



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

February 2023

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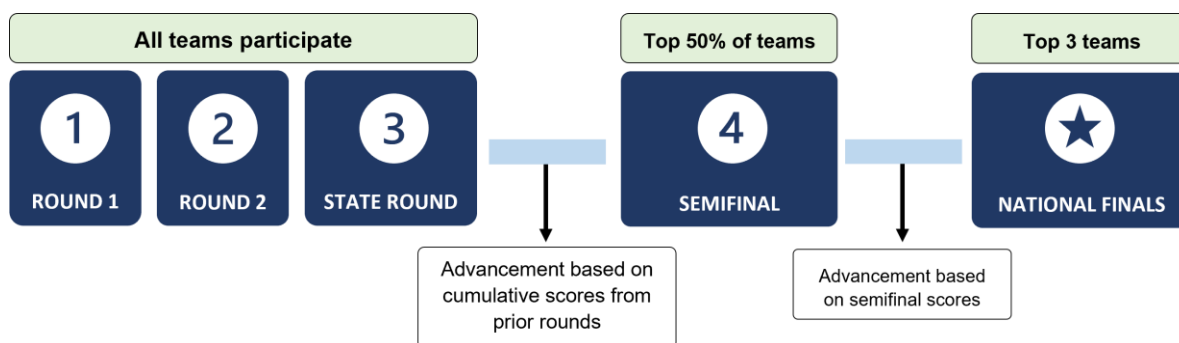
Semifinals Awards and National Finals Advancement

Did you know that all teams that qualify for the Semifinal Round (across all divisions) receive the highly coveted Semifinalist certificate (via email)? Here is the criteria for each division:

Middle School Division Semifinal Awards: For the Middle School Division, the top 25 teams based on Semifinal Round scores receive a digital certificate (via email).



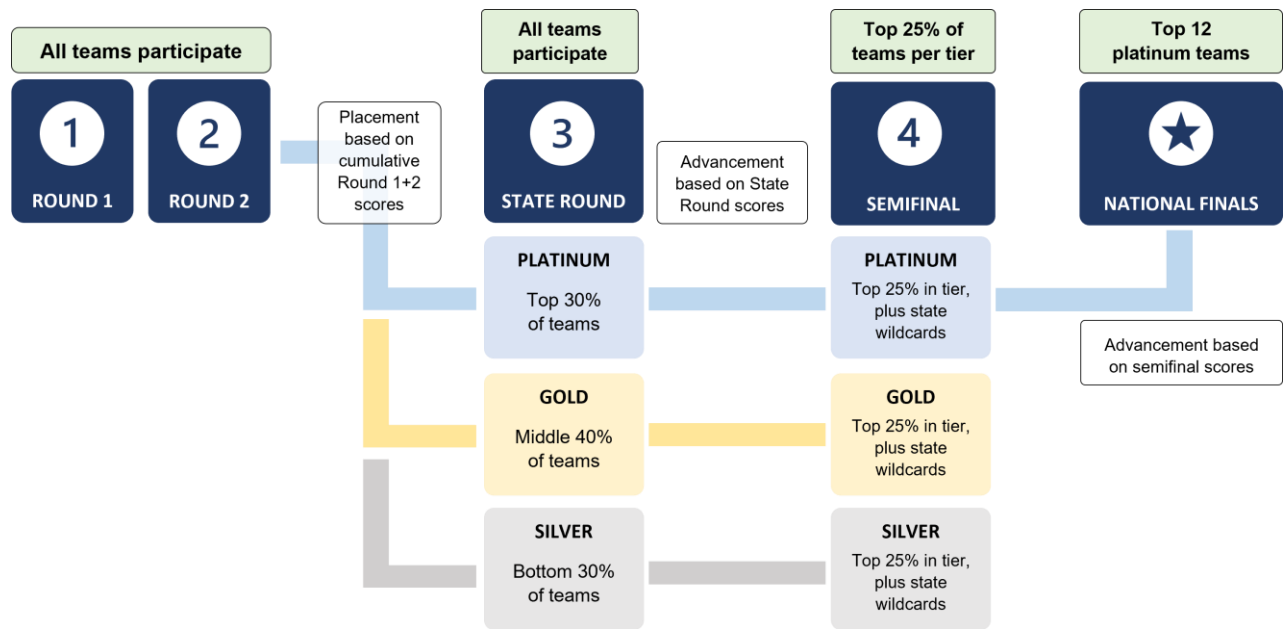
Middle School Division National Finals Advancement: The top three highest scoring teams in the Semifinal Round advance to the National Finals Competition. Only one team from the same school, organization, or coach can advance to the National Finals Competition in the Middle School Division.



Open Division Semifinal Awards: The top 20 scoring Open Division teams in each Tier receives a digital certificate (via email).

Open Division National Finals Advancement: The 12 highest scoring* Open Division teams from the Platinum Tier advance to the National Finals Competition based on their Semifinal Round scores.

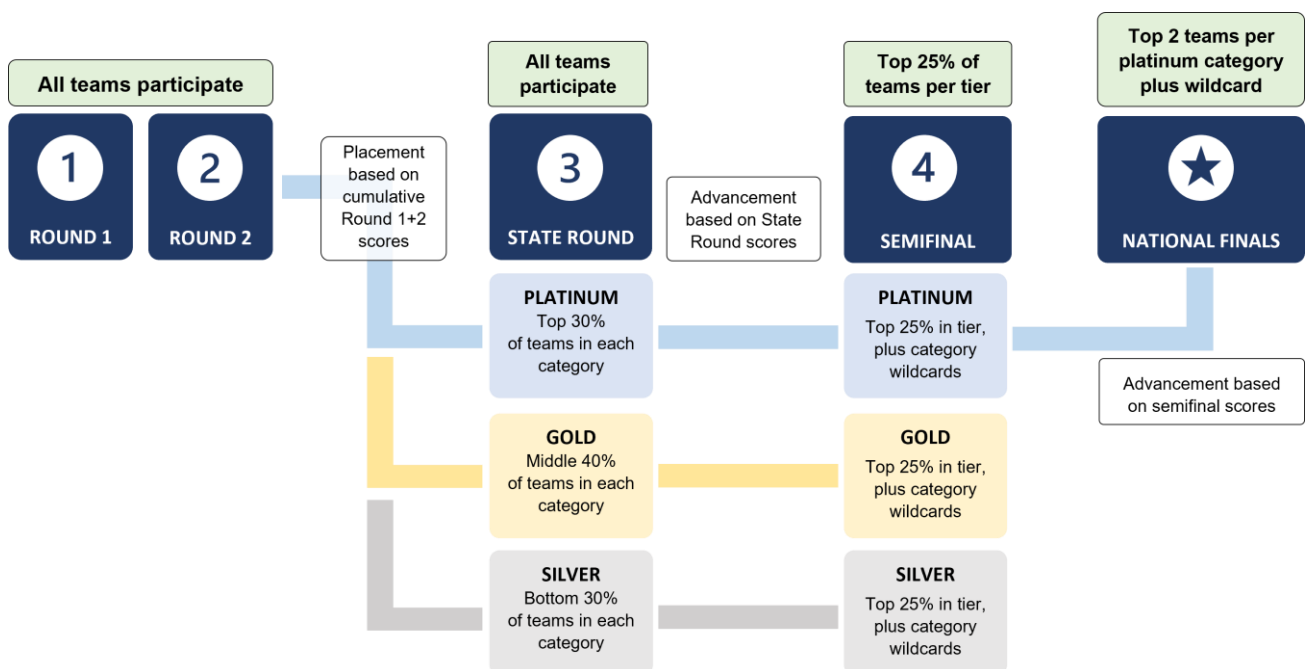
*NOTE: Advancement to the National Finals competition is limited to two teams from the same school, organization, or coach in the Open Division. If an otherwise qualifying team does not advance to the National Finals Competition, the next highest qualifying team will advance.



All Service Division Semifinal Awards: The top five teams in each category of the All Service Division at each Tier level receives a digital certificate (via email).

All Service Division National Finals Advancement: In total, 13 All Service Division teams from the Platinum Tier advance to the National Finals Competition. Based on Semifinal Round scores, the two highest scoring teams* from each category advance to the National Finals Competition. Additionally, the team with the highest national score that was not advanced as a “top-two” category team advances as a wildcard.

*NOTE: Advancement to the National Finals competition is limited to one team from the same school, organization, or coach in the All Service Division. If an otherwise qualifying team does not advance to the National Finals Competition, the next highest qualifying team will advance.



CP-XV National Finals Competition

Congratulations to these 28 teams that qualified for the CP-XV National Finals Competition.



OPEN DIVISION

Carmel High School <i>c#b3rh0u#d5</i> Carmel, IN	Del Norte High School San Diego, CA	Del Norte High School San Diego, CA	Enochs High School Modesto, CA
Faith Lutheran High School <i>Team C</i> Las Vegas, NV	Franklin High School <i>Half Dome</i> Elk Grove, CA	Grandview High School <i>Cyber Wolves I</i> Aurora, CO	Highlands Ranch High School <i>Falcon Transfer Protocol</i> Highlands Ranch, CO
Olathe Northwest High School Olathe, KS	Sisler High School <i>Syntax Error</i> Winnipeg, Manitoba (CAN)	Troy High School <i>Baboons Strong Together</i> Fullerton, CA	Vista Ridge High School Cedar Park, TX

ALL SERVICE DIVISION

Knob Noster High School <i>Komputer Kernels</i> Knob Noster, MO	The King's Academy <i>KNIGHTS TEAM A</i> Woodstock, GA	Raritan Valley Composite Squadron Cyber Eagles Manville, NJ	
Scripps Ranch High School <i>Terabyte Falcons</i> San Diego, CA	Theodore Roosevelt High School <i>Team 1</i> San Antonio, TX	Boise Composite Squadron <i>Boise Bees</i> Boise, ID	Fullerton Composite Squadron <i>Entropy</i> Fullerton, CA
Band of the West Division <i>Silicon Knights</i> Redwood City, CA	Sacramento Division Citrus Heights, CA	Chaparral High School Temecula, CA	Allen High School <i>Eagles Bravo</i> Allen, TX
Troy High School <i>Runtime Terror</i> Fullerton, CA	Marine Military Academy <i>Devil Dogs</i> Harlingen, TX		

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION

Design 39 Campus <i>Team 1</i> San Diego, CA	Oak Valley Middle School Escondido, CA	Toby Johnson Middle School <i>The Other Half</i> Elk Grove, CA
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CyberPatriot Alumni Spotlight: Mia Sanchez

Mia Sanchez, recent graduate of Boise State University with a BS and a Certificate in Computer Operations. Mia participated in CyberPatriot at John R. Rogers High School (class of 2015) through their AFJROTC program.

Q: How did you learn about CyberPatriot and what about the program encouraged you to participate?

A: I learned about CyberPatriot from AFJROTC in high school. My Sergeant in the class, Lloyd Patton, spoke highly of it. He eventually talked me into attending the summer program for a week to see if I liked it. (I loved it) I really enjoyed CyberPatriot and stuck with it through my senior year because it helped introduce me into deeper computer concepts that my classes didn't teach me. I'd always had a passion for computers, and this was my first dive into all of that learning!

Q: How many years did you compete in the CyberPatriot's National Youth Cyber Defense Competition? What did you enjoy most about it?

A: I competed in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition for 3 years. I joined the end of my freshman year of high school and was able to officially start my sophomore year. What I enjoyed most about it was spending the whole afternoon with my team trying to get all our points in a competition or on a practice image. Each time we were able to successfully secure a piece of the image, it felt like we were getting an achievement in a videogame, which was so rewarding!



Q: You mentioned you would not be the person you are today without being part of the AFJROTC and CyberPatriot. Can you tell us why that is?

A: I certainly wouldn't be who I am today without AFJROTC and CyberPatriot. AFJROTC introduced me into so many pathways throughout high school that provided me with activities to do to stay busy, to earn scholarships, to volunteer, I earned my letterman's jacket, I even found myself very close to attending the United States Military Academy. CyberPatriot introduced me to cybersecurity as a concept. I knew about computers, but CyberPatriot allowed me to take what I wanted to do within AFJROTC and the Military and pursue that within the field of computing through the introduction of cybersecurity. It was the combination of time filling activities that AFJROTC gave me, such as Drill team, CyberPatriot, and volunteering, and the focus of a concept that I loved within CyberPatriot that has allowed me to now have a job that I love, and now be a first-generation graduate with a degree in cybersecurity, years after graduating from high school.

Q: Did CyberPatriot prepare you to major in Cyber Operations? If so, what skills or knowledge did you learn that you found most helpful in your academic studies?

A: CyberPatriot definitely prepared me for my major of Cyber Operations. There was some time between my years in CyberPatriot to when I was able to take cybersecurity courses due to general courses, but once I was able to take them, I was immediately able to recognize material from CyberPatriot. CyberPatriot provided me the introduction and base work for all the classes and knowledge I was to gain.

Q: What are your career plans now, and where do you see yourself in the next five years?

A: Currently my career plans are to continue working as a Cybersecurity Analyst at my current job to gain experience and see what is really necessary to be well rounded. Now that I have more free time, I want to use it to learn as much as I

can to become an expert on areas such as programming with Python, SIEM tools and managing them, and become better versed in the networking realm. I would hope to be a confident expert in those areas and more in the next 5 years, and still working as a CyberSecurity Analyst.

Q: Finally, what would your advice be to current CyberPatriot competitors, especially for females?

A: My advice to current CyberPatriot competitors would be to listen to your teammates and collaborate. It's important to let everyone drive the boat because everyone's contributions are important. With that, for female competitors in CyberPatriot and beyond, my advice would be that you should always speak up, even if you're the only female voice in the room. Females are often the minority in the tech industry, and the same goes for CyberPatriot. There's often the notion that we are less than, but we bring just as much to the table as any other person can. It might be cliché, but it is true.



CyberPatriot Sponsor Highlight – Air & Space Force K-12 STEM

Air & Space Force K-12 STEM is bringing several virtual opportunities to educators and students this winter! Check out the lineup below. Guardians from the US Space Force will share their personal experiences and discuss their role in Space Force. Topics include cybersecurity, the Global Positioning System (GPS) and more!

Sign up now using the link below!

- Audience: Grades 7-12
- Duration: 35 minutes
- Event Type: Virtual
- Platform: Pathful Connect



2023 CyberCamp Host Registration Open

Looking to keep student engaged in cybersecurity over summer break? Host Registration for 2023 CyberCamps is open until May 1!



CyberCamps emphasize fun, hands-on learning of cybersecurity principles that are relevant and applicable to everyday life. The Standard CyberCamp is designed for campers who are new to the world of cybersecurity. The goal at the end of the camp is to have students ready to compete in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Competition. The Standard CyberCamp consists of an introduction to cybersecurity, cyber careers, the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, Windows Security Policies, auditing, Linux basics, intro to using a CLI, and command line security.

The Advanced CyberCamp takes campers to the next level and is designed for students who have either competed in the National Youth Cyber

Defense Competition or attended an AFA Standard CyberCamp. The Advanced CyberCamp curriculum consists of (1) Windows graphical utilities, command line, Sysinternals Suite, (2) Linux Init Systems, advanced command line, processes and scheduled tasks, security policies, PAM and (3) Cisco NetAcad.

On the last day of the AFA CyberCamps, campers are immersed in a mock competition where they work on securing virtual images by finding and fixing vulnerabilities.

Find out more about CyberCamps at:

<https://www.uscyberpatriot.org/afa-cybercamps/overview>

Host organizations can choose to host a camp during any of the available weeks. Both standard AND advanced camps are offered each week.

WEEK	DATE
WEEK 1	June 5-9
WEEK 2	June 12-16
WEEK 3*	June 19-23
WEEK 4	June 26-30
WEEK 5	July 10-14
WEEK 6	July 17-21
WEEK 7	July 24-28
WEEK 8	July 31-Aug 4

**Juneteenth will be observed on June 19, 2023. Camps can be held this week if the host organization would like, but limited tech support will be available on that Monday, June 19th.*

CyberPatriot Alumni Network



Know any past competitors in the CyberPatriot Program? Make sure they join 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 opening, and volunteer and networking opportunities.

We also want to feature alumni and what they are up to

now in the CyberSentinel and on our Social Media pages.

Are you a high school senior? Be on the lookout for an invitation to join!

CyberPatriot Shoutout

CyberPatriot Competitor, Vlad Serov earns Four CompTIA Certifications

Vlad Serov, a student here at Bearden High School, was recognized as the FIRST student in Knox County Schools to obtain the CompTIA "Core Four" industry certifications (ITF+, Network+, Security+, and A+), and he's actually gone one better and also obtained his CompTIA Linux+ cert!

Check out the full story at: <https://kcshallpass.org/bearden-student-first-to-earn-four-comptia-certifications/>



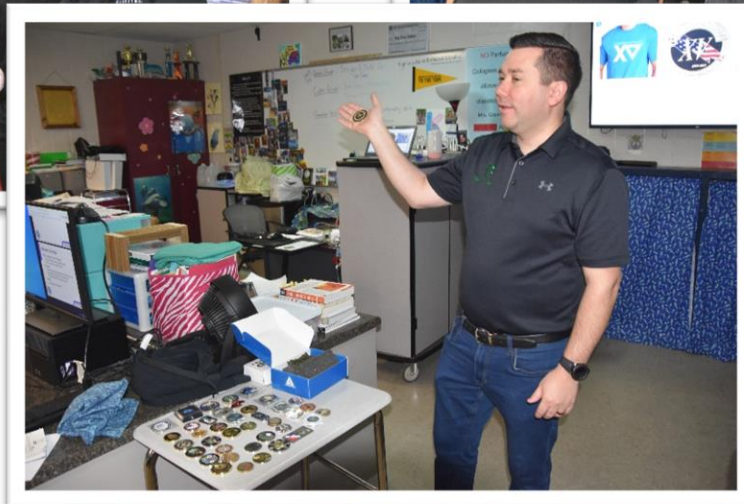
Carl Albert Middle School CyberPatriot Appreciation Video

Teams from Carl Albert Middle School put together a Thank You video for CyberPatriot (that also has some great tips to teams!). Check out the video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhe4AiTcTeQ>



CyberPatriot Challenge Coins Presented to Sparkman Middle School Teams

Dr. D Hovermale presented the CyberPatriot XV coins to CyberPatriot teams from Sparkman Middle School. He showed off his collection of Challenge Coins, gave a history lesson of them, and showed them the "correct" way to present them.



CyberPatriot in The News

[Mentoring – A Service to Our Country](#) | Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) Newsroom

U.S. President Joe Biden challenged Americans in his proclamation making January the National Mentoring Month. “As families and friends, teachers and counselors, coaches and co-workers, faith and community leaders, good citizens and neighbors, we can each play a role in helping the next generation of Americans achieve their dreams.”

Frederick Hall, network engineer, 690th Intelligence Support Squadron, has mentored and coached in the CyberPatriot program for the past 12 years.

[CyberPatriot Team honored by school board](#) | The Star

Some of Garrett’s best were honored at Monday’s school board meeting.

Dante Maslin, representing Garrett Middle School’s state champion CyberPatriot team, presented the award to Principal Lucas Fielden at the meeting.

Maslin and team members Chase Roberts and Lucie White, all eighth-graders, won the title at the state round competition in December. In its fourth season of existence, Garrett Middle School also won first place last year and was second the first two years. Garrett High School placed in the top 10 in its recently completed season.

[Seneca Valley Students Win Cybersecurity Challenge](#) | ButlerRadio.com

A group of Seneca Valley students is receiving recognition for their recent accomplishment.

Four Ryan Gloyer Middle Schoolers placed second in the state in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition.

As part of the world’s largest CyberSecurity challenge, the eighth graders participated in a series of six-hour online completion rounds in which they found and fixed cybersecurity vulnerabilities in a virtual operating system.

The Seneca Valley team was the only middle school in the state to qualify for the National Semifinal Round after scoring in the top third of participants nationwide.

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