



Hawai'i National Guard

YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY



A Hawai'i agency with an award-winning national program providing an alternative education for at-risk teens to ...

- ★ Dream
- ★ Believe
- ★ Achieve

How to Apply

- Step 1 – Sign Up for a Mandatory Orientation
- Step 2 –Complete: Admissions Application
Medical Clearance &
Personal Interview
- Step 3 - Attend 2 Endurance Events
- Step 4 –Be invited to Scholarship Acceptance Ceremony

Contact Information

Oahu Campus:

808-685-7139

Admissions.yca.oahu@Hawaii.gov

Hilo Campus:

808-369-0953

Admissions.yca.hilo@Hawaii.gov

Website:

<http://dod.Hawaii.gov/YCA>

<https://www.facebook.com/youthchallengeoahu/>

"Youth Challenge taught me that respect is a privilege, not a right. We earn respect through our actions. Above all, we must respect ourselves first."

Cadet Sierra Silva, 2011



What is the Youth Challenge Academy?

It is an alternative education program that was established in 1994 for students ages 16-18 who might be on a path to drop out of high school or needed a second chance. This nationally recognized and award winning program helps Hawai'i youth reclaim their purpose in life. It provides youth with the structure, skills, discipline, education and values necessary to become successful individuals and community participants.

How does the program work?

Phase one

In the 22-week Residential Phase, participants called cadets, live and train together at the O'ahu or the Hawai'i Island Campus. The first two weeks focuses on teamwork, close order drill, code of conduct, leadership and followership, and physical fitness training.

The next 20 weeks focus on building each cadet's skills and self-concept. The academic program prepares cadets for 3 different academic pathways. The Work Readiness Certificate, the Credit Recovery Program and the HiSET (High School Equivalency Diploma Exam)



*Adrian & Susan Sakata,
parents of Cadet Kyle Sakata, 2010.*

Phase Two

In the following 12-months, cadets will participate in the Post-Residential Phase, when they return to their communities, continue on with higher education, enter the workforce, or join a branch of the military. The goal of this phase is to help graduates sustain and build on their achievements made in the Residential Phase.

Each cadet is matched with a trained mentor to ensure their continued success. Mentors help youth transition from the structured environment of the Residential Phase to self-management.

Youth Challenge Academy Key Learning Components

This premier alternative education program offers "at promise" 16-18 year old youth an opportunity to change their lives. The goal of the program is to equip cadets with life skills. The way this happens is through 22 weeks of hard work, filled with pride. Then during the 12 month Post-Residential Phase, each individual cadet will experience their life in a new way, standing tall and believing in themselves!

Phase One – Eight Core Components

- Job/Career Skills
- Academic Excellence
- Leadership/Followership
- Physical Fitness
- Service to Community
- Health and Hygiene
- Responsible Citizenship
- Life coping Skills

Phase Two Components

A Post-Residential Action Plan can include

- Attending college or university
- Obtaining full or part-time employment
- Seeking vocational or technical education
- Serving in the military or volunteer program



★ DREAM

★ BELIEVE

★ ACHIEVE