



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MICHIGAN YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY  
5500 ARMSTRONG ROAD, BUILDING 13  
BATTLE CREEK, MI 49016-1099  
[www.NGYCP.org/mi](http://www.NGYCP.org/mi)  
1-800-372-0523

14 July 2008

SUBJECT: Pre-Challenge Completion Ceremony and Parent Visitation

To the Parents of Class 19:

Unless you have heard otherwise from the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy, your son or daughter will complete the first phase of the Academy's program, Pre-Challenge, a rigorous two-weeks designed to give them the discipline, structure and routine that will sustain them during the equally as rigorous twenty-week-long Challenge Phase. To honor their hard work, a Pre-Challenge Completion Ceremony will take place on 20 July, 2008.

It is extremely important that you attend this event. Your youth have worked hard enduring some very harsh weather and living conditions to begin to change the direction of their life. Seeing you at the Ceremony and being able to visit with you following it is something each of them have thought and thought about during the past two weeks. Please don't disappoint them.

Here's the schedule for Sunday, 20 July:

- ✓ **1100 AM**—The doors to the Theater (Building 138) on the campus of the VA Medical Center, Battle Creek, Michigan will open. Parents, Step Parents, Grandparents (Maternal and Paternal), Mentors and Mentor spouses are the only authorized visitors unless previously approved by the Commandant of Cadets.
- ✓ **1130 AM**—A parent brief and Question and Answer session will begin
- ✓ **1300 PM**—Pre-Challenge Completion Ceremony takes place (Keynote Speaker: Commissioner Greg Moore, Battle Creek)
- ✓ **1400-1600 (2:00 to 4:00PM)**—Parent, Grandparent and Mentor Visitation. You will be required to present picture ID in order to be admitted to the Visitation.

As with most things that happen here at the Academy, there are some rules that must apply. Here are the rules that Parents, Grandparents and Mentors must comply with:

- ✓ No food or drink will be permitted to be brought into the visitation hall. Your youth have become accustomed to our feeding schedule and our food. We don't want that upset at this point in their training. At later visitations we will permit you to bring their favorite foods.
- ✓ The PTSA will sell bottled water (\$1.00 per bottle) with proceeds of these sales going to the PTSA. The PTSA will also have MYCA logo items for sale. Cadets **will not** be permitted to keep these items at the Academy with them. What ever you might buy for them, must go home with you.
- ✓ Do not bring anything with you for your cadet except medications that might need replenishing. Phone cards will not be needed for a few more weeks and may be mailed to your youth. Pictures are not yet permitted. Cadets will be provided with writing material for letters home. Stamps, like phone cards, should be mailed to your cadet.
- ✓ Cadets are not permitted to use cell phones at any time during visitation. Please don't put your cadet at risk of consequences, even if they should ask you to use your cell phone.
- ✓ Please visit with your son or daughter only in the visitation area. Cadets must remain within the eyesight of cadre.
- ✓ If you must smoke, please don't do it in the presence of any cadet. The VA Medical Center is a smoke-free facility, so you must go outside to smoke.
- ✓ Watch your speed while on the VA grounds. The speed limit on the entire campus is 20 MPH and it is **strictly** enforced.

We look forward to seeing you on the 20 July. You may call or, preferably, email questions, but please don't call or email wanting exceptions to who may visit, unless it is an extreme circumstance. My telephone number is 269 968-1048. 1SG Forcia may be reached at 269 968-1006. My email address is [wemlingerj@michigan.gov](mailto:wemlingerj@michigan.gov). ISG Forcia's email is [forcial@michigan.gov](mailto:forcial@michigan.gov).

Sincerely,

John V. Wemlinger  
Colonel, US Army (Retired)  
Commandant of Cadets MYCA