

## **DOC Criteria**

The Department must ensure that only appropriate candidates are placed into the program. Therefore, we must use our discretion in determining appropriate candidates. DOC criteria can change at any time. DOC criteria are based on what is best for the individual, the Department, the Community and the Program. Specifics can be found on the Department's website at the following link:  
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/cor.html>

The individual should have at least 7 months until their minimum.

The Department has developed a list of crimes it believes are inappropriate for Boot Camp participation. This list can be found on the DOC public website. These crimes are only considered if they are part of the current offenses.

The Department will also consider the individual's behavior while incarcerated, amenability to the program, and prior criminal history.

The individual cannot have an escape conviction or adjudication within the past 5 years.

## **Waivers**

The prosecuting attorney may advise the court that the Commonwealth has elected to waive the defendant's ineligibility for Boot Camp if the victim was given notice and an opportunity to be heard on the issue. The court, after considering any victim input, may refuse to accept the waiver or may accept the waiver. Note: a waiver does not guarantee placement into Boot Camp. An individual with a waiver will be reviewed by the Department for appropriateness for the program.

## **Other Considerations**

The judge has the discretion to exclude a defendant from eligibility if the judge determines that the defendant would be inappropriate for placement in a motivational boot camp. The judge must note on the sentencing order whether the defendant has been excluded from eligibility for a motivational boot camp program. If a Sentencing Order does not mention ineligibility of an individual, it is presumed they may be eligible and the DOC will review the individual for appropriateness.

## **Statistics for Boot Camp**

(2016 DOC Performance Report)

- The three-year re-arrest rate is 6.1 percentage points lower for Boot Camp participants.
- The three-year reincarceration rate is 5.5 percentage points lower for Boot Camp participants.
- The three-year overall recidivism rate is 6.3 percentage points lower for Boot Camp participants than the comparison group.
- Graduation Rate of 84%
- Since December 1992, the PA DOC has saved approximately \$104.8 million dollars by operating the Quehanna Motivational Boot Camp.

# **The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections**



## **BOOT CAMP PROGRAM 2025**

### **Contact Staff:**

*For any questions on eligibility for Boot Camp please contact:*

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*Or*

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## **Program Philosophy**

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Quehanna Boot Camp, will provide a secure, safe and humane alternative to standard incarceration. Our programs enforce positive life-building skills in a disciplined environment.

## **The Boot Camp Program**

In 1991, Quehanna Boot Camp (Quehanna) began operating *the Quehanna Boot Camp Program*. If teammates (participants) successfully complete the six-month program, they are paroled. The Boot Camp Program accepts both male and female participants. The Boot Camp Program uses military components in concert with therapeutic techniques to address Criminal Thinking and Substance Abuse Issues. Teammates focus on discipline, work ethic, education, and therapeutic issues. There are four phases to the QBC Program. Each Phase requires more personal effort and personal responsibility. Participants that do not successfully complete the Boot Camp Program will return to an SCI to continue to serve their original sentence.

Boot Camp teammates are required to get up daily at 0515 hours. They spend their day working, in education/vocational classes, completing physical training, developing discipline through military activities, participating in cognitive behavioral programs, and preparing themselves to reenter society as a productive citizen. At 2130 hours, they prepare for lights out and retire to sleep.

If a teammate does not have a high school diploma/GED, they are placed in education classes. If they do have a diploma/GED,

they are assigned to a work detail. Quehanna is one of the top state prisons in GED's awarded and Vocational Certifications earned.

All teammates are assessed for criminality, substance use, and likelihood to recidivate. Based on these assessments, inmates are assigned to cognitive programming to address each of these issues. Each teammate is assigned a Treatment Specialist that will assist them with their groups and their treatment plan.

Since its beginning, the Boot Camp has graduated over 10,600 participants. To view a short video on the Boot Camp Program: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9W9RnXSz1c>.

### **Programs Available to All Inmates**

- Violence Prevention
- Parenting
- Self-Help Meetings
- CBI-IV (for Domestic Violence)
- Seeking Safety (PTSD Treatment)
- Vocational Programs
- Gender Specific Programming
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Medically Assisted Treatment
- Education for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

### **Reentry Programming**

Reentry is the key to any recovery plan. At the Quehanna Boot Camp, reentry begins for Boot Camp teammates as soon as they arrive. The Reentry Program includes, but isn't limited to, employment issues, housing concerns, parole, financial management, and healthy living.

## **Eligibility**

Every individual sentenced to a State Correctional Institution (SCI) will be reviewed for appropriateness for Boot Camp. The review occurs when the individual is within 2 years of his/her minimum sentence. For those that enter the DOC already within 2 years of his/her minimum, the review will occur at Diagnostics and Classification.

### **Statutory Criteria**

The individual has not been deemed ineligible by the court.

The individual was not sentenced to a minimum greater than 3 years (may use the RRR minimum).

The individual's sentence does not include an enhancement for the use of deadly weapon.

Individual must be cleared by the medical department to participate.

A person who has been convicted or adjudicated delinquent of any crime listed under 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 97 Subch. H (relating to registration of sexual offenders) or I (relating to the continued registration of sexual offenders) is not eligible.

A person with a current conviction or a prior conviction within the past 10 years for 18 Pa.C.S. §2502 (relating to murder), drug trafficking as defined in section 61 Pa.C.S. §4103, or a crime of violence as defined in 42 Pa.C.S. §9714(g) (relating to sentences for second or subsequent offenses), or criminal attempt, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy to commit any of these offenses is not eligible.

The individual must be within 2 years of their minimum sentence to begin the program.