



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

- [CyberPatriot XV \(2022-23\) Registration Closes October 5 →](#)
- [CyberPatriot Practice Round →](#)
- [Cisco NetAcad Accounts →](#)
- [CyberPatriot XV Round 1 →](#)
- [STEMtoSpace →](#)
- [Bernie Skoch Becomes AFA Chairman of the Board →](#)
- [AFA Educator Grants →](#)
- [CyberPatriot Alumni Network →](#)
- [CyberPatriot in the News →](#)

CyberPatriot XV (2022-23) Registration Closes October 5

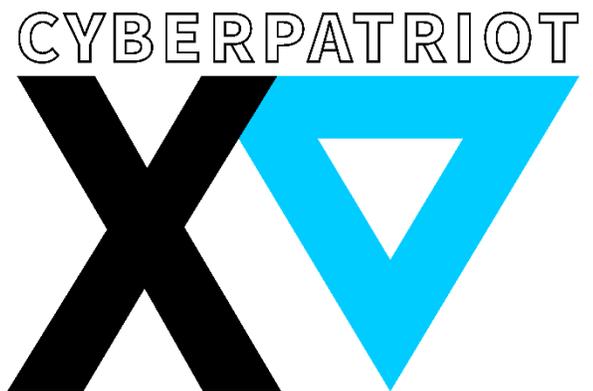
Registration for CyberPatriot XV closes on Wednesday, October 5th. Make sure to register any teams you think you may need for the CyberPatriot XV season as we cannot add more teams later.

As a reminder, by October 5th teams DO NOT yet need:

- To be verified by the verification official
- To be approved by the CyberPatriot Program Office
- To have competitors registered to the team
- To have competitors fully registered
- Or to have the registration fee paid or the fee waived

Upcoming Important Dates and Deadlines:

- **October 5, 2022:** Last day to register your team for CP-XV
- **November 1, 2022:** Last day to add competitors to your roster(s) or move students between teams
- **November 15, 2022:** Last day to submit payment, purchase order, or fee waiver request



CyberPatriot Practice Round

The CyberPatriot Practice Round kicked off on September 29 and ends on October 7th. The round has four practice images, three are re-releases from the training round with answer keys: Ubuntu 20, Windows 10, and Windows 2019 server, AND a new Fedora image, with no answer key.



Cisco NetAcad Competition Course Account Creation



For the CyberPatriot XV season, there is a new process in place for creation of the Cisco competition course accounts. These changes are due to security upgrades on the Cisco NetAcad platform that require all accounts to be verified via an email link. Accounts need to be **created by October 10** for teams to compete in the Round 1 Cisco NetAcad Challenge. The CyberPatriot Program Office cannot support initial registration issues after October 10 until after Round 1 has concluded.

Full details on the new account creation process can be found on the Coach's dashboard. An email has gone out to all registered coaches explaining the update to the Cisco NetAcad course creation.

Full instructions: https://cpxv.s3.amazonaws.com/cisco/Cisco_Compensation_Course_Onboarding.zip

Instructional video: <https://youtu.be/jy0uh4soK-Q>

There is some confusion on the two types of Cisco Courses. The Content Course is used to train Coaches and Competitors on what they need to know for the competition. The Competition Course is used by teams to compete in the Cisco NetAcad Challenge during competition rounds. They are not the same course, and they have different log in credentials. Check out the Cisco Common Issues and Answers email to learn more:

<https://www.uscyberpatriot.org/Documents/Cisco%20Common%20Issues%20and%20Answers.pdf>

CyberPatriot XV Round 1

CyberPatriot will be offering two competition weekends for Round 1 for CyberPatriot XV. Setting the competition schedule for CyberPatriot is always a tedious process that involves deconflicting dates as much as possible but it's not always possible for us to avoid everything. When finalizing the dates for Round 1 this year we received feedback that for many schools, October 14-16 fell during their fall break. As a solution, CyberPatriot is offering three additional competition windows October 20-22 for teams to compete. Teams may only compete once during Round 1 to include the additional competition windows.

Round 1 is scheduled for Friday, October 14 – Sunday, October 16, 2022, and Thursday, October 20 – Saturday, October 22, 2022. There is NO competition window on Sunday, October 23.

Teams do not need to notify us or request permission to compete in the additional Round 1 competition windows. There will be no Emergency Competition Dates or make-up dates after October 22, so teams need to plan ahead.

Round 1 Competition Windows:

Friday, 10/14, 9:00 AM – Saturday, 3:00 AM ET
Saturday, 10/15, 8:00 AM – 11:59 PM ET
Sunday, 10/16, 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM ET

Thursday, 10/20, 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM ET
Friday, 10/21, 9:00 AM – Saturday, 3:00 AM ET
Saturday, 10/22, 8:00 AM – 11:59 PM ET

STEMtoSpace

CyberPatriot CyberSilver Sponsor, the Department of the Air Force K-12 STEM Office invites teachers and their classrooms to join them for the 3rd Annual Space Force Celebration - **STEMtoSpace!** Each year, they pair Space Force Guardians with classrooms to share the importance of STEM in space, possible STEM career opportunities, and how Space Force contributes to daily life around the United States. This is a great opportunity for all K-12 students!

This year promises to be even bigger and better than last year as they are introducing new partnerships and live special events. They hope you'll join them for a fun virtual learning experience this December! To learn more about **STEMtoSpace 2022**, visit the [Event Landing Page](#) or [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Sign-ups are first come, first served so sign-up as early as possible.

This is just one STEM experience of many they hope to offer this school year. If you're interested in hearing from them quarterly about **free STEM opportunities** from the Air Force, Space Force, and the Department of Defense, sign-up for their [Teacher e-newsletter here](#).

STEM TO SPACE

184K+
potential students reached

700+
Events

ALL 50 STATES
& DC, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guam, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Belgium, Italy, UK

Participating Volunteers = 300+
(Civilians, Guardians & Airmen)

through
(Specialist 3) (Four-star General)

The graphic features a large group of diverse children in a classroom setting, some wearing face masks. In the background, a large screen displays a video call with a man in a military uniform. The overall design is dark blue and green with white and yellow accents.



Former CyberPatriot National Commissioner Becomes AFA's Chairman of the Board

Bernie Skoch is the Air & Space Forces Association's new Chairman of the Board, effective October 1. Skoch was the CyberPatriot National Commissioner from 2010 – 2021, and during his time as the National Commissioner, he oversaw the growth of the program as it evolved into one of the most widely regarded and successful cyber-focused STEM programs in the nation.

Skoch ran unopposed and was elected without objection on Sept. 17 during AFA's National Convention leading up to the Air, Space & Cyber Conference in National Harbor, Md. He served 29 years in the Air Force in a variety of communications roles.



Check out the full article at AFA.org: <https://www.afa.org/news/skoch-succeeds-murray-afa-chairman-board>

AFA Educator Grants



CyberPatriot's parent organization, the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) supports STEM education in a variety of ways. One of those ways is through Educator Grants. Every year, AFA awards \$500 grants to 40 educators poised to make a lasting difference. The grant process is competitive. A committee of aerospace education experts reviews all qualified applications and scores them based on their detailed grant proposals. AFA selects projects that best serve our nation's students and support our mission. If you are interested in learning more please review the grant [guidelines](#) and [rules](#) prior to applying.

AFA Educator Grant applications are accepted from September 1st through December 15th. Educator Grants are awarded in February. Please [view and submit your grant application online](#) via the third-party website, SmarterSelect. *Hardcopy or faxed applications will NOT be considered.*

AFA also offers grants for Civil Air Patrol and Air Force JROTC units. Visit the [AFA website](#) to learn more.

CyberPatriot Alumni Network



CyberPatriot Alumni Network

Listed group



Last month CyberPatriot launched the CyberPatriot Alumni Network. This exclusive group on LinkedIn is for past CyberPatriot competitors who have graduated from high school or achieved an equivalent achievement. The CyberPatriot Alumni Network is a place for CyberPatriot to pass along scholarship opportunities, internships, job openings, and volunteer and networking opportunities.

Are you a past CyberPatriot competitor or know past competitors, please share the link to the [CyberPatriot Alumni Network](#).

Current competitors who are seniors in high school will receive an invite to the CyberPatriot Alumni Network at the end of this competition season. We ask that coaches and mentors follow the [AFA CyberPatriot page](#) and do not request to join the Alumni Network.

CyberPatriot in The News

[CyberPatriot: Teens Team Up to Compete in Cybersecurity Challenges](#) | BostonTechMom

A few years ago, when I was a reviewer for the [NCWIT AiC](#) computer science award, I encountered a training program for teens called [CyberPatriot](#). I was intrigued when I saw how many students were participating, how much they were learning, and the way it was sparking their interest in pursuing computer science and particularly cybersecurity.

[Cybersecurity competition coming to El Paso](#) | KISM 9 News by Tawny Davis

This fall, UTEP's Computer Science department will be sponsoring middle and high schoolers in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense competition. The lead coordinator, Jennifer Sims says this program is trying to inspire students towards a career in STEM or cybersecurity.

[Huntsville High students challenge college teams at hacking competition](#) | News 19 by Kayla Smith

As technology progresses and more of our information is placed online, digital content faces greater cyber threats. The [National Cyber Summit](#) brought thousands of industry professionals and amateurs to pave the future of cyber security.