

Montana Youth ChalleNGe Academy Fact Sheet

The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Academy was originally established in 1993, designed as a program to intervene in the life of at-risk youth by providing values, skills, education and the self-discipline needed to produce responsible, productive citizens. 10 states were selected to participate. Currently, there are approximately 32 Youth ChalleNGe Programs operating throughout the United States, to include Puerto Rico.

In 1999, the Montana State Legislature authorized funding for the biennium to establish the initial class of the Montana Youth ChalleNGe Program, now known as the Montana Youth ChalleNGe Academy (MYCA). It became the 27th Youth ChalleNGe Program in the nation – to date, MYCA has successfully graduated 1,653 Montana youth.

Located in Dillon, it is the only program of its kind nationally that's housed on a college campus and works in full partnership with the university system – The University of Montana-Western.

The population of the MYCA is comprised of males and females, aged 16 to 19, with the common characteristic of having previously withdrawn from the educational system. Some, but not all, may have had involvement with the judicial system and all are residents of the state of Montana. Some may have been abused, while others come from loving homes. Some are good athletes and some are not. Despite being high school dropouts, some are quite accomplished scholastically, while others are significantly challenged by academics. What they have in common is a deeply felt need to recalibrate their lives – all have made mistakes and all have affirmed their desire to make better choices by their voluntary participation in the Montana Youth ChalleNGe Academy (MYCA).

The 22 week Program has 3 distinct phases: a 2 week initial indoctrination phase conducted at the NG Readiness Center in Dillon, Montana; a 20 week residence phase located on the UM-Western campus in Dillon, MT; and, most important, a one year post-residential phase sponsored by a volunteer Mentor (usually in the Cadet's home town).

Youth ChalleNGe uses a balanced approach of discipline, care, concern and respect to connect with the youth. The eight core components of MYCA are: Leadership/Followership; Responsible Citizenship; Community Service; Life-Coping Skills; Physical Fitness; Health and Hygiene; Job Skills; and Academic Excellence.

Life Plan Development -Each youth will have in hand a completed life plan that outlines a realistic roadmap for success after completion of the residential phase of the Academy.

Academic Excellence – MYCA is tasked with advancing the academic status of each youth who enters the Academy. This advancement is primarily accomplished through the efforts of five hours daily of academic instruction, followed by two hours of supervised study hall. Volunteer tutors are made available whenever necessary. All Cadets are measured individually against the T.A.B.E.

Although a youth does not need to receive a G.E.D to successfully complete the ChalleNGe Academy, a 69% success rate has been established at the national level. MYCA's graduates are currently at a 75% success rate.

Each youth is required to perform forty hours of community service – usually these efforts are conducted as a team effort, from working in the parks of Dillon, Birch Creek, Virginia/Nevada cities, Fish Wildlife & Game, and US Forest Service requests for support.

One Year Tracking – Using both the Mentor and post-residential case managers, all youth will be tracked for one year following graduation to measure continued success.

MYCA FACTS ON THE BACK PAGE

MONTANA YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY
FACTS THRU CLASS TWENTY-TWO (XXII)
GRADUATED - 1,653

GED Success Rate - 75%

Average Grade Level Increase: READING: 1.5 MATH: 1.6

Average Service to the Community Hours per Graduate: 52.49 hours **Total Service to the Community Hours Performed to Date: Over 86,760.85 hours**
Percent of Native American Graduates: 16% **Percent of Female Graduates: 25%** **Mentor Match at Graduation: 93%**

Post Residential Placement

Category	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				Year 6				Year 7				Year 8				Year 9				Year 10				Year 11			
	1 & 2	3 & 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	1 & 2	3 & 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9 & 10	11 & 12	13 & 14	15 & 16	17 & 18	19 & 20	21	12 mos	6-12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos											
Total number of grads	134	163	159	156	144	166	123	71	51	113	124	80	71	123	166	144	156	144	166	123	71	51	113	124	80	71	123	166	144	156	144	166	123	71	51	113	124	80						
Full Time Employment	37%	23%	38%	40%	39%	36%	32%	32%	39%	36%	32%	32%	32%	32%	36%	39%	40%	39%	36%	32%	32%	32%	43%	35%	23%	32%	32%	36%	39%	40%	39%	36%	32%	32%	43%	35%	23%							
Military	20%	28%	18%	18%	7%	11%	11%	10%	7%	11%	11%	10%	10%	11%	11%	7%	18%	7%	11%	11%	10%	10%	19%	11%	11%	10%	11%	11%	7%	11%	11%	10%	19%	11%	11%	11%	11%							
Part Time employment	4%	2%	3%	3%	2%	5%	3%	1%	2%	3%	3%	1%	1%	3%	5%	2%	3%	1%	5%	3%	3%	4%	9%	7%	14%	1%	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%	9%	7%	9%	7%	14%								
Post Secondary Education	6%	4%	4%	3%	8%	5%	6%	6%	8%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	8%	3%	3%	5%	6%	6%	4%	4%	4%	8%	4%	6%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	8%							
Adult Education	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	1%	3%	2%	4%	4%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	4%	8%	6%	11%	10%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	6%	6%	6%	11%	10%								
High School	7%	3%	5%	5%	3%	2%	5%	6%	3%	5%	5%	6%	6%	2%	2%	3%	5%	5%	2%	2%	5%	2%	2%	2%	6%	1%	6%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	6%	6%								
Homemaker	4%	5%	7%	6%	5%	9%	13%	10%	5%	13%	13%	10%	10%	13%	9%	5%	6%	10%	9%	2%	13%	7%	7%	19%	14%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%							
Seeking Employment	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	7%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%							
Deceased	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	7%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%							
Incarcerated	2%	4%	2%	1%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	1%	1%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%							
*Unknown	17%	28%	21%	22%	30%	26%	24%	28%	30%	26%	24%	28%	28%	24%	26%	30%	22%	30%	26%	24%	28%	14%	14%	5%	7%	5%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	5%	7%	7%	7%	1%							
Total	100%																																											

736 graduates @ 4 years
180 graduates @ last known contact

*** Unknown: Details of Cadets/in Unknown Status as of Last Confirmed Contact (from 4 Year Data)**

# of Cadets	23	45	33	34	44	43	29	20
Actively Placed	48%	69%	61%	82%	73%	62%	69%	55%
Not Placed	9%	20%	12%	9%	23%	26%	17%	20%
Truly Unknown	43%	11%	27%	9%	4%	12%	14%	25%
Total	100%							

MYCA Graduates by Montana City Classes I- XXIII TOTAL = 1,653

Absorakee - 4	East Glacier - 1	Lincoln - 3	St. Marie - 1
Alberton - 1	East Helena - 34	Livingston - 21	Stanford - 1
Anaconda - 13	Emigrant - 10	Lodge Grass - 3	Stevensville - 18
Arlee - 2	Ennis - 1	Lolo - 12	Superior - 5
Ballantine - 1	Essex - 1	Malta - 1	Sun River - 1
Basin - 1	Eureka - 4	Manhattan - 9	Swan Lake - 5
Belgrade - 25	Fairfield - 1	Marion - 5	Terry - 1
Bigfork - 8	Fairview - 2	Melrose - 1	Thompson Falls - 15
Big Timber - 6	Fishtail - 1	Melstone - 1	Three Forks - 6
Billings - 142	Florence - 12	McAllister - 2	Townsend - 4
Black Eagle - 9	Fort Benton - 3	Miles City - 7	Trego - 2
Boulder - 5	Frenchtown - 10	Milltown - 3	Trout Creek - 3
Box Elder - 7	Froid - 1	Missoula - 70	Troy - 4
Boyd - 2	Fromberg - 1	Moccasin - 1	Turah - 1
Bozeman - 54	Ft. Harrison - 1	Moiese - 1	Twin Bridges - 5
Brady - 1	Gallatin Gateway - 1	Montana City - 2	Ulm - 1
Bridger - 6	Gardiner - 1	Moore - 1	Vaughn - 2
Broadview - 2	Garrison - 1	Noxon - 4	Victor - 10
Brockton - 1	Glasgow - 4	Pablo - 9	Walkerville - 2
Browning - 59	Glen - 1	Paradise - 1	West Glacier - 2
Buffalo - 1	Glendive - 11	Park City - 1	West Yellowstone - 1
Busby - 1	Great Falls - 141	Philipsburg - 4	White Sulphur Springs - 2
Butte - 59	Greenough - 1	Plains - 9	Whitefish - 8
Carter - 1	Hamilton - 22	Platteville - 1	Whitehall - 6
Cascade - 11	Hardin - 11	Polaris - 1	Winifred - 1
Charlo - 1	Harlem - 12	Polson - 34	Winnett - 1
Chinook - 1	Harlowtown - 2	Pompeys Pillar - 1	Winston - 1
Choteau - 1	Harrison - 1	Poplar - 18	Wolf Point - 16
Circle - 1	Havre - 11	Pray - 1	Worden - 3
Clancy - 6	Hays - 10	Pryor - 3	Wyndmere - 1
Clinton - 2	Heart Butte - 1	Ramsay - 1	Wyola - 1
Colstrip - 1	Helena - 146	Ravalli - 1	
Columbia Falls - 32	Highwood - 2	Red Lodge - 12	
Columbus - 9	Hobson - 1	Rexford - 2	
Conner - 1	Hot Springs - 1	Richey - 1	
Conrad - 7	Hungry Horse - 5	Roberts - 3	
Coram - 3	Huntley - 3	Rollins - 2	
Corvallis - 13	Huson - 5	Ronan - 34	
Crow Agency - 6	Hysham - 1	Roundup - 8	
Culbertson - 1	Jefferson City - 1	Salem - 1	
Cut Bank - 5	Joliet - 4	Salmon - 1	
Darby - 3	Kalispell - 63	Savage - 1	
Dayton - 1	Kila - 5	Scobey - 1	
De Borgia - 1	Kremlin - 1	Seeley Lake - 4	
Deer Lodge - 24	Lacey - 1	Shelby - 2	
Denton - 1	Lakeside - 7	Shepherd - 6	
Dillon - 26	Lame Deer - 22	Sidney - 8	
Dixon - 1	Laurel - 16	Silver Star - 1	
Dodson - 1	Lewistown - 23	Somers - 3	
Dupuyer - 1	Libby - 1	St. Ignatius - 8	