

JROTC Raider Team competes at McCreary Rendezvous

Submitted by Jenny Taylor
37 members of Rockcastle County High School's JROTC Raider Team traveled to McCreary County for their annual Mountain Raider Rendezvous on Friday, October 3rd through Sunday, October 5th.

Competing were: Company Commander Jessica Tyndeman; Company Executive Officer Justin Richards; ISG Jessie McCollum, David Richardson, Chad Glovak, Andy Coffey, Chrystal Valeris, Josh Bell, Shane Foster, Sam Joaze, Chris Miller, James Adams, Michael Taylor, Larry Mink, Isaac Coffey, Dustin Egerson, Joe Alcorn, Stephen Long, Jesse Patterson, Russell Riddle, Matt Carter, Melissa Connor, Chris Winkler, Jacob Jones, Lakin Halcomb, Brandon Hellard, Jamie Cromer, Eric Howard, Brandon King, Chris Denny, Samantha Strigili, Jennifer Truitt, Maash, Bowling, Amanda Weaver, Vernon Denny, Thomas Amaril and Harry Hunsucker. Also attending were: Sgt. Major Keith Taylor, Sgt. First Class Keith Gravel, Mrs. Jenny Taylor and Derrick Hensley.

The parents, family members and friends of the cadets who came out to support the Rockcastle team on Saturday are very much appreciated.

The group left school Friday, October 3rd, anticipating cold weather for the weekend. Friday night was freezing but the rest of the weekend was beautiful. Upon arrival, the group immediately set up their pup tents and cook tent. Team captains were called to a briefing while the other cadets gathered plenty of firewood for the weekend.

Upon their return, three teams of eight were required to be at their first event, The Mystery Event. Each cadet had to run, jump and grab a rope as high as possible and varying their

bodies across a 10 foot trench, filled with freezing, muddy water for the best team time. All but two ended up in the water, so, immediately, they started their weekend with muddy, wet BDUs, most of which had to be dried around the campfire over makeshift clothes dryers (sticks). The teams also completed a map reading contest Friday evening before chow. Afterward, everyone grilled their own hotdogs for supper with all the extras.

The following morning began with a 5 a.m. wake-up. After breakfast, team leaders checked their members to ensure everyone had the required gear which included a full canteen.

The team marched off at 6:45 a.m. to the first event of the day, Cross Country Rescue, a grueling event that would test a grown man's physical endurance. But these cadets, ran, jumped and crawled under and over obstacles, all the while carrying a litter, a five-gallon water can and sand bags and ammo crates full of rocks. At no time can any item touch the ground, except while the team negotiates a 30-foot low crawl under wire in mud. The team must also negotiate a five-foot log wall. This event really pushes the team's endurance.

The next event was the one-rope bridge. Most of the team's training time has gone into perfecting the knots and teamwork necessary to be competitive in this event. On the signal from the judge, the team burst into frantic activity. This year's event was over a ten foot gully of muddy water.

Immediately following the one-rope bridge competition, the teams headed to chow then on to the obstacle course. Individual stations are a five-foot wall, a rolling log, a tunnel, two log jumps, island hopper,

another wall, rope climb, another tunnel, low crawl under wire, inverted wall, inverted balance beam, hand over hand across a pipe, an eight foot wall and rolling balance beams.

The next event was the Army Physical Fitness Test. This test measures strength, endurance and speed. Members perform the maximum amount of push-ups they can in two minutes, followed by the maximum number of sit-ups in two minutes, followed by a two-mile run. The team puts everything they have into this event. The last event consisted of three four man teams to run four miles cross-country. This was an extremely exhausting event but the Rockcastle teams did themselves proud.

Even though the Rockcastle team didn't win any trophies, they had a great weekend, followed by their annual stop at Cumberland Falls before returning home.



JROTC Raider Team at McCreary Co. Mountain Rendezvous



Cadet ISG Jesse McCollum



Chrystal Valeris on the Rope Bridge



Cadet Major Jessica Joorthman



Brandon Hellard on the wall at the Obstacle Course



Lakin Halcomb on the Obstacle Course



Shane Foster on Hand over Hand on the Obstacle Course



RCHS senior David Richardson on the Rope Bridge



Seniors Justin Richards and Chad Glovak going under the wire at the Cross-Country Rescue. Joe Alcorn is in the background.



Larry Mink on the Obstacle Course



A-Team on the Rope Bridge

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