

Fall 2020 Volume 2 Issue

Mountaineer Challenge Academy Welcomes 55th Class





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CADET TO CADEE



Nathan Poling graduated from the Mountaineer Challenge Academy's second class in 1999 with 87 other cadets.

As a cadet, Mr. Poling said he kept to himself until he had a feel for the program and the environment. In time, friends were made and he joined the basketball team to stay out of trouble and gave him something to be a part of.

After graduation, he worked construction for a while and, leaving work one day, made the decision to join the United States Marine Corp where he served as an Infantry Machine Gunner for a number of years.

In 2016, Mr. Poling returned to MCA as a cadre. "Having once been a cadet with an understanding of the program and my prior military experience, I felt it would be a good fit for me. The program helped me a lot and I felt I could give back helping young men and women."

When asked how his time at MCA impacted his life, he answered "The Mountaineer Challenge Academy gave me structure and discipline in my life which, in turn, helped me with my military career. I truly believe that if you put your mind on something and want it bad enough for yourself, you can accomplish anything no matter how difficult it may be."



MCA South



MCA South, located in Montgomery, WV, will be welcoming its first class in October of 2020.

Paul Perdue, Director of MCA South had this to say regarding the impending opening - "It is a blessing to find a career that is as challenging as it is rewarding. The staff of MCA South is overly excited to welcome its first class on October 11, 2020. We are equally excited about our new partnerships with the cities of Montgomery and Smithers and the positive impact the academy will have on their communities. We are very thankful for all of the guidance and assistance we continue to receive from our counterparts at Camp Dawson. We hope to continue their tradition of changing lives and providing quality education

while providing exceptional internal and customer service."

MCA South is the second Youth Challenge Academy in West Virginia. The original Mountaineer Challenge Academy opened it's doors in 1993. The Mountaineer Job Challenge Program opened in 2019 and is for graduates (ages 17.5 to 20) of either Mountaineer Challenge Academy.

THE ROAD to success

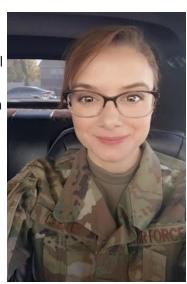


Clinton Hannah (Class 1-2000)

Wow, It's really been 20 years since I was at Camp Dawson. I often think about my time there and how it was one of the hardest and most worthwhile things I had done with my youth. I am currently living in Port Canaveral Florida with my beautiful wife and 2 year old daughter. We love the coastal lifestyle and get to see rocket launches from Kennedy Space Center from our backyard. I manage a law enforcement firearms distributor and in my free time I also do firearms instructions for mostly new firearms owners and their families. We enjoy everything nature has to offer like hunting, fishing and camping. If it wasn't for the lessons taught to me by the MCA, I surely wouldn't have had the self discipline to achieve my goals today.

Geneva (Milhoan) Carter (Class 1 –2001)

I am a proud graduate of the MCA; Class 1-2001. A year after I graduated I joined the Air Force. I have been all over the world. I have visited hundreds of places from Alaska to U.A.E. and I've lived all over. From Okinawa Japan to Adana Turkey. I recently returned to the US and now am stationed in Utah. I owe all that I've accomplished to the Challenge Academy. I was going down a bad road and could clearly see that my future was in jeopardy. I made the decision to go to the MCA knowing that it would help me get back on track, but not knowing the immense life- long impact it would have. The skills and self-confidence I obtained has fueled my motivation to achieve. I just want to say thank you.



Want to be featured in our next Alumni newsletter? Contact Roxanne Bright (roxanne.l.bright@wv.gov) and let her know what you've been up to since you left MCA. We love to hear how well our graduates are doing!



Our cadets say that the food at MCA is one of their **favorite** things here. Here is one of their favorite recipes, straight from the DFAC!

Baked Maple Chicken

- 1 ½ pounds of Chicken Breast(Approximately 4 chicken breasts)
- 4 TBSP Yellow Mustard
- 4 TBSP Maple Syrup
- 1 TBSP Apple Cider Vinegar
- 2 tsp Fresh Rosemary
- Mix the wet ingredients together.
- Place the chicken in a 9x13 baking dish and season with salt and pepper and rosemary.
- Pour sauce over chicken and bake at 425 for 10 minutes.
- Reduce the oven temperature to 400 and bake for an additional 20 minutes or until the internal temperature reaches 165F.



Interested in mentoring future cadets? If you live in West Virginia and are at least 25 years old you could qualify. Contact the RPM Office at the Mountaineer Challenge Academy at 304.791.7387 for more information.



Have you ever considered a career with the Mountaineer Challenge Academy?

MCA North is currently hiring cadre. MCA South is hiring for several positions.

You can check out the employment page on the MCA web page and fill out the WV Military Authority application.

If you have any questions, you can contact HR Belinda Sharp at 304.791.7907.