



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

- State and Tier Awards →
- CP-XV Participant Kits →
- Participation Certificates →
- Advancement and Wildcards →
- CyberPatriot Semifinals Round →
- Packet Tracer and Networking Quiz Tips →
- CyberPatriot XV Registration Report →
- 2023 CyberCamp Host Registration Open →
- CyberTitan: Alumni Interview →
- CyberPatriot in the News →

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]. Printed State Awards are mailed out this week.

Tier awards are digital certificates given to the top three teams per state in the Gold and Silver Tiers. The Platinum Tier receives a State Award and is not eligible a tier recognition, since they are recognized as top in their state. Digital certificates were emailed a printable .pdf certificate in December of 2022.



Check out the list of Award winners available on the [CyberPatriot website](#).

CP-XV Participant Kits

All Team and Mentor participant kits have shipped! Participant kits include a CP-XV 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).

Haven't received your participant kit yet? Contact CyberPatriot at info@uscyberpatriot.org and we will provide an update.



Participation Certificates

The Participation Certificate Template is available on the coach's dashboard. The template is customizable and can be made with each individual competitor's name on the certificate.

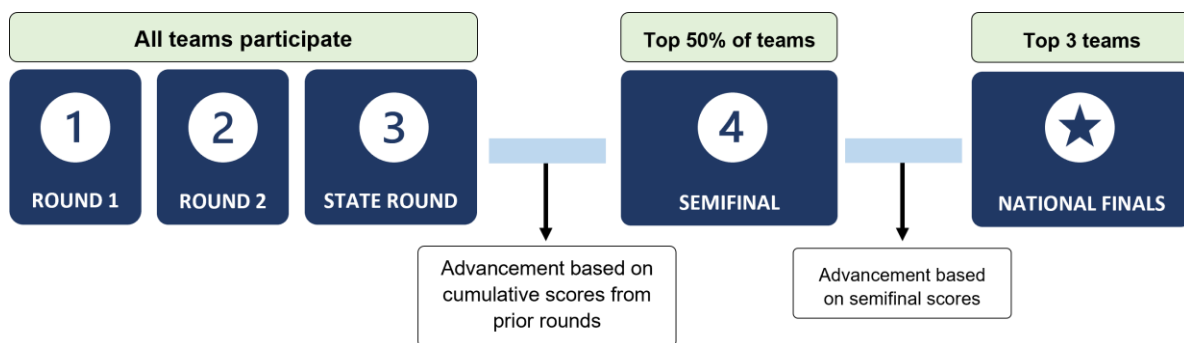


Advancement and Wildcards

Based on State Round scores, the top 25% of teams in each of the skill tiers (Platinum, Gold, Silver) in the Open and All Service Divisions, advance to the Semifinal Round. Teams may find out if they have advanced to the Semifinal Round by checking the State Round scores on the [CyberPatriot website](#).

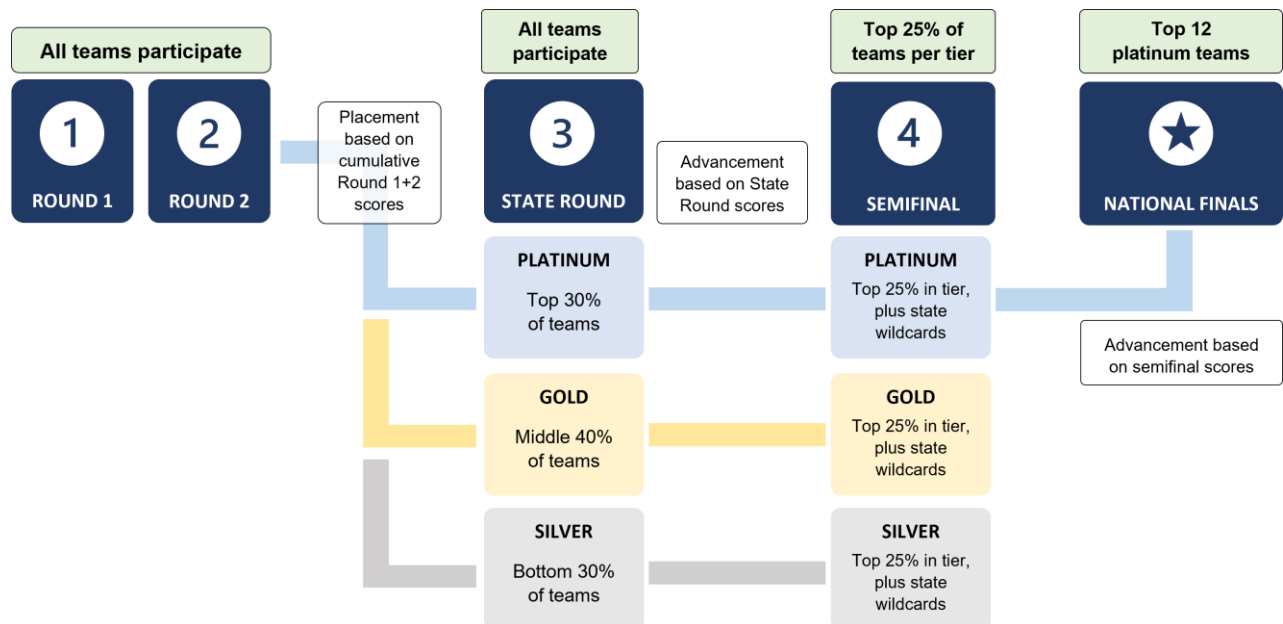
For the Middle School Division, the top 50% of teams (based on their cumulative Round 1, Round 2, and State Round scores) advance to the Semifinal Round.

Middle School Division Advancement



Wildcard advancement (Open Division): If a state, Canada, or At-Large region are not represented by the top 25% of teams advancing, the highest-scoring team from the missing location will advance to the Semifinals as a State Wildcard.

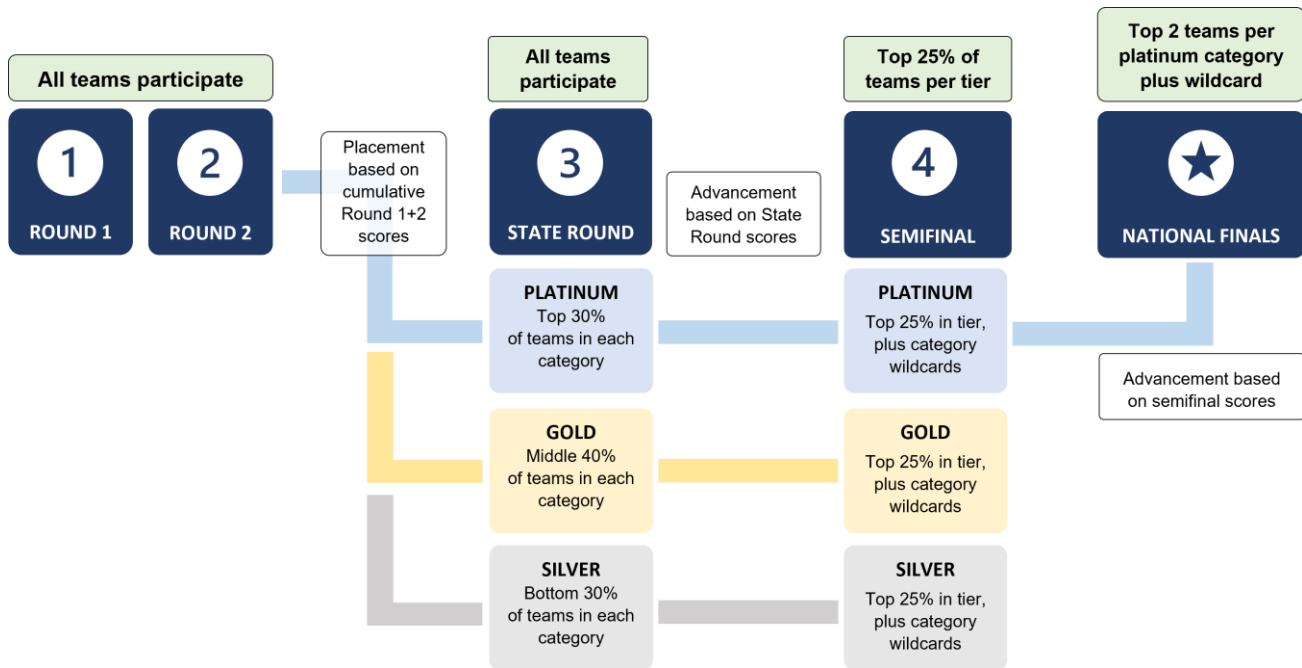
Open Division Advancement



Wildcard advancement (All Service Division): If fewer than six teams from a category (Army JROTC, Marine Corps JROTC, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Navy JROTC, Air Force JROTC, and Civil Air Patrol) advance to the Semifinal Round, then the

next highest scoring teams will advance to the Semifinals as a Category Wild Card until at least six teams in the category are represented.

All Service Division Advancement



CyberPatriot Semifinals Round

The Semifinals is a two-day event only and does not include Sunday as a competition day. Please plan your team’s competition times accordingly. The CP-XV Semifinals will take place on January 20-21, 2023. The Semifinals is the first round of competition where only a portion of teams advanced and are eligible to compete. All teams qualifying for the Semifinals will receive a digital Semifinalist Certificate via email.

<p>Competition Windows</p> <p>Teams may choose any 6-hour window from the following availability:</p> <p>Fri. 9:00 AM – Sat. 3:00 AM ET Sat. 8:00 AM – 11:59 PM ET</p>	<p>Round Challenges</p> <p>All qualifying teams will be challenged on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows 10 • Server 2019 • Ubuntu 22 • Cisco Quiz (Modules 16-19) • Cisco Packet Tracer (Modules 1-19) <p>In addition, Platinum Tier teams will also face:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fedora 36 • CyberPatriot Web-Based Challenge • Boeing Cyber-Physical System Challenge
--	--

Packet Tracer and Networking Quiz Tips

During each round of competition, more than 50 teams received no score on the Packet Tracer or Networking Quiz of the Cisco NetAcad Challenge because:

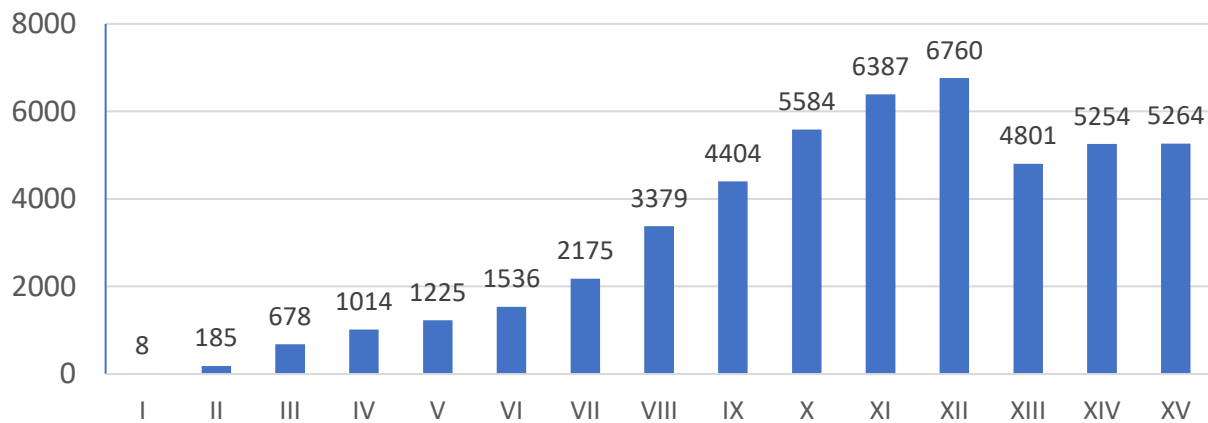
- The team number (15-xxxx) could not be found

- A wrong or partial team number was entered
- The team submitted a Packet Tracer file from another round
- The wrong Packet Tracer version was used
- A wrong file type was submitted
- The quiz was not identified because of NO team number in the team’s NetAcad profile

Find tips on how to avoid these scoring issues in the Cisco NetAcad Challenge by checking out the *How to Compete in the Competition Course* instructions on the Coaches Dashboard.

CyberPatriot XV Registration Report

The [CyberPatriot XV \(2022-23\) Registration Report](#) is now available on the CyberPatriot website. Over 5,200 teams and nearly 20,000 competitors registered for the CP-XV season.



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! Learn more about AFA CyberCamps on our [website](#).

CyberTitan: Alumni Interview

In 2019 CyberTitan made a wildcard spot for the top female team in the CyberTitan competition to advance to the National Finals. A small rural high school in Southwestern Ontario took up the challenge and the [Terabytches](#) became the first all-female team to attend national finals in Canada. Louise Turner was a member of that founding team and became a mentor and then team captain in her final years in high school.

Excerpts below, the interview may be seen in its entirety here:

<https://youtu.be/fsHXcmFaoiM>



Tim King (Louise's former CyberTitan coach): Tell us where you are today.

Louise Turner (CyberTitan pioneer, 2x national finalist & team captain): I'm a computer science student majoring in cybersecurity at Queens University in my second year and I'm here on a Schulich Leaders Scholarship. CyberTitan was incredibly impactful during all my time during high school, and I don't think I'd be the same person as I am now if I didn't have that experience.

TK: How did our first all-female team form?



LT: I remember in grade nine I quite enjoyed the computer tech class. I didn't think I was all that good at it, but I did I like computers. Around the end of the year, you emailed me and all the other girls who you thought would be good for this all female team for CyberTitan. Looking at these emails – we investigated what this competition was and we were freaking out! Like, this is so cool!

We were all good friends beforehand which was just incredible because we were excited to do this together and we knew we could bounce off each other well, so we just kind of went for it. We did all the training that CyberTitan and we were just hanging out trying to get to know each other better, to have a better team environment and then it just grew from there.

TK: Collaboration was a hallmark of that team. How would you describe it?

LT: It was just something we instinctively did rather than competing within the team. We would hop around to each other's stations and help each other because we always knew a second set of eyes is good. Male teams wouldn't talk to each other at all. They were all very good at what they did, but because we had less experience our teamwork is what pushed us to get to that next level.

TK: How does creating an all-female team help in a rural high school?

LT: Going into grade 9 in a rural town - the community for people who like tech stuff is extremely male based. I grew up being tomboyish. I had like pretty much all guy friends, but you know deep down you still want that connection with other girls because you feel safer around them.

After being isolated in a grade nine class of almost entirely boys, to then be with a bunch of girls who are in the same kind of situation as you: they're all kind of scared, they all feel like they don't belong, and then they realize through working together that they do belong.



It's a big booster because it can be very intimidating walking into a class with a bunch of 'tech bros'. Whenever you enter a high school computer class the girls always gravitate towards each other. They always sit together even if they have no idea who each other are. They will always gravitate so they can have that bit of support.

TK: Any last words of advice for girls considering STEM pathways, or CyberTitan specifically?

LT: A core belief of mine has just been going for things. There's no harm in trying! One of the big reasons why a lot of people don't do things like CyberTitan is because they think they're not good enough.

There are so many guys who have been coding since they were two years old, but even if you're not that person, just trying... getting that experience... having fun with it. It doesn't matter if you don't do extremely well with it, but you never know, you could be extremely good at it.

Don't be put off by threatening (male) figures in the tech industry. It's so scary because you're going up against these dudes who are really aggressive and they all kind of bounce off of each other and it just creates whole pool of aggression. But you can go in there and just ignore it. Just do your thing, it really does not matter what these guys think. You just do what you want to do, and if you like it then that's so good because you will discover so many things that you would have never known about, so many different industries, different opportunities you never would've known about if you didn't just try.

CyberPatriot in The News

[Garrett CyberPatriot team repeats as State Champions](#) | KPC News

The Garrett CyberPatriot program continued its run as one of the best in Indiana during the state round held Dec. 9-11. Garrett Middle School won its second straight state title while the squad from Garrett High School placed in the top 10 in its most recently completed season.

[There's a shortage of cybersecurity workers, and these girls aspire to fill the gap](#) | 9News

In a world of data leaks and hackers on the internet, the need for cybersecurity workers is in high demand. But, like a lot of industries, there's not enough of them.

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