

## Who Should Apply\*?

Young men who...

- ⇒ Want to make a positive change in their life
- ⇒ Want to develop themselves physically & mentally
- ⇒ Want exposure to vocational skills
- ⇒ Want to be drug free
- ⇒ Are open to living away from home
- ⇒ Are looking to continue their education
- ⇒ Want to become a leader

\*Youths charged with minor offences can apply

## Application Requirements

- ⇒ Be Belizean
- ⇒ Be between 15 to 17\* years old
- ⇒ Be unemployed/Under-employed
- ⇒ Be out-of-school

\*Cannot be 18 by December



## Apply Today!

⇒ Deadline for applications is September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

⇒ Programme starts October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Application forms can be picked up at:

- ⇒ Ministry of Human Development offices country-wide
- ⇒ Community Rehabilitation Department
- ⇒ BDF Camps across the country
- ⇒ Dept. of Youth Services and Community Policing

Forms are also available online at:

- ⇒ [www.humandev.gov.bz/challenge](http://www.humandev.gov.bz/challenge)
- ⇒ [www.bdf.mil.bz](http://www.bdf.mil.bz)

Completed applications can be submitted in person at any Ministry of Human Development office or BDF Camp across the country.

Or by email to:

⇒ [challenge@humandev.gov.bz](mailto:challenge@humandev.gov.bz)

Applications must include “Belize Youth Challenge Application” on the envelope or in subject of the email.

⇒ Candidates who meet the criteria for enrolment will be contacted to attend an interview along with their parent/guardian.

## ***Belize Youth Challenge Programme***

Mile 21, George Price Highway  
Rockville, Belize District

Phone: 235-2429

E-mail: [challenge@humandev.gov.bz](mailto:challenge@humandev.gov.bz)



# The Belize Youth Challenge Programme



*Accept the Challenge... improve your life!*

## About Belize Youth Challenge

The Belize Youth Challenge Programme (BYC) is a two-year voluntary training programme for males aged 15-17 which seeks to provide them with the values, skills, education and self-discipline needed to succeed as adults.

In the residential phase of the programme, youths live on campus where they receive training in:

- ⇒ Life Skills
- ⇒ Academics (PSE classes, online high school)
- ⇒ Job Skills/Vocational Training
- ⇒ Cultural/Recreational classes
- ⇒ Leadership/Followership
- ⇒ Physical Fitness/Discipline
- ⇒ Health & Hygiene
- ⇒ Citizenship



Enrolled youths also access support from counsellors, social workers and mentors to boost their chances of successfully completing the program and becoming a respected and productive member of their community.

The Belize Youth Challenge Programme is a revision and upgrade of the National Youth Cadet Service Corps which began in 1999. The new programme is modelled off of a similarly successful training programme run by the Louisiana National Guard in the USA.

BYC is co-managed by the Belize Defence Force under the Ministry of Defence and the Community Rehabilitation Department within the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation.

## Residential Phase

The residential (on campus) phase of the Belize Youth Challenge has two “terms” and runs from October to June.

From October to December, the focus is on getting the youths used to their new surroundings and schedule, as well as the rules and expectations of the programme.

The term from January to June, focuses on creating the cadet’s life plan, job skills and preparing them for transition back to their communities.

### Programme Schedule

- ⇒ Pre-screening (2 weeks)— Interviews & assessments
- ⇒ Acclimation Period (3 weeks)— Getting used to life on campus; medical & education assessments.
- ⇒ Christmas Home Leave—Approx. 2 weeks
- ⇒ Weekend Home Pass— 2-day pass in 2nd term
- ⇒ Easter Home Leave—1 week
- ⇒ Family Day – On campus event in 1st & 2nd term
- ⇒ Passing Out (June)— Graduation ceremony for cadets who successfully complete the programme.

## Post-Residential Phase

Before graduating, the Cadet decides on goals they’d like to achieve (e.g. continue their education, get a job) and work along with a social worker to create a plan. Upon returning home, the Cadet will implement his plan with support from his family, mentor and social worker.

This phase lasts 12 months or longer, depending on the progress of the youth in fulfilling his plan.

## Mentorship



Mentorship is very important to the Belize Youth Challenge and begins at the start of the programme. The aim of mentorship is to help youths successfully implement their plans and achieve the productive citizenship goal of the program.

Mentors are expected to:

- ⇒ Guide and support youths throughout the programme
- ⇒ Be a positive influence and provide inspiration to the youth to instill in them a positive attitude
- ⇒ Maintain a one-on-one relationship to provide emotional support and advice
- ⇒ Help youths to gain the skills and confidence to deal with difficult situations & make responsible choices.

Mentors should be:

- ⇒ 25 years or older
- ⇒ Respected members of their community
- ⇒ Willing to share skills, knowledge & expertise
- ⇒ A positive role model
- ⇒ Trustworthy & honest
- ⇒ An excellent listener & communicator

Youths are asked to identify a mentor and have them fill out a mentorship application form. All mentors will be screened and approved before being accepted into the mentorship programme.

**Accept the Challenge!**

