



National Guard Youth Foundation

About Us

Who We Are

Every year, more than one million young Americans drop out of school. The National Guard Youth Foundation was established as a 501(c)3 in 1999 to advocate for the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program and to provide resources to its graduates to ensure they maintain a path of success beyond graduation day.

Who We Serve

NGYF is dedicated to addressing the nation's dropout crisis by giving troubled youth a second chance by advocating for, and providing support to the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, helping them graduate and continue their education or join the skilled workforce.

About ChalleNGe:

Conducted at 35 academies across the country, the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is operated in conjunction with the National Guard Bureau, state governments and local sites. The program consists of a 5 1/2-month residential phase framed around eight core components: academic excellence, responsible citizenship, physical fitness, leadership/followership, job skills, service to the community, health and hygiene and life coping skills, and a 12-month post residential phase during which mentors continue to provide guidance and support to graduates.



Helping more than 130,000 teens to date turn their lives around, ChalleNGe is recognized in the MDRC and the RAND Corporation studies as among the most cost-effective, highly rated programs of its kind for youth who have dropped out of school.

Facts About ChalleNGe Grads:

29% More likely to attain a high school diploma or GED

86% More likely to attend college

20% Higher wages

8,831 Got a second chance through the ChalleNGe Program in 2013

Every dollar expended on ChalleNGe yields **\$2.66** in benefits

"I am very excited to be a college graduate. I dropped out of high school because I had so many family problems going on that I had let my grades drop past failure. Teachers thought I was "unteachable." To graduate from college with honors for me is amazing and I could not have done this without the National Guard Youth Foundation!"

– Beverly Croxton, Mississippi Youth ChalleNGe Academy graduate and \$20,000 NGYF scholarship recipient

What We Are Doing

NGYF believes every young person should have the opportunity to achieve a future rich in possibility. Our goal is to expand the ChalleNGe program so it can accommodate 20,000 young men and women a year by 2020.

While completing ChalleNGe is a significant achievement in and of itself, NGYF's work and our commitment to the young men and women of the program doesn't end there.

Workforce Development: A critical part of our efforts are dedicated to focusing on the graduates and helping them continue on their upward trajectory. Through our new Workforce Development Initiative, we've formed partnerships with companies and organizations to help ChalleNGe cadets and graduates continue developing through job skills training, apprenticeships, enrolling in technical schools, community colleges or universities, and job opportunities.

Scholarships: According to the MDRC study on ChalleNGe, participation in the program increases college attainment by 86%. The scholarships offered by NGYF help ChalleNGe graduates continue their education in college, vocational programs or technical schools.

Awareness: Through local and national events, panel briefs and PSAs, NGYF is striving to make the public aware of the dropout problem and the success ChalleNGe is experiencing in combating the issue. This also includes providing guidance on social media, engaging local and national media, and making sure lawmakers and decision makers are aware of the benefits of the program.

Through new partnerships and grants, we've been able to provide more resources to the ChalleNGe program and those who graduate from the program than ever before.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA**



ChalleNGe Program Locations

