questions regarding any of the Mentor Application forms, or the mentoring program, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

The Mentoring Crew
(757) 491-5932, ext 240,



Commonwealth ChalleNGe Mentor Academy Application

✓ Finding a Mentor Worksheet

Use this worksheet to help you network. Don't concentrate on what a mentor is or needs to do. Just fill in as many names of people that you or someone else may know. These do not need to be people that anyone knows well. Use the back if necessary. Get as many people as you can to help you fill in more names. The object is to come up with as many names as you can. Once finished, use the list to contact people and ask for help either to find an adult interested in mentoring, or to consider it themselves. Discuss the names with your family and pick your top three to five choices for a mentor. Contact them or ask someone that knows them better to introduce you. Explain that you are applying for a military-style academy to further your education and you need an adult teammate to mentor you. If they have questions that you are not sure about, be sure to give them the application anyway, and point out the toll-free number they can call to find out more before deciding. Follow up with them in a few days. If they agree to sign up, be sure and thank them. If they decline, be sure and thank them for thinking about it, and politely ask if they may know someone else who might be interested.

Dad's Friends	Mom's Friends	Brother's Friends	Sister's Friends	Parents of Friends
Uncle's Friends	Aunt's Friends	Cousin's Friends	Past/Present Work Associates	Work Associates of Parents
Work Associates of other Family	Neighbors	Neighbors' friends and family	Family/Friends that attend a church	Church friends of those members
Pastors	Retired People anyone knows	Teachers or people they know	Local Business Owners/Workers	Cell Phone Directories
Holiday Card Lists	Email Addresses	Community Leaders	Others	

Youth's PRINTED Last Name: _____ Youth's PRINTED First Name: _____