



# The Daily Challenge

Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program

One fine and long awaited September morning, a long line of emotional parents sat in their cars, waiting in a very long line to reach the parking lot. A few took the 'initiative' and actually leaped out of the cars and ran to the building to get in line before the rest. They tried in vain to prepare themselves emotionally for the initial meeting.

For many cadets, feeling the embrace of a mother's arms for the first time in months made them want to burst into tears; others felt a surge of pride as the weeping mother and smiling father said how proud they were. But the majority of us were happy to be free, finally able to act as we wish; 'On our own programs', as the Cadre would say.

During the four short days we were away from OYCP, many of us quickly became accustomed to living like a civilian: hanging out with our significant other, 'chilling out', playing video-games, watching football, and other typical teenage activities. So why in the world would any of us want to come back to live in this little ice-box in the desert? Especially when things seem their brightest or at least brighter than when we left it last. For many this was a difficult question and others not so much. Some didn't know what to do with their day not being structured and felt out of place waking up on their own versus the typical teenager who enjoyed the sleep-in-time. We asked several cadets why they returned from first break...

## Why We Came Back

By: Cadet Randall and Cadet Hampton



Cadet Golladay



Cadet Pelham



Cadet Coats



Cadet Smith

Hahn - Because I want to get my high school diploma, and get on with my life.

Golladay -I don't want to be into drugs anymore and I missed the structure.

Timmins - Over break I felt ready to come back I got back into bad habits.

Coats - I want to get the credits necessary to graduate from high school.

Smith - Because this is my last chance to graduate.

Gonzalez, J - I felt out of place at home, not having the structure was awkward for me.

Reyes- I got back into old habits and wanted to come back because I'm doing very well in the program.

Hampton - I could not deal with the look on my parent's faces if I told them I quit.

Each cadet had their reasons for not wanting to come back. Often it was the last chance at a diploma or a GED, necessities for any individual to make it somewhere in the outside world. Other, more 'good to go' cadets, simply wanted to push themselves and do the best they could in one of the nation's hardest but finest programs. In the end, every cadet had these two things in common: each cadet enjoyed the time they spent away, and all those who wanted to come back are here to make themselves better adults.

# Diploma

By: Cadet Kaiser



I am here at YCP, trying to get my diploma  
 Before this program I did a lot of drugs that could have put me in a coma  
 Skipping classes, hand on bong  
 During night, blunt in mouth and beer pong  
 I developed quite a bond with the psychedelics I did for so long  
 Dropping hits of LSD, chewing up mushies,  
 Hallucinating and lighting trees  
 Popping valiums, snorting vic's, when my body was feeling tight  
 My mind loosens up, I feel alright  
 Until I pass out in the night  
 Next morning wake up fiending hard  
 For pills and acid and weed cigars  
 Money spent I can't get more  
 Is all this stuff just a lure?  
 Maybe, but it's hard to be sure  
 Dropping out was a big mistake, the biggest one I ever made  
 It changed my fate and brought me disgrace  
 But now I'm here, my mind and urine clear  
 That high school diploma very near  
 No more thieving, no more grief  
 I can get through all this stuff, now I do believe  
 I'll keep a job and buy a car  
 I've pulled my hand up out of the jar  
 And trust me, I will go far.



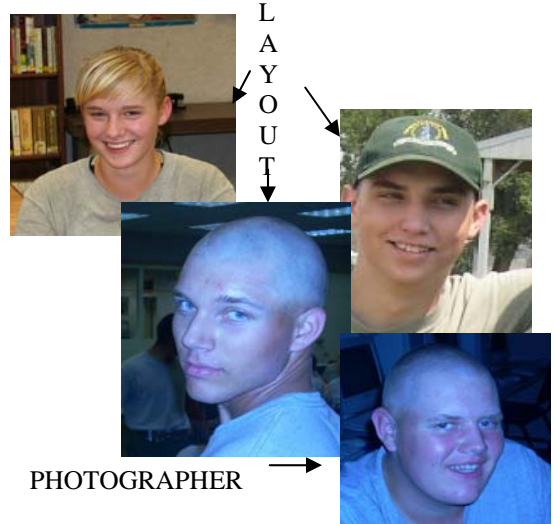
Author Cadet Kaiser



Life is a climb

Layout: Cadet Golladay, Cadet Smith J, Cadet Coats

Photography: Cadet Carlile





# *The More Things Change*

By: Cadet Hahn



On the morning of September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009, as 135 cadets left for first break, the company of OYCP experienced culture shock. As we heard our names called one by one to the drill floor we re-entered the world we once knew so well. The further we drove from OYCP, the more we were reunited with reality. For some reason so many of us expected important people in our lives to have changed, only to learn that expectation is not always reality.

Many cadets were disappointed with the truth; no one had changed and everything's the same. As we slowly accepted this, we started to recognize how we have changed. How the small changes are becoming the foundation of our big change; simple respect, integrity, composure and maybe a new outlook on life. Along with this new outlook you may have noticed other peoples' lives. For instance, what road, whether it is the right one or the wrong one, they are following every day of their lives. You notice that the small mistakes you made to get to OYCP other people are making every day.

Over break I realized all the small things that added up in my life turned out to be huge, so entirely huge that my life exploded before my eyes. My actions left me stuck in a black hole. I no longer had any resources, no relationship with my family; none of them trusted me but most of all I didn't trust myself. What led me to this extreme? It was the small things, letting myself slip slowly from the standards I once held myself to. On my way back to OYCP this is what was going through my head. It motivated me to be here. There is no other place that could possibly save me as much as OYCP has already.

So if this is the best place for me, how could I expect other people to change if I couldn't have possibly changed without OYCP? Here's the thing; we are changing and improving more than anyone in the world right now. Appreciate it and notice that you have been blessed. Share it with family or friends who are important in your life. When you have graduated a changed person, help the people in your life to change because you can't expect them to change without any help.



Author Cadet Hahn

# Staff Bio's



By: Cadet Jones



Mr. Lowy

What subject do you teach?

*Social Studies, English, Math, Newsletter.*

How long did have you taught?

*I have been teaching for 10 years.*

Why did you choose to work at OYCP?

*I like working with in-need teens.*

How long have you worked here?

*I have worked at OYCP for 4 years*

Do you have a philosophy? If so, what is it?

*Life is like a skateboard, and we are but the ball bearings of its existence.*

If you weren't working here what else would you rather do?

*I would like to be the CEO of Dreamworks*

What is the craziest thing you've seen a cadet do?

*A cadet once tried to run from the program. Bare-foot....In his underwear.*

Do you have a quote or motto? If so, what is it?

*"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it" Ferris Bueller*

Is there any advice you have for the cadets or anything you want them to know?

*Don't sweat the small stuff. It's all small stuff. Also, remember to always look on the bright side of life.*

Why did you decide to teach?

*As I am omniscient I felt it was important to share my huge accumulation of knowledge with those not as wise as I am. Also, there is not money in jell-o wrestling.*



Mr. DuPont

What branch of the military were you in?

*US Army*

How long did you serve?

*8 Years 29 days*

How long have you worked here?

*15 years*

Do you have a philosophy? If so, what is it?

*It's about how you use the time and how much effort you put into it.*

If you weren't working here what else would you rather do?

*Spend time with my family*

Do you have a quote or motto? If so, what is it?

*Knowledge is power, power is victory, victory takes effort and effort is the game; Ya want to play?*

What you wanted to be growing up?

*A teacher.*

Is there any advice you have for the cadets or anything you want them to know?

*Give 100% at all times; it's worth it.*

Who's your hero/mentor?

*My family.*

How old are you?

*40 years*



# *Practice Pain Perfection*

By: Cadet Harding



Drill team is the best of the best in the school of hard knocks. Practice, early to chow, finish as fast as we can. Excitement to get to the drill floor is barely held under the surface. From the moment you touch the rifle until the moment your last finger leaves it laying in the cradle, we are practicing. Most of us don't know it but we are. If you start off by moving your rifle sloppy, you are going to practice sloppy. If you lay your rifle in its cradle sloppy, then you are reinforcing that it is ok to move sloppy when you are tired.

We live by the idea that, "You practice like you fight." We practice by two philosophies, muscle memory and negative reinforcement. Every day we practice the same basic movements over and over so we keep them looking sharp. We use negative reinforcement in that if we fail to meet the standard we start pushing. You miss a movement, push. Move lazy or sloppy, push. Have a P/N pulled, or your locker looks sloppy, you push. This teaches us that mistakes are not acceptable. We are the drill team; we need to be tight and we need to be on point.

Pain is a two way street. If you work hard you are probably going to hurt. If you work as hard as you can you will definitely hurt; but you are going to be successful. When you give it your all, you are going to work your muscles hard, bang up your body and beat up your mind. All of these things are making us sharper. On the other side of the street, you feel pain when you are lazy. If you think about it most of the mistakes we make here are because we are being lazy. If you're area of operation (A.O.) is messed up, you didn't push your self to make your gear as nice as you can make it. You miss time lines, more likely than not, because you weren't moving as fast as you could. When we do these things, we pay in sweat. This pain is a good thing; it teaches you to hold yourself to a higher standard.

Everyone knows true perfection is unattainable. Most people keep this in mind and simply never try. This is what sets the drill team apart. We aren't afraid to reach for the stars. We have no problems pushing ourselves to be the best we can be. That is what makes you the perfect you. The only thing stopping us from perfection is ourselves. If we stop pushing ourselves we stop reaching for perfection.

To make a drill team a team, we need to learn to work with each other and hold each other accountable. When we pay for the week's mistakes, a lot of us, myself included, think "I haven't been in trouble why do I have to pay?" But if we don't hold each other accountable we are just as much at fault for being out of line. So we have to help each other out, hold each other up and keep each other strong. Everyone in your platoon is family, but even more so in our drill platoon. We are held to a higher standard than the rest of the company. They never will understand our standards. So we have to stay focused always on practice, pain, and perfection.





# Famous Cadre Quotes, My Life at O. Y. C. P.



By: Cadet Stillman

By: Cadet Coats

Published by Cadet Bray

Famous Cadre Quotes  
Who said what?  
Match the quote to the Cadre  
(Some cadre have more than one quote)

1. "Hey this aint Olive Garden, dipping your bread in your soup, just eat it." \_\_\_\_\_
2. "If you're not talking about schoolwork, be quiet. If you are talking about schoolwork, be quiet." \_\_\_\_\_
3. "Fix your hat yahoo; you're not playing center field." \_\_\_\_\_
4. "Hurry.....up." \_\_\_\_\_
5. "Y'all better start moving with some speed and intensity!" \_\_\_\_\_
6. "Just get that chow down, you'll belch and taste it later." \_\_\_\_\_
7. "Sir yes sir, say it!" \_\_\_\_\_
8. "Turn on my vacuums." \_\_\_\_\_
9. "Sorry Dorothy we aint in Kansas anymore." \_\_\_\_\_
10. "Blah blah blah I never said talk." \_\_\_\_\_
11. "Ahhhhh get back!" \_\_\_\_\_
12. "I will light you up like a Christmas tree on Christmas Eve." \_\_\_\_\_
13. "Boy, get on yo face." \_\_\_\_\_
14. "That's the cutest little 45 I've ever seen." \_\_\_\_\_
15. "You guys are lost in the sauce." \_\_\_\_\_
16. "You guys are a bunch of turkeys; every day is a new day." \_\_\_\_\_
17. "Ooooh here we go." \_\_\_\_\_
18. "Get your beady eyeballs off me." \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Mr. Walz.
- B. Mr. Cantrell
- C. C. Mr. Olsen
- D. Mr. DuPont
- E. Mr. Wunder
- F. Mr. Zubrick
- G. Mr. Demarr
- H. Mr. Bartness
- I. Mr. Jurich
- J. Mr. Vargas

- 18: Mr. Cantrell
- 17: Mr. Bartness
- 16: Mr. Walz
- 15: Mr. Vargas
- 14: Mr. Walz
- 13: Mr. Demarr
- 12: Mr. DuPont
- 11: Mr. Zubrick
- 10: Mr. Jurek
- 9: Mr. Demarr
- 8: Mr. Cantrell
- 7: Mr. Bartness
- 6: Mr. Wunder
- 5: Mr. Zubrick
- 4: Mr. Jurek
- 3: Mr. DuPont
- 2: Mr. Olsen
- 1: Mr. Demarr

My will is like an army in an on-going war,  
Constantly being battered and broken down,  
Yet, continuously being reinforced.

That reinforcement is fueled by rage, anger and hatred.

Rage at my fellow cadets for not trying they're best,

Anger at the world for putting all the distractions,  
And bad decisions in my path that led me to where I  
Am now,

Hatred in its purest form,  
At myself for allowing myself to be distracted,  
And making those decisions.

Hope is the strongest fuel of all,  
Hope that this war is not futile,  
Hope that I will win this war.  
I will not lose as long as I have something to hope  
For.

Hope will continue to bolster my will,  
So that I may keep going.  
Hope will always be there.

I might not be able to see it,  
It might not always be clear,  
But it's always there,  
Like the light at the end of a tunnel.

It will always be ready to douse the things that will  
Bring me down,  
Like water to a flame.

**"Hope will always shine through the darkest abyss  
to lead you to the most impossible goals."  
-Cadet Coats**



# Wake Up Call

By: Cadet Gonzalez-Ramirez



Have you ever wondered why people act the way they do? Is it because they want to blend in or maybe because they don't have any friends and are afraid of being alone? Ask yourself this question, before coming to Youth Challenge: How did you act? People often do things that are unusual from them just so they can fit in or be called, "Cool."

During first break, I realized all the people I used to hang out with were acting different. They were immature, disrespectful and all had a childish attitude. I wondered, "What was happening to my friends?" Did they change the way they act or have they always acted like this? Did I just not notice it in the past? I started to think about their actions and noticed that the way they were behaving had not changed. I was the one who had changed. I didn't believe that changes could happen this fast.

Now, I realize that change can come very quickly. I used to be one of those immature and childish acting kids; the type of kid that doesn't care about their own actions. The type of kid that disrespected anyone that got in their way. I was acting that way to fit in and to make friends. I didn't want to be the one left behind. I choose to act a certain way, to be labeled, "cool or popular." Deep down inside, every person has their own personality. Something that they're afraid to show because they don't want to be the weird one or the so called loser. People have many talents, but they are afraid to express them because of what their friends might think or say. So they decide to just throw their talents aside.

After attending OYCP for a while, I have come to realize that it is important to just be yourself. More kids should act the way they want to act and not let their friends control their actions and treat them like a puppet. If more of us were concerned with what we were doing, instead of what others thought about our actions, being a teenager would be much easier.

Going on first break was when I had my wake up call. I realized that acting immature doesn't get you anywhere in life. Why bother to keep acting immature? Let the real you show. Don't bother listening to what your friends have to say. If you don't change, then who's going to change you? Our lives keep moving forward and people in our lives may or may not change. It's up to you to change yourself, your attitude and your way of being. Learn to take a different path that leads you to a brighter future. I have changed my attitude while being here at OYCP. I am more confident about the things I do and about the things I say. I have started down the road less traveled and I am better for it. Won't you join me in my journey?

"Change the way you look at things and the things you look at will change."

-Wayne Dyer





# Devil's Walk

By: Cadet Moore

Don't walk down this path  
I beg of you please  
The devil's awful wrath  
Your soul for him to cease

Please don't take that drink  
Please don't take whatever  
All you'll do is sink  
From then and forever

In your own mind  
Is where it will begin  
Searching for things you cannot find  
It doesn't come from within

Don't look to your thoughts  
Don't look to your own means  
That's what the devil wants  
To steal all your dreams

# Without Warning

By: Cadet Murphy

People come in and out of your life  
Few make a true impact  
Some remembered, others forgotten  
Expected and unexpected  
For whatever reason

I miss seeing your face  
As I did every few days  
No one could ever take your place  
You've changed me in many ways

You left out of nowhere  
I had no time to prepare  
It still feels so unreal  
I don't think I'll ever heal

Live everyday as if it's your last  
I've learned that from you  
Watch out for me wherever you are  
I know you miss me too

Life will never be the same.

R.I.P Jeffrey T. Nelson

02-06-89  
05-26-09



## Yes!, I'd like to help Oregon Youth ChalleNGe through the Central Oregon Youth Investment



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through  
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- I'm interested in volunteer opportunities at OYCP
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- I'd like more information about OYCP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please detach this form and send it, along with your check in care of:*

Oregon Youth Challenge Program  
23861 Dodds Rd. Bend, OR 97701  
Phone: 541-317-9623



*OUR MISSION: Is to provide opportunities for personal growth, self improvement and academic achievement among Oregon high school drop outs, youth no longer attending and those failing in school, through a highly structured non-traditional environment; integrating training, mentoring and diverse educational activities.*