



National Guard Youth Challenge

July 6, 2006

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Thunderbird Youth Academy—Dream, Believe, Achieve

Graduation for Cycle 26 ,2005-02

Thunderbird Youth Academy graduation ceremony for class 2005-02, cycle 26 was held at the Burdick Center on June 17, 2006. Proud families, mentors and friends watched as 112 cadets received their certificate of completion.

Thank you mentors for your support and dedication throughout the Residential phase!

Mentors, remember that the Post Residential phase is very important!! Make sure to turn in your mentor monthly reports to your Regional Coordinators and keep up your contacts with your graduate!!!

Upcoming mentor events:

Cycle 27 will begin July 17, 2006

All dates are tentative:

Mentor Training

Sept. 9 - Pryor

Sept. 16 - Oklahoma City

Sept. 23 - Pryor

Passes

Sept. 1-5 - Home pass

Oct. 8 - Mentor pass

Nov. 12 - Mentor pass

Nov. 23-26 - Home pass

Dec. 3 - Mentor pass

Dec. 14 - Supper pass

Dec. 16 - Graduation

Make a Difference

Eager to help in every way,

Valuable for the role you play,

Exceptional in responding to needs,

Ready with all the right words and deeds,

You're dependable as you do your part,

Day in and day out with a giving heart.

Always there to show you care,

You've won our praise as a great

Volunteer!

Mentoring offers youth some hope in the form of successful and consistent role models. The act of consistently showing up is a great gift to a child who may lack a caring adult in his life.

Goals and activities are the heart of mentoring

Goal setting can be one of the most important parts of a mentoring relationship. Done in the right spirit, the process can help your cadet boost their self-confidence and make small but important steps toward their future aims. But goal setting can

be fraught with difficulty. Getting young people to look past the present and into future can be harder than trying to coax an elephant through a china shop. One key ingredient in helping your youth set goals/objectives is using "active listening". Many

times, mentors can help encourage goal setting by showing rather than telling. Ultimately the goal of mentoring is to guide a person toward making his or her own decisions. Mentees who learn how to establish & achieve goals go on to pass that skill.

Thunderbird Youth
Academy—Dream, Believe, Achieve
417 South Elliott
Pryor, Oklahoma 74361
Phone: 918-824-4850
fax: 918-824-4858
<http://www.ngycp.org/ok>

National Guard Youth Challenge

Education, Discipline, Leadership, Honor
Know of a youth age 16—18 that wants to change
their life forever? Thunderbird Youth Academy
is the place to start. Program is free!!! Classes
start in January and July.

Tours every Thursday at 10:00 A.M.

Mentors....check out the bulletin board on our
website! Mentors can post their questions, share
information or share their success stories with
each other. This is a great way for mentors to
support one another!!

<http://www.ngycp.org/ok>



Navigating through Rough Spots

Volunteers/Mentors have many reasons for dropping out of a mentoring program. For instance, volunteers/mentors may:

- Fear that they are being ineffective and do not want to risk failure;
- Perceive that their mentee show a lack of effort or appreciation;
- Find that the personal investment required to work with “at risk” youth exceeds their expectations;
- Feel burdened by their youths’ issues and not aware of the resources available to them through services in their community or through the mentoring program that matched them.
- Feel overwhelmed by the difficult

circumstances or neediness of their mentee.

When relationships don’t thrive, the mentee can suffer negative effects.

Data shows that youth whose matches were terminated within the first six months suffered larger drops of feelings of self-worth.

Youth who were in matches that lasted more than 12 months reported significantly higher levels of self-worth, social acceptance and scholastic competence. They also reported that their relationship with their parents had improved, school had become more rewarding and their drug and alcohol use had declined!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your graduate or your mentoring relationship, please contact your Regional Coordinator ASAP.