CENTER OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

The CyberPatriot Center of Excellence (COE) program recognizes higher education institutions, government organizations, and other entities for exceptional support in promoting and supporting the CyberPatriot program.

Benefits of Becoming a Center of Excellence
COEs are recognized as leading institutions and organizations in promoting STEM and cyber education. COEs receive additional attention from the CyberPatriot program in piloting new programs and processes. They are eligible for additional support as may be offered by CyberPatriot sponsors to include grants and internships, and they may be targeted as recipients for hardware or software grants. COEs also receive regional and national media attention from the CyberPatriot program.

Eligibility
Center of Excellence eligibility is open to:
- Non-profit organizations
- City, county, and other municipalities
- Non-profit consortia of organizations, firms, or businesses in relevant areas , e.g.—technology, STEM education, cybersecurity
- State or other groupings of participating organizations (e.g.—State-wide Wings of Civil Air Patrol, Scouting Councils, etc.)
- School districts and school collectives (e.g.—academy groupings, home school co-ops, etc.)
- Higher education institutions such as community colleges, colleges, and universities
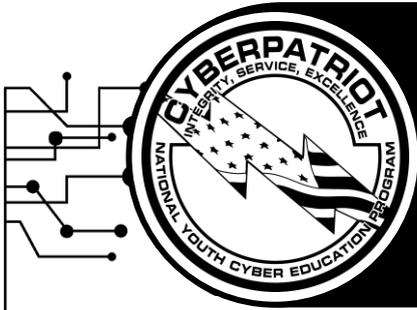
Center of Excellence eligibility is NOT open to:
- For profit corporations or businesses
- Entire states
- Individual schools
- Individual CyberPatriot teams

Application Process
Nominations consist of a one-page written statement addressing why the eligible entity should be awarded Center of Excellence status. Explanations should include concrete examples of the entity's efforts to promote CyberPatriot. The one-page statement should be attached to a forwarding cover letter signed by the head of the entity asking for consideration for COE status. Applications are considered and approved by the CyberPatriot Commissioner within 30 days of receipt based on staff recommendations. Applications received that are over one page in length or which are not accompanied by a signed cover letter will not be considered. *Applications may be submitted any time by email (including a scanned copy of the signed forwarding letter) to* info@uscyberpatriot.org.

Selection Criteria

- Centers of Excellence are selected based on the following criteria:
    - Success in team recruitment for the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition
    - Distribution and implementation of CyberPatriot's Elementary School Education Initiative
    - Participation in the AFA CyberCamp program
    - Sustained support of the CyberPatriot technical mentor program
    - Visibility and promotion of CyberPatriot in local, regional, and national media outlets
    - Success in building civic, community, industry, and education partnerships in promoting CyberPatriot
    - Demonstration of support and recognition to CyberPatriot participants in the community

Please note that there have been some changes to the COE program as of Aug. 1, 2017:

As the CyberPatriot program has continued to expand, we have been receiving an increasing number of requests from entities requesting CyberPatriot Center of Excellence designation. While we welcome this development, it has led us to reassess elements of the COE program to protect the significance of the designation. Accordingly, we will begin immediately requiring newly designated Centers of Excellence to meet renewal criteria every two years.

New COEs (awarded after August 1, 2017) will be assessed biennially and will be REQUIRED to submit an annual report and meet renewal criteria based on their success in each of the selection points listed above.

The report format will be provided in May of each year and will request just a few sentences in each reporting category (above) based on progress made during that specific CyberPatriot "cycle." A cycle begins with CyberCamps in June and concludes at the end of the competition season in April. The report should require no more than 20 minutes to complete.

Along with using the report to determine renewal of COE status, we will use this report to identify and recognize a National CyberPatriot Center of Excellence of the Year Award beginning in 2018. In addition to reports submitted by new COEs, existing COEs (designated before August 1, 2017) requesting consideration for the award must submit a report. More information about the National CyberPatriot Center of Excellence of the Year Award will be provided soon.