



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

DECEMBER 2023

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CyberPatriot XVI State Round

The CyberPatriot XVI State Round will take place December 7-11, 2023.

All registered teams may compete in the CyberPatriot XVI State Round. There is no score cutoff or participation requirement. If your team did not compete in earlier rounds, you can still compete in the State Round.

For Open and All Service Division teams, the State Round is a stand-alone round where all teams start with a clean slate and previous scores do not count. For Middle School Division teams, the Introductory Round and State Round scores are considered for State Awards and advancement to the Semifinals. If a team did not participate in or did not score high in earlier rounds, they can still compete in the State Round. Teams may win awards even if it is the first time they compete this season.

Competition Windows

Teams may choose any 4-hour long window from the following availability:

- **Thursday: 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM ET**
- **Friday: 9:00 AM - 11:59 PM ET**
- **Saturday: 8:00 AM - 11:59 PM ET**
- **Sunday: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM ET**
- **Monday: 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM ET**

Round Challenges

Teams will be challenged on three virtual machines and two Cisco Networking exercises.

- Server 2022
- Windows 10
- Ubuntu 20
- Cisco Quiz (Modules 12-15)
- Cisco Packet Tracer (Modules 1-15)

CyberPatriot XVI State and Tier Awards



Within each division, printed state award certificates are given to the top three teams per state. [Note: Canada and the “At-Large” region (international teams) are each recognized as a state].

It is important to note that the Platinum tier always outranks the Gold tier, which always outranks the Silver tier. Platinum tier teams are typically the teams to earn printed state awards. Tier awards are digital certificates given to the top three teams per state in the Gold and Silver tiers. While these teams are not necessarily the top overall in their state, they are the top within their skill level and deserve proper recognition.

Examples of state and tier awards can be found in section 4005 | Awards on page 46 of the Official Rule Book. Note that the Platinum Tier receives a State award and does not qualify for a tier recognition, since they are recognized as top in their state.

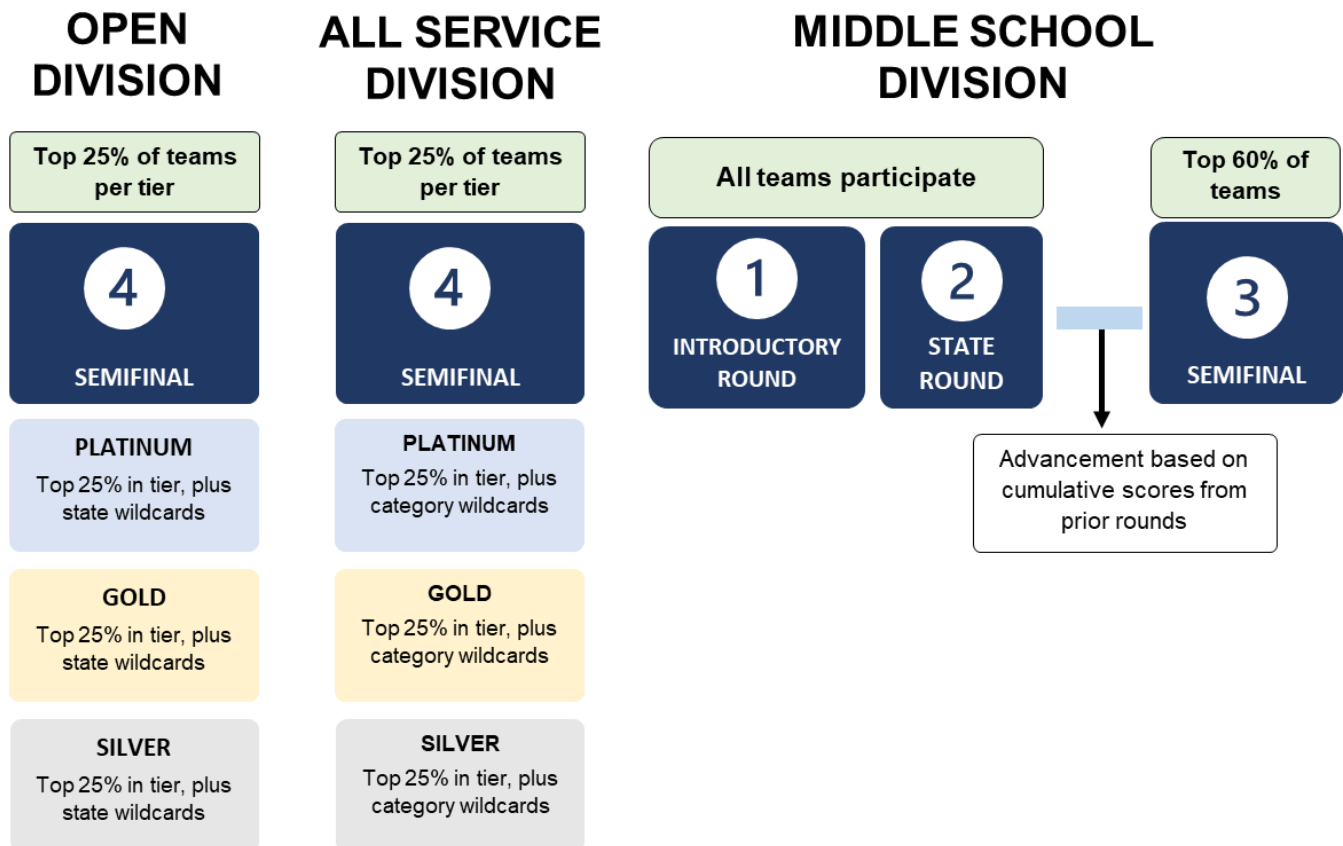
Semifinals Advancement

Each Division has a unique Semifinal advancement.

Open Division - Only the top **25%** of teams (within each skill tier) advance to the Semifinal Round based on State Round scores. If a specific state, Canada, or the At-Large Region is not represented by a team advancing in the top 25%, the single highest scoring team from that state will advance as a wildcard. Teams must have a score higher than zero points to advance.

All Service Division - Only the top **25%** of teams (within each skill tier) advance to the Semifinal Round based on State Round scores. If at least six teams from an individual category are not represented as part of the top 25%, the highest scoring teams from that category will advance as a category wildcard. Teams must have a score higher than zero points to advance.

Middle School Division - Only the top **60%** of teams advance to the Semifinal Round based on their cumulative score from the Introductory Round and the State Round.



CP-XVI Training Round 2



Don't forget - Training Round 2 is available!

This will give teams access to additional Linux image training. Details can be found on the coach dashboard.

Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity now through December 6th.

CP-XVI Participant Kits

Participant kits are being shipped! Participant kits include a CP-XVI t-shirt, coin, and sticker for every registered team, including mentors who are officially linked to teams. Coaches will receive one box with gear for themselves and their competitors. Mentor and team assistant gear is sent separately (directly to the volunteer).



The participation certificate template is also available for download from the coach dashboard.

Have questions regarding your participant kit? Contact CyberPatriot at info@uscyberpatriot.org.

CyberPatriot Alumni Spotlight

John Bulaong | CyberPatriot XI, XII, XIII



As it has done for many others, CyberPatriot helped John to realize his deep passion for technical problem solving and computer skills. Participating in CyberPatriot gave John a firsthand look into his future possibilities as a cyber professional, which is a big reason he is pursuing a degree in computer science. John is currently in his third year at the University of Manitoba.

According to John, the most valuable lesson he has learned from CyberPatriot is the importance of teamwork. Group problem solving during the competition can be much easier when you know each other well and can see your teammates as friends. He notes, "The tasks become much less daunting when you know that you all have each other's backs."

Reiterating the importance of teamwork, John believes building chemistry with your teammates can be a key factor to a successful CyberPatriot year. As rewarding as it is to do well in any competition, it makes it more enjoyable when you get to succeed with your friends. "You will be spending many hours with your team over the competition season, and you will have much more fun if you are also good friends with them!"



Fun Fact: John loves to golf! When he has free time, you will likely catch him on the course.

***Do you want to be featured in an issue of the CyberSentinel?
Complete the [survey](#) and your story could be in the spotlight!***

CyberPatriot in the News

[PSLA Students Compete in National CyberPatriot Competition](#)

Individuals in the PSLA Computer Forensics and Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC) programs recently teamed up to participate in the Air Force Association's annual CyberPatriot Competition – a national cyber defense competition.

The competition is the nation's largest, putting students in charge of securing virtual networks. For the students – many of whom already have an interest in pursuing a career in the field of computer engineering – this experience was invaluable.

Gannon University Sponsors Air Force Association's CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition

Gannon University is proudly continuing its support of The Air Force Association's CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education program for the third consecutive year as a silver sponsor of. Gannon's support is expanding STEM education outreach as it is proudly sponsoring 25 middle school and high school teams from across the country who are competing in AFA's CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition this year.

Thank you to all the CyberPatriot Sponsors who make our program possible:

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Want to be featured in the next edition of the CyberSentinel? Please send email highlights or accolades to info@uscyberpatriot.org.