



The New Mexico National Guard
Serving the Nation and New Mexico

New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Academy



PROGRAM ORIENTATION
FOR
NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND SCIENCES



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What is the New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Program?

The New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Academy is located in Roswell. The Program targets at-risk youth who have dropped out of high school and provides them with the necessary structure and skills to prevent them from becoming a permanent fixture in the juvenile or welfare systems.



A RAND Study identified the Youth ChalleNGe Program as the most effective program of its kind. It is funded by a three to one match of federal and state funds.





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NMYCA 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 successful, productive citizens in today's society.





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How does NMYCA work?

The Program consists of two phases; **Residential and Post-Residential**, and is based on Eight Core Components which are designed to train and educate New Mexico's youth so that they may become productive members of the community.

During the 22 week Residential Phase, Cadets can earn a GED and up to 16 college credits from Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell. The focus of the 12-month Post-Residential Mentor Program is to guide the cadet while reinforcing the newly learned skills.





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Program Eligibility for NMYCA Cadets

Basic qualifications for acceptance into NMYCA:

1. Between 16-18 years of age
2. Dropped out of high school, or at risk of dropping out
3. Drug Free
4. Mentally and Physically capable of participation and completing the Program
5. Cannot currently be on or have been on probation for felony crimes or have pending charges
6. A legal resident of US & NM and have a valid NM ID
7. Voluntarily applying for enrollment



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Cadets are trained and tested in 8 core Components.
Each cadet must show improvement in each area in order
to successfully complete NMYCA.

- ❖ Life Coping Skills
- ❖ Academic Excellence
- ❖ Job Skills
- ❖ Responsible Citizenship
- ❖ Leadership/Followership
- ❖ Health and Hygiene
- ❖ Physical Fitness
- ❖ Service to the Community





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NMYCA Residential Phase: 8 Core Components

Training in the 8 Core Components is what makes our cadets well rounded and successful.

- **Life Coping Skills**: Anger management, stress management, personal finance
- **Academic Excellence**: HSE Studies, Vocational training (14-16 college credits earned)
- **Job Skills**: Resume building, job interview preparation, job applications, CPR certification
- **Responsible Citizenship**: Constitution and U.S. Government, Selective Service and Voting



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NMYCA 8 Core Components Cont.

- **Leadership/Followership**: Basic military customs and courtesies, moral/ethical leadership, good followership traits
- **Health and Hygiene**: Substance abuse, Nutrition & Wellness, Sexual Responsibility, Personal Hygiene
- **Physical Fitness**: Daily physical fitness and periodic tests to measure improvement
- **Service to Community**: Minimum of 40 hrs earned, giving back to community. Participation in community events such as Hike It/Spike It



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NMYCA Vocational Training Offered

Classes listed below are offered through Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell. Cadets will earn 14-16 college credits and will be prepared to take certification tests.



Automotive
Technician



Certified Nurse
Assistant



Building Trades



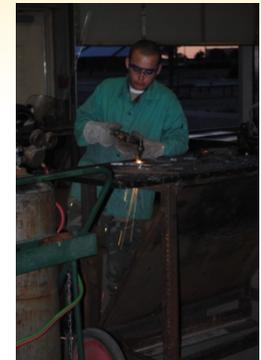
Emergency Medical
Response



Media Arts



Phlebotomy



Welding
Technology



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NMYCA Post-Residential Action Plan (P-RAP) Placement Options

Full time placement is required. One option can be chosen or a combination that equals full time:

Employment

- Verifiable 40 hour/week Job

Continue Education

- HSE Studies (if HSE was not obtained)
- College (ACT, FAFSA, Scholarships)
- Vocational Training (Americorp, Job Corps, ITT, Cosmetology/Barber)

Military

- National Guard/Air Guard
- Active Duty Military



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Youth ChalleNGe Mentoring

- Youth initiated mentoring—Applicants choose a prospective mentor from their community
- Mentors are instrumental in helping graduates stay on track during the Post-Residential Phase
- Graduates have a trusted adult to help guide them
- Mentors submit monthly status reports
- Cadets with mentors have increased chance of continued success vs. cadets who do not



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NMYCA Residential Program STAT's

- NMYCA started in 2001
- Average GED pass rate of 54%
- Overall success through 12 month Post-Res Phase 75%
- No cost to applicants or families for enrollment
- Housing, education, uniforms and meals provided
- NMYCA serves the ENTIRE state of New Mexico
- GED instruction, Vocational Training, Dining Facility provided by ENMU-Roswell.

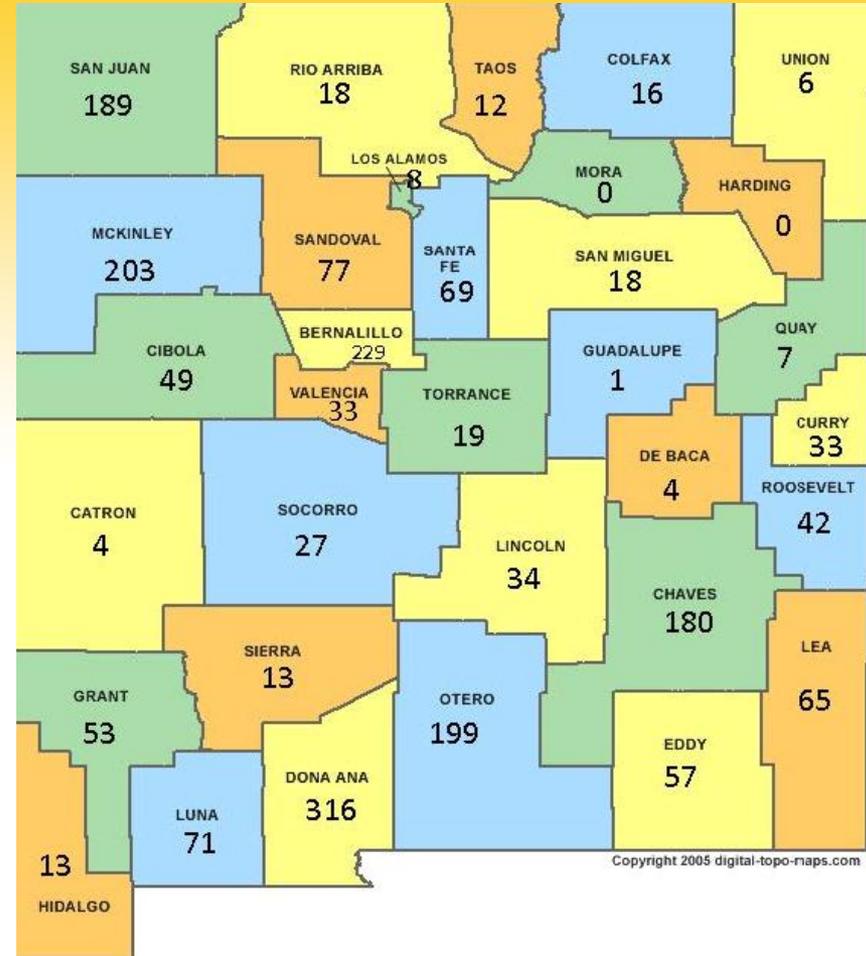


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NMYCA Graduates

The New Mexico National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program has completed 28 Cycles. To date, 2,065 New Mexico youth have graduated from the Program, with 111 currently enrolled in Cycle 29.





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QUESTIONS???



The NM National Guard and Youth ChalleNGe Academy sincerely thank the Legislature for all of the support for this valuable program for our state!

For application information, visit our website:

www.nmyca.net