

# SEEKING MENTORS

*Change the world; influence a life one youth a time!*



## Be a Mentor for Someone Special Make a Difference in a Youth's Life

Youth ChalleNGe Class 57 \* Oct 2021 – Mar 2022



The Youth ChalleNGe program provides a second-chance opportunity to Delaware at-risk youth. Now entering its 5<sup>th</sup> session partnered with the Capital Guardian Youth Challenge Academy, the DNG program has been able to successfully assist and graduate 61 Cadets from Delaware. Our Cadets have moved on to pursue higher education, seek employment, and some have joined the military. Mentor/Mentee relationships are key to supporting the Cadet's success.



A Mentor is a person or friend who guides a less experienced person by building trust and modeling positive behaviors. A mentor should be able to invest in the life of a Cadet and provide, personal, education, and career guidance following graduation.

### Who can be a Mentor?

- Must be same sex as cadet being mentored
- Must be at least 21 years old
- Must consent to a criminal background check
- Can commit to volunteer their time for the youth in the program over the 17 ½ months of the program.

### Expectations of a Mentor include:

- Complete Mentor training to prepare for the role (provided online)
- Begin building a relationship with the Cadet by writing weekly and providing encouragement during the 5 ½ months of residential phase. Participate in at least 1 (one) onsite visit
- Continue the Mentor/Mentee relationship through visits, email or email and telephone during the 12 months post residential phase
- Provide guidance for social development and achievement for the Cadet's goal and objectives, after graduation.
- Submit a monthly progress report to the Academy's assigned staff monthly for 12 months post residential phase.
- Undergo a criminal background check conducted by the District of Columbia.



## Take the First Step to Become a Mentor – submit your Mentor Application!

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM:** The Delaware National Guard, Delaware Department of Education, and the Capital Guardian Youth ChalleNGe Academy have joined to provide Delaware youth, ages 16-18, with opportunities for personal growth, self-improvement, and academic achievement. The National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe program is for high school dropouts, those no longer attending, and those failing in high school. The Youth ChalleNGe program is a highly structured military styled, non-traditional educational environment that integrates training, mentoring, tough love, and diverse educational and extracurricular activities. The Youth ChalleNGe Academy is a 17-1/2 month program that offers at-risk youth the opportunity to get a GED after a 22-week in-resident program located in Laurel, MD. This program is an excellent opportunity for students that cannot conform to a traditional learning environment and are willing to learn but need discipline.

**For more information or to obtain a Mentor Application , please contact:**

**Karen Hughes**

Youth ChalleNGe Counselor Liaison

302-326-7102 OFFICE

karen.m.hughes18.nfg@mail.mil



NOTE: The Adjutant General has approved up to three days cumulative time for DNG technicians providing direct support to the Youth ChalleNGe program in a Mentor role. DNG Technicians should contact Ms. Hughes for further direction from HRO. This is subject to supervisor concurrence of the employee's participation. HRO Contact is Lt Col Dave Rice.

NOTE: The Adjutant General has approved up to three days cumulative time for DNG technicians providing direct support to the Youth Challenge program in a Mentor role. DNG Technicians should contact Ms. Hughes for further direction from HRO. This is subject to supervisor concurrence of the employee's participation. HRO Contact is Lt Col Dave Rice.