

**National Guard to Recognize Youth Challenge Cadets' Effort  
with Helicopter Rides in Santa Fe  
*Media Invited to fly Along***

SANTA FE, N.M. – The New Mexico National Guard will host 64 Youth Challenge Cadets from the academy in Roswell, NM during a three-day event in Santa Fe, including physical training, tower rappelling, and the most exciting event for them – flights in our National Guard helicopters this Thursday.

It is our way of recognizing the cadets for their hard work in turning their lives around through this highly successful program. We invite you to fly with them on Thursday and hear their stories firsthand from them.

This is the 31st year of Youth Challenge across the country; around 21 years in NM. It is an alternative program, free of charge, which offers youth, who have dropped out of school or are not progressing, the opportunity to change their future. Participants looking for a way to succeed outside of a traditional school setting learn self-discipline, leadership, and responsibility while working to obtain their high school diploma or equivalency and receive some job training in a number of different skills.

It is a resident, quasi-military school-type program (with no obligation to join any branch of military service) at our campus in Roswell that instills discipline and hard work, producing graduates who have values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens.

We're proud of our cadets who've graduated in the past and gone on to earn their GED, their high school diploma, enroll in the New Mexico Military Institute and even join the military or move on to college. They were given one last chance to make a life for themselves, and thanks to Youth Challenge, they have.

In order to place you on the flight manifest, please RSVP to Mr. Iain Jaramillo no later than Noon, this Weds May 15<sup>th</sup> at (505) 503-9766 or email at [iain.a.jaramillo.civ@army.mil](mailto:iain.a.jaramillo.civ@army.mil)

Group 1 flights are from 8 am – Noon; Group 2 flights are from 1 pm – 4:30 pm.

Once you RSVP, Iain will provide you with directions to the flightline in Santa Fe and meet you there.

We hope you join us!

###

Mr. Hank Minitrez  
Public Affairs Director  
New Mexico National Guard  
Santa Fe, NM

Office: 505-407-3359  
Cell: 505-469-9563  
Email: [henry.c.minitrez.civ@army.mil](mailto:henry.c.minitrez.civ@army.mil)

Follow our Socials:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NewMexicoNationalGuard>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/newmexiconationalguard>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NMNationalGuard>

Air Guard Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/150SOW>

Air Guard Instagram: <https://instagram.com/150sow>

Air Guard Twitter: <https://twitter.com/150SOW>