

FACT SHEET:

New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Academy

The New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Academy (NMYCA), located in Roswell, New Mexico, is supported by the National Guard Youth Foundation and is a part of 35 total ChalleNGe sites across the United States. The program in Roswell targets New Mexico youth 16-18 at risk for dropping out of school and provides life skills training and educational attainment opportunities at no cost to applicants.

Mission Statement

Through training, discipline, and mentoring, the New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Academy provides the education, leadership, character development and life coping skills to New Mexico's high school drop outs so they may become productive citizens.

The 17.5 month program consists of two phases, the residential phase and the post-residential phase. The 22-week residential phase provides instruction with emphasis on eight core components in a structured military training environment. Focus is on:

- life coping skills;
- academic excellence;
- job skills;
- responsible leadership;
- leadership/fellowship;
- health and hygiene;
- physical fitness; and
- service to the community.

As a result of NMYCA's partnership with Eastern New Mexico University – Roswell (ENMU-R), cadets are also eligible to earn:

- General Education Development (GED) high school equivalency diploma; and
- 14-16 college credit hours of career/technical coursework that may result in certificates for welding technology, an automotive technician, or a certified nurse assistant.

The post-residential phase features monthly contact with an approved community mentor. Cadets must seek placement in:

- viable 40 hour/week employment;
- a continual education program; or
- a branch of the military.

Since establishment in 2001, NMYCA has graduated 28 class cycles. The 29th cycle began July 2015, with a total of 112 candidates on the ground.