THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

AUGUST 2023

CyberPatriot XV Coach & Mentor of the Year

Congratulations to the CyberPatriot XV Coach of the Year, David Kim, and the Mentor of the Year, George Hughey. We had many fabulous submissions but these two were standouts for their support and dedication to CyberPatriot.

Coach of the Year | David Kim
Troy High School – Fullerton, CA

DAVID KIM
CyberPatriot XV Coach of the Year

David Kim is the hidden force behind all of Troy Cyber. He has demonstrated unwavering dedication throughout his ten years of involvement. He has been a guide and mentor for his students, while gladly sharing his expertise and experience to increase cybersecurity awareness among high schoolers and the community.

David spends countless hours planning practices, handling a myriad of teenager personalities and conflicts, and getting the very best from his student teachers, high school competitors, and middle school competitors. He truly cares about his students and their learning.

David certainly goes above and beyond, and he is always looking for ways to be more effective. His plans for CP XVI started at midnight after the awards banquet for CP XV.

David Kim said "CyberPatriot is an amazing program that provides opportunities for students to learn and apply their cybersecurity knowledge in real-world scenarios in a fun and competitive environment. As a coach, it is incredibly rewarding to see the students discover their passion for cybersecurity and watch them develop their skills and teamwork over time. Not only are students preparing themselves for a future career in cybersecurity, but they are also creating lasting connections that extend far beyond the competition itself. With the continued support of our coaches, mentors, and staff, I look forward to guiding these bright minds towards a future filled with possibilities and success."

Mentor of the Year | George Hughey
Liberty High School – Renton, WA

CyberPatriot XV Mentor of the Year

George Hughey is known for being friendly and open. His knowledge and effectiveness made lessons fun and helped boost his team from the silver tier to a platinum tier team that qualified for the semifinals in less than a year. Mr. Hughey's teaching has been extremely effective through a combination of his own lessons, workshops, games, and more. He puts in effort to make sure that every meeting is enjoyable and educational.

Mr. Hughey is very open to questions and always answers them effectively and concisely. He formats his content and knowledge in a way that is easy to follow and build upon (which lead to an exponential growth in knowledge during the competition season). Mr. Hughey enhances his teaching through custom CyberPatriot-esque virtual machines for students to secure, student led discussions, guest speakers, and even programs he wrote to run his very own in-house attack-defense competition!

With such varied methods of mentorship, competitors are always excited for the next meeting. With a background in STEM himself, Mr. Hughey is always open to questions about career and education opportunities in cybersecurity and STEM. He is very supportive of everyone who has expressed interest in the field, and even advises with his own knowledge while always providing words of encouragement.

George said, "CyberPatriot is what kickstarted my passion for cybersecurity. My CyberPatriot mentor was a huge inspiration to me, and I hope I can provide some small amount of what I felt to the students of Liberty High School's CyberPatriot team. It has been an honor watching them grow both technically and in their leadership and communication skills. I can't wait to see what the next year has in store!"

CyberPatriot XVI

CP-XVI Exhibition Round #2

EXHIBITION ROUND

Exhibition Round 2 began on July 20 and will run through August 22. There are two images available: Ubuntu 18 and Windows 10. These images are designed for recruiting competitors and to be used as practice for CyberPatriot XVI teams. Both images come with answer keys that are available in the Readme file. Remember, access is only granted to registered teams, so register your team to gain access to the Exhibition Round and other training rounds in the future.

CP-XVI Important Changes
CyberPatriot has introduced some changes to CyberPatriot XVI season.

Expanded Competition Windows
We are expanding the competition window for most competition rounds. Rounds will kick off on Thursday and go through Monday rather than Friday through Sunday. Please note, the Semifinals Round will be a 3 day only event, running Thursday through Saturday.

Reduced Competition Period
We are also adjusting the competition period to 4 hours rather than the 6 hours we have traditionally had. The number and complexity of images will also be adjusted to correspond to the reduced time.

New Middle School Division Schedule

The Middle School Division and High School Divisions - Open Division and All Service Division - will have different competition schedules this season. The Middle School Division will have its first competition round, the Introductory Round, on November 2-6. This will allow more time for middle school teams to be formed and practice prior to the first competition round. Middle School Division teams will also only have three available online rounds rather than four that high school teams will have the opportunity to participate in.

In early September, the challenges for the season including images and the Cisco NetAcad Challenge will be published on the CyberPatriot website.

CyberPatriot XVI (2023-2024) Competition Timeline

REGISTRATION DEADLINES	TRAINING ROUNDS	MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION COMPETITION ROUNDS	HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS COMPETITION ROUNDS
April 1 Team Registration Opens *20% discount for teams registered by July 1*	**Exhibition Rounds** *Round 1 – May 11 – June 13* *Round 2 – July 20 – August 22*	**Introductory Round** *November 2 – 6*	**Round 1** *October 19 – 23*
October 3 Team Registration Closes	**Training Round** *September 8 – October 4*	**State Round** *December 7 – 11*	**Round 2** *November 2 – 6*
October 25 Roster Finalization	**Sneak Preview** *TBD*	**Semifinals** *January 18 – 20 (3 days Only)*	**State Round** *December 7 – 11*
November 15 Payment Due	**Practice Round** *October 5 – 15*	**National Finals** *(In-Person event, Bethesda, MD)* *March 15-19*	**Semifinals** *January 18 – 20 (3 days Only)*
			National Finals *(In-Person event, Bethesda, MD)* *March 15-19*

Upcoming Training Opportunities:

Training Round: September 08 – October 4

The Training Round will have several basic training images with answer keys available. This is the best training opportunity for new teams. Scores will not count towards the competition.

Practice Round: October 5 – October 15

The Practice Round is a re-release of the Training Round images. However, it is also a test of the new CCS software for their host computers and networks. It is critical for teams to participate with at least one connecting image to troubleshoot any problems, prior to the competition round.

CyberPatriot Coaches & Mentors LinkedIn Group

CyberPatriot recently launched a LinkedIn group for Coaches & Mentors. The group is a place to connect, discover, and collaborate with fellow CyberPatriot coaches and mentors (past, present, and future). This CyberPatriot community is a space for coaches and mentors to connect with peers, participate in lively discussions, and share materials.

Find it on LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12861069/

CyberPatriot Alumni Spotlight
Taylor McCampbell | CyberPatriot VIII, IX, X, XI

Taylor is a recent graduate of the University of Wyoming. In May 2023, Taylor received his B.S. in Computer Science. While attending the University, he had also been interning for the Idaho National Laboratory in their Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Division. During the internship, Taylor had the opportunity to release open-source software through the Idaho National Laboratory which is security focused.

Taylor credits CyberPatriot for opening his eyes to the wide world of computer security. Participating in CyberPatriot allowed him to see the many options that are available to him, and it really helped Taylor determine a career path for himself. The CyberPatriot program also allowed Taylor to get familiar with many different technologies from a security standpoint.

His exposure to things like Linux Command Line, Windows Administration Tools, CIS, and more were invaluable to his future. Taylor would advise current and future CyberPatriot participants to utilize the program to help determine what your future will look like. "The world of computer science and security is so vast and within CyberPatriot you have a wonderful opportunity to expose yourself to industry standard technologies and learn all about them. Embrace it!"

This fall Taylor will be traveling all the way to Pittsburgh, PA to attend Carnegie Mellon University. At CMU Taylor will be studying to receive his M.S. in Information Security, for which he received the CyberCorps Scholarship for Service.

Do you want to be featured in an issue of the CyberSentinel?
Complete the survey and your story could be in the spotlight!

Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award

The Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award honors two K-12 teachers for excellence in cybersecurity education, and the call for nominations is now open!

Currently in its fourth year, the award is part of a coordinated federal effort to develop and maintain a superior cybersecurity workforce. The U.S. Department of Education recognizes the critical role teachers have in preparing students with the skills needed to fortify our nation's security and to succeed in the ever-evolving cybersecurity environment.

The award is presented annually to two teachers, one at the elementary level and one at the secondary level, who demonstrate superior achievement in instilling skills, knowledge, and passion with respect to cybersecurity education and cybersecurity-related subjects.

The nomination period will close on September 15, 2023. You can find the rules, terms, and conditions and details on how to apply on the PCRN website: https://cte.ed.gov/cyberaward. Award recipients are selected for their superior accomplishments as teachers, academic achievement indicators, and leadership contributing to the field of cybersecurity. Anyone may nominate a teacher for this honor; self-nominations are also permitted.

New CyberPartner: General Atomics Sciences Education Foundation

CyberPatriot welcomes the General Atomics Sciences Education Foundation as its newest CyberPartner. In addition to supporting CyberPatriot, they are also providing support for AFA's StellarXplorers program.

"We're exceptionally happy to add the General Atomics Sciences Education Foundation as a sponsor for both of our STEM programs," said Stuart Pettis, Director of AFA STEM Programs. "Last year we had over 20,000 middle and high school students participate, and that reach can only happen thanks to the great generosity of sponsors like them."

The donation allows the Association to expand its reach to encourage STEM education among America's youth.

AFA CyberCamps

The final week of 2023 CyberCamps wraps up this week on August 4th. One of the most anticipated aspects of the CyberCamps is the last day of camp, where campers are provided with two competition images that are similar to the real CyberPatriot competition images. Campers gain points for finding and fixing vulnerabilities that are built into the virtual images and can lose points for making the OS less secure. For new teams, a Standard CyberCamp provides them with curriculum and mini competition images that will prepare them to compete in the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. For teams that have already competed in the competition, an Advanced CyberCamp can progress the team's skillset. We can't wait to hear how much everyone has learned this summer!

CyberPatriot in the News

[CyberPatriot camp arms youth with security solutions](#)

Through a collaboration between the Center for the Future of Arizona, University of Arizona and Cochise College, the two CyberPatriot camps were free and limited to 21 students. The basic level was offered from June 12-16, followed by the advanced camp from June 19-23. Sixth- through 12th-grade students were eligible to enroll, with 15 of the 21 students enrolled in both the basic and advanced sessions.

[Prince George's Co. students attend cybersecurity summer camp](#)
Students learned about cyber safety, cyber ethics, and network security, and even interacted with a robot.

[Michigan CyberPatriot Program Update with Tamara Shoemaker](#)
Tamara Shoemaker, who founded the Michigan CyberPatriot program nearly a decade ago, returns to talk about her year working with Auto-ISAC helping the auto industry train its engineers to incorporate cybersecurity safeguards into today's connected vehicles. She also promotes CyberPatriot, a national program that trains students and senior citizens to surf the Internet without getting hacked by the bad guys.

[San Antonio-area students explore cybersecurity careers and topics at summer camp](#)
The next generation of cybersecurity professionals is attending a camp at the San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology's Area 21, located inside the Boeing Center at Tech Port on 3331 General Hudnell Drive. About 20 students learn from educators and leaders in the fields of cybersecurity at summer camp.

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