

# IDAHO YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY



## PARENT HANDBOOK

Class 2024-1

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## Our Mission

**The mission of the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of 15 1/2 – 18 year olds who are at-risk of academic failure. We strive to produce program graduates with the values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as responsible and productive citizens of Idaho.**

**“Today’s Challenge...Tomorrow’s Success”**

**PROGRAM STAFF DIRECTORY**

1-208-464-XXXX

FirstinitialLastname@idyouthchallenge.com

<b>Trevor Sparrow x1455.....</b>	<b>Director</b>
<b>Melissa Brouwers x1455 .....</b>	<b>Deputy Director</b>
<b>Carmen Syed x1455 .....</b>	<b>Admin &amp; HR Assistant</b>
<b>Brandon Binder x1461 .....</b>	<b>Commandant</b>
<b>Guy Bonner x1462 .....</b>	<b>Programs Coordinator</b>
<b>Jim Hill x1463 .....</b>	<b>Principal</b>
<b>Amy Jared x1469 .....</b>	<b>Transition Specialist (Transcripts)</b>
<b>Betsy Stemrich RN &amp; Sissy Morris Med Tech. X1458.....</b>	<b>Healthcare Team</b>

**Flight Staff**

**Cadre Flight Supervisors**

Mountain Gems x1465.....	MSG Newcome, A.
Axemen x1466 .....	MSG Nelson, J.
Scouts x1464 .....	MSG Rowland, S.

**Advocate/Case Managers**

Mountain Gems x1475.....	Bonnie Burner
Axemen x1473 .....	Rhonda Sheets
Scouts x1477 .....	Heather Fallwell

**Mentors/Post Residential Coordinator**

Post Res Coordinator x1467 .....	Dan Drover
Post Res Specialist 208.827.3758.....	Lori Brown

**Counselors**

Mountain Gems x1474.....	Ruth Godwin
Axemen x1472 .....	Ronda Nelson
Scouts x1476 .....	Dallas Burner

**Admissions**

Admissions Coordinator x1491 .....	Greg Billups
Admissions Specialist x1468 .....	Holly Spencer
IDYCA Main Campus FAX: .....	208-464-1443

***“Safe, Highly Disciplined, Professional”***

## GENERAL GUIDANCE

1. **General:** Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy (IDYCA) will begin with a two-week acclimation period (evaluation phase). The following twenty weeks comprise the residential phase, with a commencement scheduled for the end of week 22. Upon completion of the residential phase, cadets will enter the 12-month post-residential phase.
2. **Hours of Operation:** The normal staff hours of operation for IDYCA are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The main number is (208) 464-1253. If you need to contact someone at the Academy, please refer to the staff directory.
3. **Emergency Phone Extensions:** To be used after normal staff hours, or on weekends only. Mountain Gems x1487 / Axemen x1488 / Scouts x1489.
4. **Mailing Address:** Mail is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** to your Cadet and we encourage you to write as often as possible. The mailing address is:  
Cadet's Name (**Cadet** First/Last Name), Flight Name  
C/o Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy  
117 Timberline Dr.  
Pierce, ID 83546

Regular mail is limited to letters, greeting cards and post cards. Packages containing food or contraband items (those not listed in the original packing list) will be confiscated and destroyed. Appropriate books for teens may be sent, however, since storage space is limited, these will be considered donations to the IDYCA Cadet Library once the cadet finishes reading them. Cadets may not receive letters from jails or prisons unless written consent is given by a parent or legal guardian. We ask that correspondence you have with your child be uplifting and positive in nature so that he/she remains focused on the Academy and not distracted by family worries.

**Stamps** are used quickly and re-supply is always welcome. IDYCA is served very faithfully by the Pierce, Idaho, U.S. Post Office. They handle all the mail but only receive compensation for postage purchased at the local office. Parents may purchase postage for their cadet by sending a check and instructions to the Postmaster, who will deliver the postage under the youth's name at the academy. Contact Postmaster, Pierce ID 83546 or call 208-464-2113 for instructions.

Cadets do not have access to social media while at the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy. Email communication with staff members is available for administrative purposes only and all social contact is restricted to mail and telephone communications as scheduled.

5. **Change of Contact Information:** Please notify our office of any changes in your phone numbers or address. We periodically send information home and must maintain current information for the post residential phase. You will also want to be notified about pertinent healthcare questions or information while your youth is in our care.
6. **Visitation & Pass Schedule (*Subject to possible Covid 19 restrictions*):** The Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy guidelines allow one scheduled family visitation day (*unless restrictive health conditions exist*) and one home pass. Based upon the IDYCA guidelines it is our desire to coordinate the periods of pass time with holidays. Unscheduled family visitation is **not** authorized. The home pass

does include one business day to facilitate post residential school and or employment application. **The home pass is required and transportation is a parent responsibility.** Coordinate with your flight MSgt on time of pickup. IDYCA may provide transport to the Lewiston or Pullman, WA. Airport for mid-day flights only if parents show proof of airline purchase and request. Your cadet will not be released for visits or home pass with anyone other than the legal parent or guardian unless you have authorized other arrangements in writing. Your cadet is required to remain alcohol and drug free during passes; cadets will be tested upon their return.

**Family Day:** March 9th, 2024 1000-1500 (subject to change)

**Home Pass (Subject to change): HOME PASS TRANSPORT IS PARENT RESPONSIBILITY**

**Pick-up:** Thursday, May 23rd at 1000-1400 **REQUIRED OFF CAMPUS**

**Return:** Tuesday, May 28th at 1400-1600 **REQUIRED RETURN**

1. If a Cadet tests positive for drugs after returning from Home Pass, he/she will be dismissed from Academy. Parent/guardian may take Cadet off campus for a confirmatory blood test at the expense of the Cadet or parent/guardian.
2. If a Cadet returns from Home Pass and Medical Staff deems Cadet contagious, parent/guardian will be responsible to transport Cadet to hospital to have Cadet checked by a Doctor and bring medical clearance back to our Medical Staff.

**Commencement Ceremony:** June 15th, 2024 Time and Location TBD (subject to change)

7. **Phone privileges:** Cadets in good standing will have access to phones on weekends, following the acclimation period. At no time are cadets allowed incoming phone calls. (See Page 20 for Sunday Phone Rotation info). Mail is of the **utmost importance**; please **write your cadet as often as possible**.

8. **Program Presentations:** We are available to make presentations to organizations and educational institutions throughout the state. If you are a member of an organization or an educational institution that would like to have an IDYCA presentation, please contact Guy Bonner, the Programs Coordinator, at (208) 464-1462, email [gbonner@idyouthchallenge.com](mailto:gbonner@idyouthchallenge.com), or Greg Billups, Admissions Coordinator at (208) 464-1491 email at [gbillups@idyouthchallenge.com](mailto:gbillups@idyouthchallenge.com) FAX: (208) 464-1443

9. **Medical Care:** IDYCA does not provide health insurance. All applicants should be medically cleared to participate in full training upon arrival at IDYCA. During the two week period of acclimation, routine sick-call will not be conducted, although true medical emergencies will be evaluated and treated. The IDYCA Healthcare staff will arrange for cadets to be seen by a separate health care provider if the cadet is seriously ill, injured and/or exceeds the IDYCA scope of practice. Most medical needs are taken care of by the IDYCA Healthcare staff, or medical clinics in Pierce or Orofino. Please ensure current insurance coverage information is provided to IDYCA Healthcare staff. We request that cadets without medical insurance complete the requirements to qualify for Medicaid and/or understand that parents/guardians will incur the cost of medical bills.

IDYCA is not financially liable for medical services for students with pre-existing conditions. All pre-existing conditions should be noted prior to admission. Injuries that occur as a result of IDYCA authorized activities will be submitted to Federal Workmen's Compensation. They will determine

whether the claim will be accepted or denied. Injuries resulting from non-authorized IDYCA activities will be the financial responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Applicants must be current on immunizations. Unimmunized applicants place themselves and others at risk for serious illnesses such as meningococcal meningitis, influenza and whooping cough and risk dismissal from IDYCA if they contract the disease.

IDYCA is not a mental health facility. All mental health issues requiring professional consultation will be referred to a licensed mental health professional or physician. Youth found mentally unfit for the ChalleNGe environment will be asked to seek help and could be terminated. The youth may be allowed to return at a later cycle when deemed appropriate by their practicing medical professional.

If you need to send prescription medication, it should be brought directly to the Healthcare Staff. Parents and guardians are required to establish an account at the program's servicing pharmacy and must provide billing and insurance information to ensure youth can receive any prescribed medications. Failure to provide for your cadet's prescription needs can interfere with staffing and scheduling requirements and could result in your youth's dismissal. This includes antibiotics or other flu/cold medications that may be prescribed while your youth is in residence. Please help us care for your child. Betsy Stemrich, RN, and Sissy Morris, Med Tech, can be contacted regarding healthcare questions or concerns at (208) 464-1458.

**10. Emergency Contact Plan:** In case of a disaster or serious incident please contact the Main Telephone line to the program for information regarding your cadet's status and needed information at (208) 464-1253. If the situation is serious enough you may be required to pick up your cadet. If there is an emergency at home, please contact your cadet's Flight Supervisor from the staff directory during normal business hours or call the emergency numbers listed in section three after hours and on weekends. If the emergency involves a death in the family or severe illness, you will be referred to a counselor to assist with communicating to your cadet.

**11. Discharge/Voluntary Withdrawal of Cadet:** In the event a cadet is discharged or voluntarily withdraws from the IDYCA, it is the responsibility of the cadet's parent or guardian to immediately pick up the cadet upon notification by IDYCA staff. All cadets must be picked up by a parent or guardian in the event of a discharge or voluntary withdrawal, irrespective of the age of the cadet.

**12. Chaplain's Services:** A Non-Denominational service is provided by community volunteers on Sundays and available to interested cadets. Denominational specific elements (sacrament, confession, etc.) are subject to availability of volunteers and scheduling for cadets, if requested.

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

The Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy educators are School District 171 certified teachers committed to academic excellence. Our academic environment is safe, structured, has high expectations, and provides individual assistance, state of the art technology and clear academic goals.

**1. Academic Credits (credentials):** The goal of the IDYCA Education Department is to provide students with a positive learning experience that will result in overall academic improvement in the



areas of Reading Comprehension, Language Usage, Spelling, Math Comprehension, and Math Application. The IDYCA Education Department promotes the pursuit of knowledge, education, and the use of the skills taught at IDYCA to transition students into becoming productive citizens.

The Cadets of IDYCA will be placed into classes relevant to their performance on the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE). Each class will follow the IDYCA curriculum, however modifications will be made to the day to day lesson planning relating the curriculum to the education level of the class.

IDYCA promotes the attainment of academic credit recovery in order to return to home high school and complete graduation. In some cases the Cadet may come to IDYCA with sufficient credits to complete all Idaho graduation requirements during the residential phase and graduate IDYCA with a High School Diploma. Cadets that qualify and express interest are well prepared to achieve the GED and will be offered the opportunity to test once during the Residential Phase.

- a) Career Development Training: The IDYCA will provide career development and employability skills training activities designed to enhance the opportunity for cadets to seek employment following the program. This training will consist of general orientation to various occupations, resume writing, interviewing skills and participation in career fairs, if available.
- b) Armed Services: There is no obligation for military service associated with enrollment in IDYCA. For students that desire to enlist in the military, IDYCA will coordinate enlistment information and or recruiter visits from one of the branches of the armed forces. Meeting all other requirements for enlistment is the responsibility of the cadet applying for enlistment (education, test scores, police record checks, medical examinations, etc.). Military recruiters are required to contact and consult parents of minors.
- c) Continued Education: For students who desire and have the aptitude to pursue additional education, the IDYCA will provide general counseling services, to include help selecting a school or program, preparing an application for admission (excluding fees), and preparing an application for financial aid. With the exception of the educational award (see above), the program makes no representation as to provision of financial aid for continued education or training.

Cadets falling behind academically will be given directed study/academic recovery opportunities that may occur while other Cadets are attending extra-curricular activities. The purpose of these additional study opportunities are to allow the Cadet time to focus on improving academically and allow extra time to accomplish assigned work.

IDYCA is not a Special Education Academy. However, youth with common special education needs historically do well in ChalleNGe programs due to the structure, class aptitude placement, and availability of staff and cadets to help with informal tutoring.

All academic concerns and/or request for transcripts should be directed to the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy Principal, Jim Hill (208) 464-1463.

**2. Successful Completion:** Successful completion from Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy is based upon growth in each of the eight core components, development of a complete post-residential action

plan, securing proof of placement at commencement from the residential phase, and maintaining weekly communication (letter writing) with mentors. Commencement from the residential phase will occur approximately five and one half months after enrollment of a class, and an appropriate ceremony will be conducted.

A. Completion Requirements: The student must meet the following requirements to receive a Certificate of Completion from the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy:

- 1) Life Coping Skills. Demonstrated by understanding of personal finance including basic banking and management skills, maintaining good credit, preparing and managing a personal budget. Recognize and demonstrate coping strategies for conflict resolution, problem solving/decision making, anger management, stress management, emotional stressors, homesickness and other areas of need for cadets. Life coping skills encourage healthy life choices and habits. Goal setting is also emphasized.
- 2) Academic Excellence. Demonstrated by improving academic grade levels as determined by the TABE test, pursuit of post secondary education, pursuit of continuing education, obtaining a remedial basic education, computer awareness and literacy, and awareness of library use for general purpose.
- 3) Job Skills Training. Demonstrated knowledge and skills required to seek and obtain employment by acquiring job search skills, completing a job application, resume, mock interview, and demonstrate the understanding of work ethics. Also included is entry-level job skills training and awareness, obtaining knowledge and skills required to pursue future educational opportunities, including career research and understanding of career clusters, post-secondary options such as vocational/technical schools, alternative education, institutions and financial assistance. Cadets will participate in the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).
- 4) Responsible Citizenship. Demonstrated by knowledge and understanding of the U.S. Constitution and government to include the voting process and respect for law and order, and appreciation and understanding of service to country/state/community through volunteerism and the military. Cadets that are eligible will register for the Selective Service.
- 5) Leadership/Followership. Demonstrated by understanding group dynamics and understanding the importance of roles within groups, emphasis on practical applications of multiple leadership/followership in student activities, understanding the ethical and moral dimensions of leadership, and understanding the responsibilities of leadership/followership. Cadets will successfully complete the Leadership/Followership assessment.
- 6) Health Hygiene and Sex Education. Demonstrated by understanding the adverse effects of abuse and available treatment resources for alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, understanding substance abuse on physical health and well being, understanding proper nutrition and daily diet, understanding healthy sexual practices, family planning, human sexuality, and sexually transmitted diseases and infections, and related responsibilities. Understanding the achievement of good health through a holistic approach that combines physical and spiritual well being.
- 7) Physical Fitness. Demonstrated incremental improvement in physical well being to include endurance, stamina, and strength.

8) Community Involvement and Service to Community Projects. Demonstrated by participation in community self help projects, community activities that benefit the community as a whole, and in community organizations that have as their goal the enhancement of the community at large.

9) Post Residential Action Plan (PRAP) Demonstrated knowledge and ability to set and reach goals through creation and development of a personal action plan. PRAP includes S.M.A.R.T short term, intermediate and long term goals. All cadets are required to pursue and obtain proof of a placement in school, employment, or voluntary service prior to commencement. This placement must begin during the first month directly following commencement from the residential phase. Proof of “launch placement,” (placement during the first post-residential month) in the form of an official letter, contract, or completed enrollment form from an employer, school, military recruiter, or volunteer organization.

10) Building and Maintaining the Mentoring Relationship. Develops respectful appreciation and willingness to keep channels of communication open as demonstrated by weekly letter writing with the mentor.

### **CADET EXPECTATIONS**

Students are expected to persistently apply themselves in the development of character and personal skills. The following is the Honor Code and Cadet Creed for the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy.

#### **The Honor Code**

1. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.
2. I will treat my peers, the staff, and myself with integrity, dignity, and respect.
3. I will give my best effort at Youth Challenge Academy.
4. I will follow the **standards** of the Academy.
5. I will seek self-improvement.
6. I will be tolerant of others.
7. I will be accountable for my actions.
8. I will utilize my chain of command.
9. I will recognize that my personal success rests in the success of the group.
10. Every day I will remember that this Academy is what “I” chose to do. I will stay true to that choice.

#### **CADET CREED**

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I AM A NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE CADET.  
I PROUDLY ATTEND THE IDAHO YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY  
WITH HONOR, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT.  
I BELIEVE IN AND UPHOLD THE PROGRAM’S EIGHT CORE COMPONENTS.  
I WILL OBEY ALL STAFF AND CADET LEADERS APPOINTED OVER ME.  
I ACKNOWLEDGE THE SPIRIT AND COMMITMENT OF THE  
YOUTH CHALLENGE AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE COME BEFORE ME.  
I AM COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AND THE FAIR AND JUST  
TREATMENT OF ALL.

Each Cadet will be expected to memorize, understand, and live by the Honor Code and Cadet Creed while in the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy.

Cadets participating in the Youth ChalleNGe Program must consent to abide by the rules and regulations governing the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy and the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, collectively the Code of Conduct. Cadets sign an agreement that includes the following:

- a) **Cadet Code of Conduct:** The cadet certifies that he or she understands the Code of Conduct and will abide by these rules for the duration of his or her participation in the program.
- b) **Adherence to Standards:** The cadet agrees to adhere to the standards prescribed by the Idaho Youth Academy. These standards include the standards of conduct listed in the Code of Conduct, as well as the standards of appearance and grooming listed in the Cadet Handbook.
- c) **Cadet Disciplinary System:** The cadet agrees to voluntarily participate in the disciplinary system for breeches of the Code of Conduct or other rules and regulations. Consequences may be imposed for infractions, to include loss of privileges, extra duties, and dismissal from the program.
- d) **Dismissal:** For serious or repeated violations of the Code of Conduct, or general refusal to participate in the full range of program activities, a cadet can be dismissed from the program. Only the Director or his direct superiors in the administrative chain of command at the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy can dismiss a cadet. Generally, dismissal will be as a result of a Cadet Disciplinary Board, but at the discretion of the Director, a cadet can be dismissed at any time if deemed to be a threat to him/her or others, or if proven to have used illegal drugs. Parents or guardians of cadets will be advised of the dismissal and must immediately come and pick up their youth regardless of the cadet's age. Dismissal may be appealed in writing or via email to the Director within 24 hours.
- e) **Use of Illegal Drugs:** As a condition of enrollment in the program, cadets agree to participate at any time in random or scheduled urinalysis testing for illegal drugs. Confirmed use by a cadet of illegal drugs will be cause for immediate dismissal from the IDYCA. Cadets dismissed for using illegal drugs may reapply for admission to later classes upon presentation of proof of completion of a drug education and rehabilitation program, but readmission will not be guaranteed.
- f) **Voluntary Search:** Due to the increased requirement for good order and discipline while living in close quarters, the cadet consents to voluntary search of his/her lockers and other private spaces at any time judged necessary by the Flight Supervisor (or appointed designee in the supervisor's absence).
- g) **Jurisdiction of Law Enforcement Agencies:** While residing aboard the IDYCA campus, the cadet falls under the jurisdiction of the Clearwater County Sheriff Department. The staff of Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy reserves the right to turn serious disciplinary matters over to the Clearwater County Sheriff for investigation and prosecution in accordance with the laws of the State of Idaho.
- h) **Safeguarding of Property:** The cadet agrees to provide reasonable care in safeguarding of IDYCA and personal property. Reasonable care includes securing of IDYCA and personal

property within locked spaces when not supervised. The cadet agrees to pay a fee to cover the replacement value of any issued property lost while not exercising reasonable care of property.

- i) **Destruction of Program Property:** Any cadet who willfully, or as a result of negligence, destroys or damages program property agrees to pay the replacement or repair cost of any property so damaged.
- j) **Return of Program Property:** The cadet agrees to return all program property to the IDYCA upon graduation, voluntary withdrawal or dismissal. Certain property may be retained in accordance with current policy, and the cadet will be required to pay for all items not returned, or returned but exhibiting more than reasonable wear and tear.
- k) **Adherence to Program Schedules during home pass and medical appointments away from IDYCA:** The cadet agrees to adhere to the departure and return times as published in this handbook, the weekly schedule, or as designated by the IDYCA staff. Any cadet not returning to the program on time (unless prior permission has been granted in writing) will be carried in an unauthorized absence status. Unauthorized absence not a result of valid extenuating circumstances will result in disciplinary action or dismissal.
- l) **Visitation by Family or Friends:** Cadets are **not** allowed to have visits by family or friends except in conjunction with family visitation or another special event as designated by the IDYCA staff. Scheduled and published mentor visitations include only the IDYCA designated mentor for the cadet and are not for the purpose of family or friends. Emergency situations, please contact the academy Commandant.
- m) **Leave of Absence for Medical Purposes:** If a cadet incurs an illness or injury which precludes continued participation in the full scope of activities which comprise the IDYCA program, he or she may be granted a leave of absence until the condition is alleviated. At the discretion of the Director, the length of the absence may preclude graduation with the original class and the cadet may be required to reapply to a subsequent class at its beginning.
- n) **Voluntary Early Withdrawal:** Enrollment in the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy is sought by many highly qualified young adults desiring to make a difference in their lives. Each cadet who begins the program occupies a space sought by other applicants. For this reason, voluntary withdrawal denies the benefits of participation to other young adults desiring to participate fully in the program. Therefore, acceptance into the program requires a **firm commitment and persistence**, by each cadet and his/her family, to complete the program. Recognizing that enrollment is a conscious decision of the applicant and parents, as a condition of acceptance into the program, the cadet agrees not to voluntarily terminate participation in the IDYCA for any reason not involving compelling personal circumstances. If this occurs, the parents/guardians understand they must immediately come and pick up their youth regardless of the cadet's age. Cadets who voluntarily withdraw from the program are eligible to reapply (but are not guaranteed admission) to the next class cycle.

### **POST-RESIDENTIAL PHASE**

The twelve (12) month post-residential phase will begin immediately upon completion of the twenty-

two (22) week residential phase. To successfully complete the post residential phase, the graduate must:

- Be engaged in a productive placement (including education, employment, volunteer service, military service, or a combination of these activities) for a minimum of 25 hours weekly.

Mentoring Guidelines for Parents We hope these guidelines will help you support your youth's relationship. Your role in the development of this friendship is very important.

- Please do not discuss your youth with his or her mentor in the cadet's presence. Contact the mentor when the youth is away if you believe there is something the mentor should know.
- Contact the IDYCA Advocate/Case Manager immediately if there is something about the mentoring relationship that concerns you. Leave a message if the Youth Mentor Advocate is unavailable. Internalizing your concerns may damage the relationship.
- Let the mentor know that his or her efforts are appreciated.
- Remember the nature of the relationship that exists between your youth and the mentor. Do not request to be included on outings.
- Forgive minor mistakes in judgment. The mentor will receive training but he or she is neither a trained professional nor a perfect person. You will probably disagree with the mentor at times.
- Do not deprive the youth of the mentor visit as a means of discipline. The mentor is volunteering his or her time and energy to be your youth's friend.
- The IDYCA mentor will tell you when he or she will return your youth. Make a point to be there.
- Give the relationship time to develop. In some cases, development may take from three to five months. Be patient.
- The mentor is vital to your youth's success. Get to know the mentor at least to the point where you are comfortable with him or her.
- Feel free to contact the Flight Advocate/Case Manager with your questions or concerns (see staff directory).
- Please visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/IDYCA> for news and photos of the class. Refer family and friends to this and the official Academy page <http://www.idyouthchallenge.com/> for more information.
- You may also visit <http://www.idyouthchallenge.com/mentors/> for more information about Idaho Youth Challenge Academy mentoring.

## Notes

## **SUPPORT IDAHO'S YOUTH!**

### **IDAHO YOUTH CHALLENGE FOUNDATION PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

***Mission:*** *The mission of the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Foundation Parents' Association is to assist the Foundation in its supporting role of the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy, to include promoting and facilitating networking, community awareness, volunteerism, fundraising, education, and program support.*

The Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Foundation (IDYCF) is always looking for support from the community to help us provide academic scholarships, sponsorship to other educational activities, funding for extracurricular programs and other events that provide individuals educational enhancement. We are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so all donations to the IDYCF are 100% tax-deductible. Here are some ways you can help:

- Shop at Amazon Smiles, listing "Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Foundation" as the non-profit recipient - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-1964922>
- Take advantage of the Idaho Education Tax Credit on your tax return - [http://youthchallengeidaho.org/images/Idaho\\_Tax\\_Credit.pdf](http://youthchallengeidaho.org/images/Idaho_Tax_Credit.pdf)
- Send typical supplies and clothing items needed during the Residential Phase of the Academy - [http://youthchallengeidaho.org/images/Supply\\_Needs.pdf](http://youthchallengeidaho.org/images/Supply_Needs.pdf)
- Donate cash via PayPal - [https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=2S6Z2UG5NMVY8](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=2S6Z2UG5NMVY8)
- Participate in IdahoGives annual event - <http://idahogives.razoo.com/story/Idaho-Youth-Challenge-Foundation>
- Purchase logo merchandise onsite (Family Day & Commencement) or online at our Online Apparel Store – <http://idyca.qbstores.com>



Also, if you are interested in providing hands-on support and encouragement to the Academy's youth, please consider joining the Foundation's Parents' Association, and complete the form below, mailing it back to us at:

**Idaho Youth Challenge Foundation**  
c/o Idaho Youth Challenge Academy  
117 Timberline Drive  
Pierce, ID 83546  
youthchallengeidaho@gmail.com

Name: _____	
Address: _____	
City, State, Zip: _____	
Home Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____	
Applicable Skills, Training & Knowledge:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Education: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising/Grant Writing: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering: _____	
Applicant Understanding	
By signing, I understand that I am applying for an unpaid volunteer position with the Idaho Youth Challenge Foundation Parents' Association, and that submission of the application does not guarantee placement within the program. I am over 18 years of age. A criminal background check may be required.	
Signature: _____	Date: _____

## **IDYCA WEBSITE, FACEBOOK CONNECTIONS AND 24-1 PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP**

1. You are likely familiar with the IDYCA website: [www.idyouthchallenge.com](http://www.idyouthchallenge.com) where you began the application process with a 'Pre-App' This web site is still a good source of information The IDYCA maintains a Facebook Page named: **NGYCP-Idaho Youth Challenge Academy**. This site provides a wealth of information on the current and past IDYCA classes. Picture and posts from staff and connections to current family members and past Cadets.
2. **Pictures.** Pictures of Cadets and IDYCA events/activities are taken by IDYCA staff **as time permits**. Staff are not professional photographers nor is documenting each event/Cadet by photos a job description. Yet many photos are taken. Once the class is registered some are posted on the Facebook page. Many additional pictures too numerous to post on Facebook are available to view, download and purchase at:

**<https://idyca.smugmug.com/Class-241>**

3. **Facebook Parent Support Group:** Each class parents and legal guardians of the current class can choose to join an unofficial Facebook Parent Support Group. Once established the group is accessible from the official IDYCA Facebook page but is fully administered by a volunteer who is a parent of an IDYCA cadet graduate. The following page is her welcome letter for your information and encouragement to be connected at:

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2024-1 IDYCA Parent Guardian Support Group/>**

**NOTE: This group is for Parents/Guardians of accepted IDYCA applicants/candidates and Cadets. The group is normally established just prior to the Class Registration Date and continues throughout the Residential and Post Residential Phases.**

4. **Parent Reading Recommendations:** Often parents will ask what can be read to help me develop while my Cadet is going through such a maturing transformation at IDYCA. The following is a short list of books that previous parents have found informative and helpful.
  - a. *The Anatomy of Peace*, by the Arbing Institute.
  - b. *Love and Logic Class*, <https://www.loveandlogic.com/classes-and-conferences>
  - c. *Love and Respect*, by Dr. Emerson and Eggerichs
  - d. *Understanding Your Mates Personality*, by Joyce Myers
  - e. *Blending Families*, by Jimmy Evans and Frank Martin
  - f. *The 5 Love Languages*, by Gary Chapman
  - g. *The 5 Love Languages of Teenagers*, by Gary Chapman

Jan. 2024

**Hello, Parents and Legal Guardians of IDYCA CLASS 24-1 Candidates!!!** You are about to embark on a new journey for yourself and with your son/daughter and we are here to offer a place of support.

We are previous proud parents of graduating Cadets from the IDYCA Academy, in Pierce ID and have come together to help administrate a parent support group for the next class of candidates attending IDYCA. Most of the parents agreed that the support group helped them tremendously through the 5 ½ months their child was away from home. Many have created lifelong friendships and feel as if they gained a family! We want to make it clear that we are not paid staff of IDYCA or The National Guard. The parent support group does not represent IDYCA or National Guard; it is separate and managed by volunteer previous IDYCA parents. If there is an issue or a suggestion regarding the parent support group, we would be the one to refer to, not IDYCA. Again, we volunteer our time to administrate and run the parent support group because we are passionate about IDYCA's mission and we desire to help other parents in the journey they are about to embark on.

**The group is a closed group ONLY for parents and legal guardians.** It is not for siblings, extended family, grandparents, mentors, friends and /or boyfriend/girlfriends/fiance', they may follow along at <https://www.facebook.com/IDYCA/>. This support group is a place for parents/ legal guardians to share support and encourage each other through this time that our young men and women are learning to succeed as responsible and productive citizens.

This may be a difficult time for parents, as it is a time of learning to let go and trust others with your child. Parents will encounter days where you are strong and positive. Then there will be days of high emotions, guilt, worry and doubt. This group is a place to safely share your thoughts, opinions, ideas as you embark on this journey. Everything shared is to remain protected and confidential.

- **Tagging, sharing, viewing, printing, or discussion and of any posts on the parent support page to anyone outside of the group members is prohibited and may result in removal of membership.**

Parents need a safe place to share, grow, encourage, and support each other. At times throughout this journey each parent will need a place to come for encouragement and support so please reach out to one another, build relationships and share in one another's journey. You will be glad you did and blessed for doing so.

If you have a specific questions or concerns regarding the IDYCA program, you need to refer to the current IDYCA Parent Handbook given to you upon acceptance of the program. If you have an issue with IDYCA policy, staff, or decision/situation regarding your son/daughter, you will need to contact your child's IDYCA Flight Counselor or Case Manager by emailing them, **do NOT post it publicly on the parent support group page**. The contact information is in the IDYCA Parent Handbook and the handbook is on Idaho Youth Challenge Academy website: [http://www.idyouthchallenge.com/documents/Parent\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.idyouthchallenge.com/documents/Parent_Handbook.pdf). **Do not address your concerns or issues with IDYCA publicly on the parent support group page without giving IDYCA the opportunity to answer and address any concerns and questions first, otherwise you may cause unnecessary concern and alarm to other parents/guardians on the page.**

The link to the parent/guardian support page will follow. If you are interested, go the support page and request to be a member. Be checking for a private message that will be sent to you through Facebook. To find this message, you will need go to your Facebook Message Requests, look under FILTERED Requests; and respond to the message you will have received from me. Please answer all the questions, to be considered for membership authorization. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IDYCAparentsupportgroup24.1/>

We are looking forward to meeting each of you and excited to walk beside you on your journey with IDYCA!

Blessings,

Angela Anderson, Volunteer IDYCA Parent Support Group Admin  
Khristy Newell, Volunteer IDYCA Parent Support Group Admin Assistant

## **Sunday Phone Rotation**

**NOTE:** Week 1 and 2 are Acclimation and no phone calls are permitted. Sunday is the first day of the week. Week 3 is the third Sunday after the Saturday Registration day you dropped your Cadet off at IDYCA. To track weeks start numbering the Sundays on a traditional calendar with one being the Sunday after registration day.

These times are subject to change. 1230-1530 is the Sunday phone call window. Events are dictated by the chow rotation. It does not happen often, however sometimes the chow order must be changed in order to facilitate certain events. **DO NOT** be alarmed if your phone call is not received during the prescribed window. Simply contact the MSgt of your flight or the Commandant. If you do not make contact **PLEASE** leave a message. It is likely that your cadet called someone else, is in a vocational class, conducting kitchen patrol duties, or the schedule required a change. We keep track of these cadets and always ensure they make a phone call at the schedule's earliest convenience. Thank you for understanding.

## GUIDANCE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The next 17-½ months are an exciting time for you and your youth, and we are honored to be a part. We understand this is a big commitment for both of you, and we want to ensure that this time is as successful as possible. As such, we are requesting your assistance in avoiding the one word that can cause an obstacle to your youth's ultimate success and graduation – the word “Yes!”

It is common during the initial phase of the Program, and in some cases, extending into mid-cycle, for youths to call and say they want to leave. They may give a myriad of reasons why they cannot make it to completion and must be picked up right away. Rest assured. If your youth needs to leave, we will let you know. In order to affect the positive change that we all desire for your youth, some days are not going to be pleasant for them. So, if you do get a phone call or letter with an upset child begging you to come get him/her, we ask that you avoid saying “yes.” Instead, for your child's future, it is imperative for you to remain strong, tell your youth you love them, encourage him/her to complete this ChalleNGe, and gently say “no.”

Encouraging your youth to “stick it out” to the end is the #1 thing you can do to ensure success in the Program. If you ask any Youth ChalleNGe graduate, they will all tell you that wanting to quit and come home was one of their biggest hurdles, but they are so proud they completed the ChalleNGe and made it to the end.

In addition, below are some additional areas that will help with which we need your assistance, or with which you need to be aware.

1. Please send mail to your youth weekly! Mail call is very important for your youth's morale. But, we ask that you do not send negative information in your letters. The more positive reinforcement he/she receives throughout the Program, the better his/her chances are for success. We encourage you to contact the counseling staff to assist in delivering information that is difficult or sensitive in nature.
2. To fit everything into the 5½ months allotted, we must operate on a very tight schedule. As such, we ask that you be prompt when it is necessary to pick-up or drop-off your youth.
3. Be assured that all information concerning your youth will be sent to you officially from Youth ChalleNGe staff. Please confirm any information regarding time schedules, locations, or student disposition with our administration.
4. Your youth will be involved in training most of every day, often away on field trips, work projects, or service to community events. We ask that you do not make any surprise visits to the Academy.

5. Everything in the Program has a reason, including designated times for telephone calls. Each youth will be given a time slot to make phone calls to whom they choose. *As a note, no phone calls are allowed during the Acclimation Phase.*
6. Please understand that all youth may undergo random drug tests. A positive test will result in immediate expulsion.
7. We will contact you immediately in the event of a serious illness, accident, or any serious disciplinary action, such as your youth being put on probation or being expelled. All medical concerns should be directed to the Health Center Team, via (208) 464-1458.
8. Please keep us apprised at all times with a way to contact you in case of an emergency. If your contact numbers should change, please call the IDYCA staff directly, rather than relaying the information through your youth. If you leave town for any length of time, please leave instructions on how and where to contact you.
9. In the event of destruction to ChalleNGe property, we reserve the right to withhold the commencement diploma until restitution has been met.

We developed these rules and guidelines based on years of Youth ChalleNGe experience – the #1 goal being your youth’s success. We want to ensure an environment where youth can mature and strengthen their character through self-discipline. Self-discipline is a pre-requisite for integrity and essential to the exercise of responsibility. With your help, we will do everything in our power to provide an atmosphere where the engaged youth will have no option but to succeed.

Best wishes,

**Trevor Sparrow, Director**  
**Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy**