



## State of Wyoming Military Department Office of the Adjutant General

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### For immediate release

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## Wyo. Youth ChalleNGe class begins July 10

CAMP GUERNSEY, Wyo. – The Wyoming National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program, designed to help high school dropouts earn a GED, or complete their high school education, begins its next class July 10, at the program's facility, at the Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center.

The new class of cadets will spend 5 1/2 months at the Youth ChalleNGe residence program, learning life skills and educational components critical to passing the GED exam and starting a new life. Core components of the program include academics, citizenship, life-coping skills, civic service, leadership and physical fitness.

Through a partnership with the Wyoming Virtual Academy, in Niobrara County School District 1, some of the cadets may continue earning high school credits to complete their diploma.

Another partnership with Eastern Wyoming Community College, in Torrington, will allow some cadets to earn college credits while at Wyoming Youth ChalleNGe. Those cadets must demonstrate maturity and pass the GED exam early.

"This is an opportunity for Wyoming's youth to have a second chance to get their lives on track," said Don Smith, Wyoming National Guard Youth ChalleNGe director. "We've placed our graduates in colleges, and in jobs. Those graduates are also paired with mentors who help them navigate through society."

Applications for the Youth ChalleNGe class are still being accepted. Cadets must be between 16-18 years old, and cannot be on probation or ordered to attend by the court. All cadets enter Youth ChalleNGe voluntarily and can leave the program at any time.

For information about the Wyoming Youth ChalleNGe Program, cadet applications, or information on becoming a mentor, visit the Web site at <http://www.ngycp.org/state/wy> or call the program at 307-836-7500.

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Media planning on covering the program through the next five months, should contact the Wyoming National Guard public affairs office at 307-772-5040 to gain entry to the Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center.