



Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
(DMVA)



# Overview

## Alaska Military Youth Academy



Presentation to the MVA Special Committee  
March 21, 2023  
Director David McPhetres



# Alaska Military Youth Academy



## Mission Statement

Help meet the life coping skills and educational needs of 16-18 year old Alaskans who are at risk of not completing their secondary education, and to provide them with the values, skills, education and self-discipline to succeed as adults.

A 17 ½ month residential and non-residential quasi-military educational program for young men and women who have not received a high school credential.

Operates as a non-combatant entity under the National Guard with oversight by the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)(Reserve Integration) (OASD)(RA).



- Return on Investment of \$2.66 for every dollar expended on the program
- There are 40 ChalleNGe sites in 31 States, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia that serve ~10,000 teens per year
- Largest Mentoring program in the State of Alaska – opportunity for uniformed personnel to be mentors
- 6,480 Graduates from AMYA since 1994
- 2561 GEDs and 422 HS Diplomas since 2005





# Alaska Military Youth Academy



## Program Funding and Budget

- Cooperative Agreement
  - Between the National Guard Bureau and State of Alaska
- 75% Federal Reimbursement and 25% State Match
  - Personal Services – Reimbursed up to assigned General Schedule (GS) Maximum for each position and for Allowable Benefits
  - Reimbursement for Authorized Cost or Activities Subject to Cooperative Agreement
- General Funds
  - Personal Services – Salary for employees that go over GS Maximum and State of Alaska specific benefits
  - Provide for cost or activities not reimbursable or go over authorized cost limitations
- SFY23 Annual Cost Per Cadet = \$46,879
  - Cadets spend avg. of 4,380 hours per cycle with AMYA. (2 cycles a year)
  - \$46,879 divided by 4,380 hours = **\$5.35 per hour per cadet**
- AMYA is a tuition free 24hr operation that provides clothing, bedding, hygiene supplies, school supplies, food, and activity costs





# Alaska Military Youth Academy



## Graduate Stories

ALASKA MILITARY YOUTH ACADEMY

### GRADUATE/STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**BRIAN HOPPER,  
GRADUATE 2021-1 & AMYA RETENTION SPECIALIST (RS)**

Per Platoon Leader Gomez, "He has been of the most respectful RS we have had work for us. He always asked questions when unsure, extremely responsible, and kind. He has treated cadets with such respect but, always used his values before making decisions. He was always on time, unless we had prior heads up.

Communication skills are very mature and trust worthy, great at giving me a heads up on scheduling issues, etc. He is such a wonderful kid, it was a pleasure to have [him as] part of our team. He should be recognize[d] for setting such a high standard for how RS's should act and behave. I am so proud of him."

Hopper is headed to USAF Basic Training this week.

ALASKA MILITARY YOUTH ACADEMY

### GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT



**SAGEN COTTRELL  
2020-1 GRADUATE, 3RD PLT.**

Sagen Cottrell chose to attend AMYA because he needed help and structure. He says, "AMYA had given me just that and I am proof the program is successful."

Graduate Cottrell believes the most rewarding part about attending AMYA was being able to make a positive change in his life and being committed to turning his life around and bettering himself. His advice for anyone thinking about attending is, "Don't quit, it is called Challenge for a reason." Since graduating, Sagen gained full-time employment at Matanuska Brewing Company as a front line cook and has his own place. Graduate Cottrell has been invited and will be attending future monthly zoom meetings with AMYA Staff, Mr. Darren Smith, as part of the Youth Action Board (YAB), a section of My House in Wasilla.



# Alaska Military Youth Academy



## Graduate Stories

ALASKA MILITARY YOUTH ACADEMY

### GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT



**LENA (ILLIG) ALLEN,  
GRADUATE 2010-1**

"I am attending the University of San Diego for my Masters in Cyber Security and Operational Leadership. This scholarship is very helpful to me - because like millions of others, I really struggled during the COVID-19 shut down. I decided to enroll into Graduate School. With my experience in law enforcement and federal security - pursuing Cyber Security seems like a strategic move. The career growth for Cyber Security Analysts is going to grow 31% over the next ten years according to the Department of Labor. As a Military Spouse - this is a career that I am able to bring with me. I am thankful for the Alaska Military Youth Academy investing in my educational growth by awarding a scholarship to further my education."

ALASKA MILITARY YOUTH ACADEMY

### GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT



**LINDSEY SORENSEN,  
PROUD GRADUATE 2018-2**

"Since graduating the 2018-2 Alaska Military Youth Academy, I completed my goals to graduate Bartlett High School a year ahead of schedule, continue to work in the Fur Rondy community as the Assistant Operations Manager, be accepted into the Culinary Arts program as a full-time college student at UAA, and then eventually start working as a Baker/Breakfast cook on the north slope of Alaska. I'm now set to finish my degree at Trident Technical University in South Carolina. AMYA has given me so many opportunities to accelerate into the next steps of my life in order to improve my future. Keeping myself accountable for the goals I set, is what keeps me striving to do better."



# Physical Fitness





# Academic Excellence





# Job Skills



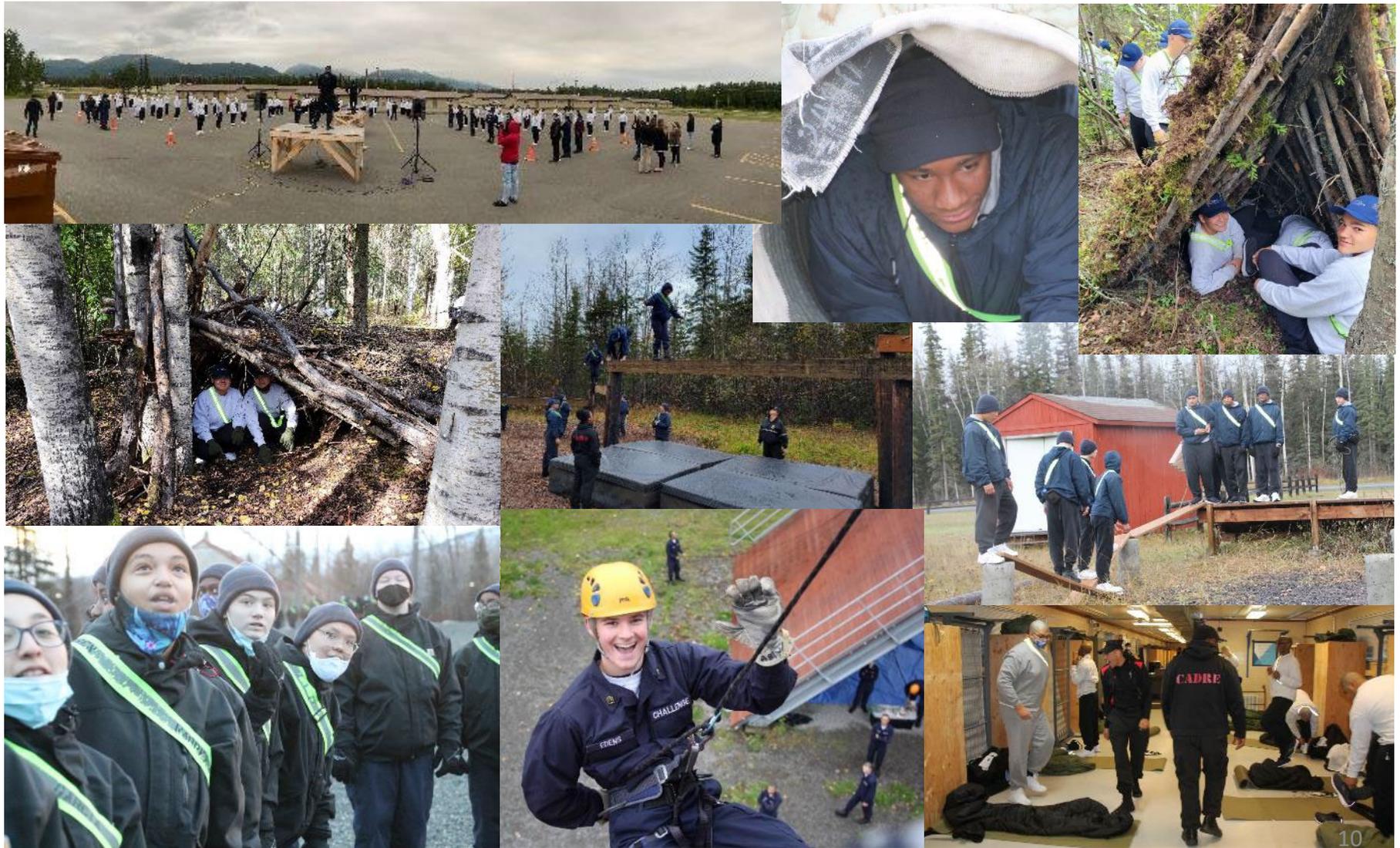


# Responsible Citizenship





# Life Coping Skills





# Service to Community



40+ hours per Cadet

Hours since 1994:

**160,358.4**

Value to the Community:

**\$4,263,285.80**





# Health and Hygiene





# Leadership/Followership





# Before Graduation



- Build Post-Residential Action Plan
- Verify placement
- Reporting requirement
- Opportunity to apply for scholarships



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