THE CYBERSENTINEL

The official newsletter of CyberPatriot—AFA's National Youth Cyber Education Program

November 2020 | In This Issue

National Commissioner's Cache

CP-XIII is here, and we are excited! We are looking forward to another GREAT season of competition with plenty of adjustments to accommodate the "new normal." Even in the middle of a pandemic CyberPatriot remains vitally important. At some point (soon, we hope), COVID-19 will be beaten, and when it is, the reasons AFA created this international program will persist. For the good of our nation and our friends, we simply MUST attract more young women and young men to STEM education and careers. CyberPatriot continues to demonstrate that it is an effective mechanism for doing that, as well as for building the chronically short-staffed cybersecurity workforce. As we remind ourselves every day, CyberPatriot is a team sport in more ways than one. It would not exist without the teamwork of staff, sponsors and partners (led by the generous Northrop Grumman Foundation), educators, volunteers, coaches, and of course competitors. To you all, thank you. Let CP-XIII begin!

CyberPatriot XIII Competition Updates

Registration Updates

Registration has officially closed for the CyberPatriot XIII season. Despite school cancellations of extracurricular activities, over 4,800 teams have registered for this year's competition. Shoutout to the coaches, mentors, and students willing to tackle the competition during these unprecedented times.

Students must be registered to a team roster ASAP. The deadline to register competitors was November 1, 2020, so if you haven't already filled in your rosters, please do so immediately.

Payment (or fee waiver requests) must be submitted by November 15, 2020. Delayed payment will delay the shipment of a team's participant kit (see participant kit section for more details).

Schedule Updates
An extra day of competition has been added to Rounds 1 and 2. Each of these rounds are schedule to begin on Thursday, instead of the typical Friday start day. Round 1 is now schedule for November 12-15, and Round 2 is scheduled for December 10-13. Round 3 is still scheduled for two days only.

The times for each competition day of Rounds 1 and 2 are:

Thursday, 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM ET
Friday, 9:00 AM - Saturday, 3:00 AM ET
Saturday, 8:00 AM - Saturday, 11:59 PM ET
Sunday, 10:00 AM - Sunday, 10:00 PM ET

Competition Kickoff
The CyberPatriot program office is planning for a virtual kickoff even to be held on Thursday, November 12 around 8:30 AM ET. During this event, we will hear from AFA leaders, CyberPatriot sponsors, and key stakeholders. The event will conclude at 9:00 AM ET with the official 'unleashing' of the servers to start Round 1. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the event date.

Rules Book Updates (IMPORTANT!)
A new season of CyberPatriot means a new edition of the Rules Book. Below are some highlights of changes to the Rules Book. Some are new rules going forward and others are changes just for the CP-XIII season due to COVID-19.

National Finals Advancement
CyberPatriot sent a survey out earlier in 2020 asking if we needed to change how teams advance to the National Finals Competition. The overwhelming majority of responses was yes. Based on this feedback, we have decided to limit the number of teams that can advance from an organization or who are coached by the same individual to the National Finals Competition.

- ***Advancing in the Open and All Service Division***
    - Round 3 determines the top teams in each tier and category and which Platinum Tier teams advance to the National Finals Competition.
    - Advancement to the National Finals competition is limited to 2 teams from the same school, organization, or coach in the Open Division and 1 team per school, organization, or coach in the All Service Division
    - The 12 highest scoring Open Division teams from the Platinum Tier advance to the National Finals Competition based on their Round 3 scores.
    - Thirteen All Service Division teams from the Platinum Tier advance to the National Finals Competition. Based on their Round 3 scores, the two highest scoring teams from each category advance to the National Finals Competition. Only one team from the same school, organization, or coach can advance to the National Finals Competition in the All Service Division. The team with the highest national score that was not advanced with any category is the All Service Division Wild Card and advances to the National Finals Competition.
- ***Advancing in the Middle School Division***
    - Middle School Division teams do not have tiers in the CyberPatriot competition. All Middle School Division teams have the same level of difficulty throughout the competition.

- o The three Middle School Division teams with the highest cumulative scores in Rounds 1, 2, and 3 advance to the National Finals Competition.
- o Only one team from the same school, organization, or coach can advance to the National Finals Competition in the Middle School Division.

Competition Locations

For CP-XIII only, a team may compete in the same competition period in one of the following ways:
- As a group in a facility
- Team members distributed at different locations
- A hybrid of a group and distributed team members

All team competitors must compete in the same competition period. Teams may not have multiple instances of images open. The teams may coordinate using voice or video platform of their choice.

Coach Supervision of Team

Coaches must supervise their teams during the competition period. The coach or coach alternate must be available by telephone or audio during the competition period. The minimum supervision requirements for a team are:
If the team is competing as a group in one location, the coach must be present for the entire competition period.
If the team members are distributed the coach must talk via voice to each competitor at least once during the competition period.

Each competitor must submit the standard paper or electronic statement to their coach that states that they followed the competition rules. The standard statements are due to the coach no later than 11:59 PM on the last scheduled day of the competition round. The coach will keep a copy of the statements on file until February 5.

Participant Kits

The CyberPatriot Program Office will be using a fulfillment center for the packing and shipping of this season's participant kits. The shipments will start going out in mid-November. Additional information will be sent via email closer to the time of shipment.

Kits for Coaches and Competitors
Coaches will be sent a CP-XIII t-shirt, challenge coin, and lapel pin for themselves and for each student listed on their roster(s).* Gear for all teams registered to the coach is shipped in one box, to the shipping address provided during the team registration process. If you need to update your shipping information, please do so before Nov. 15. To edit this information, click 'Edit Team Info' under the team "Options" drop-down menu on your dashboard.

*NOTE: Packages are not shipped until payment, a purchase order, or a fee waiver request has been received for your team(s).

Kits for Technical Mentors and Team Assistants
Participant kits for mentors and team assistants are sent separately and directly to the address provided by the volunteer during the mentor registration process. Only mentors and team assistants who are officially registered and appear as 'active' on a team roster will receive a package.

If you are a coach, please be sure to invite your mentor to your roster using the "Find Mentor" option on the dashboard. If you are a mentor, please make sure you coach sends an invitation, and that you accept it.

[Click here for instructions (page 3)](#) on how to add a mentor to your roster.

International Spinoffs

CyberCenturion

CyberCenturion, the international spinoff competition that operates in the United Kingdom, kicked off its seventh season with a practice round on October 23, 2020. Much like the CyberPatriot competition, teams of UK students will compete in several online rounds with hopes of qualifying for the CyberCenturion Grand Finale that is set to take place in April 2021. Good luck to all the teams competing across the pond!

CyberTaipan

CyberTaipan, the Australian spinoff competition, held its National Final on October 24, 2020. From an initial field of 104 teams, only 10 teams advanced, all with the same goal -- win the first-place title. In the end, these teams took home top honors:

> **1st Place:** *The Kernel Krushers* (New South Wales)
> **2nd Place:** *Team Mensa* (nationwide team)
> **3rd Place:** *The Cyber Warriors* (nationwide team)

CyberGenerations to roll out Tech Caregiver Program

It is said that you truly know a subject once you can teach it… that is why CyberPatriot is preparing to rollout a revolutionary way for competitors to be more involved with the teaching of cybersecurity in their communities. As the world becomes increasingly dependent on technology, we must consider the importance of protecting and empowering those who may not possess the cyber skills to protect and empower themselves.

Tech Caregivers are people who provide cyber security support to those adults who are often vulnerable to cyber threats due to a lack of technological experience and knowledge. While many older Americans are tech savvy, others find some online activities and security measures to be confusing or intimidating. Tech Caregivers are trained to help individuals gain the confidence necessary to safely operate online by teaching basic security measures in a way that is easy to understand.

Becoming a Tech Caregiver

Through completion of a Tech Caregiver training course, which uses a combination of resources and guides provided by CyberPatriot and AT&T, participants may become a certified Tech Caregiver and start giving back to the senior citizens in their communities. At the end of the course, participants must complete a brief test. Those with passing grades will be issued a Tech Caregiver certificate and are ready to teach CyberGenerations workshops to those who need them most.

More information on the Tech Caregiver program will be released next month.

Center of Excellence Recognition

In 2006, The University of Detroit Mercy, which is the lead institution for the coalition, began building Cyber Security awareness across Michigan. MCISSE now covers the upper Midwest with all five of the National Security Agency Centers of Excellence in Michigan as well as partners from Ohio, Missouri, Colorado, Texas, and as far away as Warwick University in the United Kingdom.

MCISSE founder Tamara Shoemaker spoke at the 2020 North American International Cyber Summit Thursday, October 8th as part of a panel session entitled "Developing the Next Generation of CyberTalent." Shoemaker spoke to the 750 Cybersecurity professionals in attendance to sign up and volunteer to coach or mentor a CyberPatriot team in their community. During the opening remarks, Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II awarded trophies to the state of Michigan's 1st place Cyberpatriot teams: Open Division Platinum Level Woodhaven High School, Coach Justin Biver, Middle School Division Farmington STEAM Academy, coach Jerry Gee and All Service Division Platinum Level Maj. Kevin A Adams Memorial Composite Squadron, Coach Matt Roberts.

Tamara Shoemaker also spoke at the Auto-ISAC Summit, "Building Cybersecurity Resilience-An Attach on One is an Attack on All. Shoemaker shared the stage with Marian Merritt Deputy Director of NICE, in a session entitled "Building Knowledge and the Future Workforce". Merritt discussed the many levels of support the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) offers the country. While Shoemaker again appealed to over 1000 national and international auto cybersecurity attendees to become a part of the education solution by using their many years of experience to give back and become a coach or mentor in the CyberPatriot program.

CyberPatriot Shoutouts

Tech. Sgt. Kadir Amat
CyberPatriot would like to give a shoutout to Tech. Sgt. Kadir Amat, the 96th Communications Squadron Airman who recently won the 2020 American Legion Spirit of Service award, which is given annually to a service member for off-duty performance in the local community.

In the article **Airman's spirit of service leads to AF award** written by Kevin Gaddie, Tech. Sgt. Amat recalls his rewarding experience with mentoring youth through our AFA CyberCamps.

Cyndi Reitmeyer (BostonTechMom)
CyberPatriot would like to give a shoutout to The Boston Tech Mom, an online blog and a parent's guide to raising a future techie. Founded by Cyndi Reitmeyer, a business professional for tech startups and a mother of two, the blog focuses on raising kids who are comfortable and confident in STEM.

For Cybersecurity awareness month, her blog dives into cybersecurity competitions and workshops for teens. You can find her blog and the article featuring CyberPatriot by going to the BostonTechMom.

Sponsor Highlights

Internships
CyberPatriot Competitors -- even though summer seems far away, now is the time to start researching internship opportunities. Whether they are with our presenting sponsor or with a local company, internships are a great way to gain experience and showcase the skills you have learned from the CyberPatriot program. Given the trying year of 2020, it is never too early to start looking for opportunities for advancement.

Gannon University joins CyberPatriot as a Silver Sponsor

CyberPatriot is pleased to welcome Gannon University as its newest Cyber Silver level sponsor. Gannon University has campuses in Erie, PA, and Ruskin, FL, offering online and traditional associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs to more than 4,200 academically talented and diverse students.

"Gannon University is excited to partner with CyberPatriot to extend our engineering and computing education and outreach beyond the classroom," said Walter Iwanenko, Ph.D., provost and vice president for student experience.

"At Gannon, we are committed to providing a high-quality, hands-on experience for our students and we recognize the critical need for trained professionals in the field of cybersecurity. We are honored to build on this commitment by partnering with CyberPatriot and equip students with the skills and experience they will need to enter this high-demand industry."

VMware is offering a special promotion for CyberPatriot students

VMware is offering a special promotion for CyberPatriot students that will allow them to take advantage of Fusion, Workstation and Workstation Player for their competitions. For only $100, all of your students in your cyber patriot competition class can receive an annual license for one year. (Note: $100 if using a credit Card; $150 if using a PO)

So act now as the promotion will end December 15, 2020.

To apply, please have your coach or school administrator subscribe with your school email address and apply online here… Once approved, you will receive an email from our partner Kivuto, On the Hub, on payment instructions, user name and password to download your software.

Want to learn more about virtualization? Check out our free micro course and register now… OR our course on safer passwords. You will receive a badge upon completion to share on social media!

Good luck with your competition!

CyberPatriot & The News

Baking in Cyber Security through CyberPatriot
I'm sitting here in the airport after finishing a 1-week Risk Management Framework (RMF) Security Controls Assessment (SCA) and reflecting on the week. This week the team and I reviewed nearly 30 hosts and over 3000 individual controls. I remember throughout the week there were many times thinking "this is pretty basic stuff, why aren't they (the client) following the security guidance?." and I remember that to many system administrators

security isn't "baked in" like we've always claimed it should be. It also underscores the need to get more Information Technology (IT) professionals trained in cyber security. That is why CyberCenturion is proud to sponsor Civil Air Patrol NC-162 Squadron's first CyberPatriot Team.

CyberCenturion VII launches with pledge to increase diversity in participation

CyberCenturion VII is open to all secondary school students in the UK, UK Crown Dependencies and UK Overseas Territories and starts in October 2020 with the national finals due to take place in April 2021. CyberCenturion is the UK edition of the global CyberPatriot program, sponsored and led by Northrop Grumman, designed by the U.S. Air Force Association and delivered in the UK in partnership with the Cyber Security Challenge UK.

Tech Training Leader INE Revolutionizes Cyber Security

CARY, N.C., Oct. 21, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- The COVID-19 crisis has sent cyber-attacks soaring 400% according to the FBI's Internet Crimes Complaint Center (IC3). At the same time, there is a severe shortage of qualified professionals to safeguard data from hackers. In response to a booming demand for cyber security experts, Information Technology leader INE is releasing an exclusive all-access Cyber Security Pass, designed to revolutionize the training and certification industry while turning aspiring InfoSec professionals into highly marketable cyber security experts.