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Junior ROTC Cadets test teamwork and endurance at the National Raider Challenge at Fort Knox, KY

By Ian Ives, U.S. Army Cadet Command

October 26, 2026- U.S. Army Cadet Command hosted the Junior ROTC National Raider Challenge at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Oct. 22-25, bringing in approximately 4,000 cadets from across the country to compete for national titles.

The event was created in 2023 to give cadets a centrally located premier competition. "[The challenge] is really good for leader[ship] development," said Aaron Hinkle, a cadet from Leavenworth High School in Leavenworth, Kansas. "[It] makes you responsible for other people. It lets you become the person you want to be. I believe that everyone who does [this] will end up becoming a better citizen for our country."

Throughout the competition, cadets negotiated obstacle courses, ran more than 3 miles, tested their knowledge gained through Junior ROTC and built a rope bridge in a timed event.

"I think that my team's commitment sets us apart," said Christian Smith, a cadet from Adairsville High School in Adairsville, Georgia. "We give

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up mornings, nights and weekends. We want to compete and you have to want 'it' if you want to win."

The competition is divided into three divisions — challenge, masters and all-service. The challenge division competed Oct. 23 and was comparable to junior varsity level high school sports. The masters division competed the next day and was the equivalent of the varsity level, filled with teams that had historically excelled at challenge events.

Competing alongside the masters division were Junior ROTC pro-

grams from the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, in the all-service division. The top five teams in each category — male, female and mixed — in the masters division and the top three in each all-service category qualified to compete in the ultimate challenge event. These 24 teams navigated a 4.2-mile cross-country course carrying 102 pounds of equipment through four obstacles. The results were then combined with each team's overall scores from the other events to create the final standings for the competition.

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Competition Results:

Masters Division Male

1st place: Adairsville High School

2nd place: Leavenworth High

School

3rd place: Benedictine Military School in Savannah, Georgia

Female

1st place: Northeast High School in St. Petersburg, Florida

2nd place: Leavenworth High School

3rd place: Etowah High School, Air Force Junior ROTC, in Woodstock, Georgia

Mixed

1st place: Walker High School, Marine Corps Junior ROTC, in Walker, Louisiana

2nd place: Newsome High School in Lithia, Florida

3rd place: Georgia Military College in Milledgeville, Georgia

All-Service Division Male

1st place: Glynn Academy, Marine Corps Junior ROTC, in Brunswick, Georgia

2nd place: Veterans High School, Air Force Junior ROTC, in Kathleen, Georgia

3rd place: Corbin High School in Corbin, Kentucky

Female

1st place: Veterans High School, Air Force Junior ROTC

2nd place: Hendersonville High School, Marine Corps Junior ROTC, in Hendersonville, Tennessee

3rd place: Blue Springs South

High School, Air Force Junior ROTC, in Blue Springs, Missouri

Mixed

1st place: Jefferson County High School in Dandridge, Tennessee

2nd place: Northshore High School in Slidell, Louisiana

3rd place: Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana

Challenge Division Male

1st place: Spring Hill High School in Columbia, Tennessee

2nd place: Hanford High School in Richland, Washington

3rd place: North Paulding High School in Dallas, Georgia

Female

1st place: Live Oaks Career Campus in Milford, Ohio

2nd place: Ridge Community High School in Davenport, Florida

3rd place: Cartersville High School in Cartersville, Georgia

Mixed

1st place: Live Oaks Career Campus

2nd place: Sarasota Military Academy in Sarasota, Florida

3rd place: Station Camp High School in Gallatin, Tennessee

Volquartsen renews Corporate Partner Commitment, upgrades to Gold Level

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Oct. 26, 2026 — The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) has announced that Volquartsen Firearms has renewed their corporate partner commitment and upgraded to the Gold level.

"As a second-generation, family-owned firearms business, we are passionate about protecting Second Amendment rights," said Volquartsen Firearms President Scott Volquartsen. "We're proud to partner with the Second Amendment Foundation and support their relentless work to defend those rights at the local, state and federal levels."

Made in America since 1974, Volquartsen Firearms engineers the world's finest rimfire rifles, pistols and parts, manufactured and precision-built from start to finish exclusively at their facilities in Carroll, Iowa. The full line of Volquartsen products have become some of the most sought-after in the industry, trusted by competition shooters, plinkers,

National Geographic Documentary Films and Oscar filmmakers Elizabeth Chai Varsarhelyi and Jimmy Chin present “Everest: The Other Side” in theaters worldwide and IMAX on October 30



Synopsis

“Everest: The Other Side” is an intimate portrait of two people bound by love, ambition, and the

pursuit of the impossible, from National Geographic Documentary Films and Oscar®-winning filmmakers Elizabeth Chai Vasar-

helyi and Jimmy Chin. A thrilling cinematic experience chronicling one of the most dangerous climbs imaginable, the film will open exclusively in theaters and IMAX® worldwide October 30. Elite ski mountaineers Jim Morrison and Hilaree Nelson fell deeply in love while reaching the pinnacle of their sport. Their drive sharpened into a shared dream: to climb and ski the direct North Face of Everest - the most difficult and dangerous climb on the mountain and the most coveted ski line on earth. Thousands have summited the mountain via Nepal's southeast ridge, but only a handful have ever reached the top by this route — and no one has successfully skied down. Already known for their extraordinary feats in the mountains and no strangers to loss, Morrison and Nelson stake everything on this daunting challenge.

“Everest: The Other Side” is directed and produced by Elizabeth Chai Varsarhelyi and Jimmy Chin, and produced by Shannon Dill, Anna Barnes, Bob Eisenhardt, Janet Yang. The executive producers are Carolyn Bernstein, Tim Horsburgh, Nina Fialkow, David Fialkow, Andrew Reiner,



Jim Morrison and Hilaree Nelson in Silver Peak, a back-country mountain near Palisades Tahoe, California. (Photo credit: Jim Morrison)

Opposite photo shows world-renowned ski mountaineer Jim Morrison climbing Mount Everest. (Photo credit: Jimmy Chin)

Elizabeth Reiner, Moudhy Al-Rashid, Sam Frohman, Kenneth A. Howery, Jason Bowden, Will Griffith, Bettina Kadoorie. The film is edited by Bob Eisenhardt, ACE, and Simona Ferrari. The directors of photography are Clair Popkin, Jimmy Chin, Christopher Murphy.

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“Scott and his team have provided one-of-a-kind rifles, sponsored GRPC for numerous years and have now upgraded their partner commitment, all in support of an organization they know is at the tip of the spear in the fight for our Second Amendment freedoms,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut.

hunters and everyone in between. Along with their generous upgraded corporate partner renewal, Volquartsen has also provided a unique, one-of-a-kind rifle for SAF’s monthly sweepstakes fundraiser and is a multi-year sponsor of the annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC).

“Scott and his team have provided one-of-a-kind rifles, sponsored GRPC for numerous years and have now upgraded their partner commitment, all in support of an organization they know is at the tip of the spear in the fight for our Second Amendment freedoms,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “Their dedication to SAF and our critical work is truly appreciated, especially with Supreme Court oral arguments in our two ‘assault weapons’ ban cases right around the corner. We are grateful for the continued support of our members, donors and corporate partners like Volquartsen, and look forward to fighting alongside them over the course of the coming year as we defend, secure and restore our right to keep and bear arms across the country.”

For more information visit SAF.org.

Conservation: Tennessee State Parks dedicates Buffalo River State Park from sports-Military 2

Buffalo River supports diverse wildlife, with 48 documented rare species of plants and animals found in the area.

Buffalo River State Park is not yet open to visitors, but as park staff work to get trails and facilities in place, opportunities to visit through guided tours and other events will be shared on the Tennessee State Parks’ website. Once fully open, it will offer recreation activities such as paddling, fishing, hiking, camping and wildlife viewing. The park will also serve as a tourism and economic driver in Wayne and Perry counties.

A total of 14 new Tennessee State Parks will be established under Gov. Bill Lee, setting the Tennessee record for the most state parks created by one administration.

“The Buffalo River is an incredibly special place, and we are proud that the Tennessee State Parks Conservancy could play a role in protecting it for generations to come,” said Alex Wyss, executive director of the Tennessee State Parks Conservancy. “Through support from the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund, we were able to help preserve the natural beauty of the Buffalo River. This new state park will give people more opportunities to experience this remarkable part of Wayne County. This is exactly what can happen when public and private partners work together to protect the places that make Tennessee special.”

Election Day is November 3. VOTE!

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