



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

OCTOBER 2023

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CyberPatriot XVI

Registration for CyberPatriot XVI closes on Tuesday, October 3rd.

Make sure to register any teams you think you may need for the CyberPatriot XVI season, as we cannot add more teams later.

As a reminder, by October 3rd teams DO NOT need:

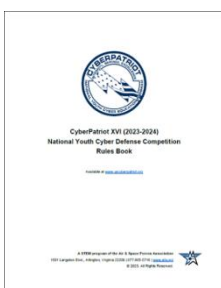
- To be verified by the verification official
- To be approved by the CyberPatriot Program Office
- To have competitors registered to the team
- To have competitors fully registered
- To have the registration fee paid or the fee waived



Registration Dates to Remember:

- **10/25** Competitor Registration Deadline – The last day to register competitors and finalize team rosters.
- **11/15** Payment Deadline – The last day to pay the registration fee, request a fee waiver, submit a Purchase Order, or request a payment extension.

CyberPatriot XVI Competition Rules Book



The CyberPatriot XVI (2023-24) Competition Rules book is now posted to the CyberPatriot website: <https://www.uscyberpatriot.org/competition/rules-book>

CyberPatriot has received many questions concerning the use of ChatGPT and other AI platforms in the competition. There are no new rules limiting their use. However, the Rules Book applies to ChatGPT and other AI platforms since they are a resource (see section **3012 | Allowable Resources**). Specifically, teams may not put questions from the competition into AI platforms.

Important Changes

Based on input and feedback from Coaches and Mentors, CP-XVI will have some fundamental changes.

Expanded Competition Windows	Reduced Competition Period	Image Difficulty Level	New Middle School Division Schedule
We are expanding the competition window for most competition rounds. Rounds will be Thursday through Monday rather than Friday through Sunday. *Please note, the Semifinals Round will be a 3 day only event, running Thursday through Saturday.	We are also adjusting the competition period to 4 hours rather than the 6 hours we had previously. The number and complexity of images will also be adjusted to correspond to the reduced time.	The challenge difficulty levels will now be geared toward new teams in Round 1 and 2 for high school teams and the Introductory Round for middle school teams. Overall, there will be fewer images for middle school and Silver Tier teams than in previous seasons.	The Middle School Division will have a different competition schedule than the High School Divisions this season. The Middle School Division will have its first competition round, the Introductory Round, on November 2-6. Middle School Division teams will now only have three available online rounds.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION COMPETITION ROUNDS

Introductory Round November 2 – 6
State Round December 7 – 11
Semifinals January 19 – 20 (2 days Only)
National Finals (In-Person event, Bethesda, MD) March 15-19

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS COMPETITION ROUNDS

Round 1 October 19 – 23
Round 2 November 2 – 6
State Round December 7 – 11
Semifinals January 19 – 20 (2 days Only)
National Finals (In-Person event, Bethesda, MD) March 15-19

Cisco NetAcad Courses

There are two courses required for the Cisco NetAcad Challenge. The Content Course, which teams will use to study for the competition, and the Competition Course, which teams will use to compete. To see the recent Coaches' email concerning Cisco Networking Academy courses, please go to <https://conta.cc/3PxRK9o>.

- Content Course:** This course includes all training materials for the Cisco NetAcad Challenge. CyberPatriot will enroll coaches using the email address they are registered with for CyberPatriot. *Full Instructions are available on the coach dashboard.*
- Competition Course:** This is the course that teams will use to compete. Content course log ins will NOT work for the competition course. Coaches must create a unique email address and Cisco NetAcad account specific to each team. *Full instructions are available on the coach dashboard.*

The deadline to enroll in the Competition Course is October 12. Teams will **receive 5 points** in Round 1 for high school teams or the Introductory Round for middle school teams, if they enroll by the October 12 deadline and complete the Google Form mentioned in the instructions.

CP-XVI Practice Round



The CyberPatriot Practice Round will kick off on October 5 and will be available until October 15. The round has four practice images, three are re-releases from the training round with answer keys: Ubuntu 22, Windows 10, Windows Server 2019, AND also a Debian image, with no answer key.

New Coach Workshop

The New Coach Workshop can be viewed in a stand-alone [PowerPoint presentation](#) or by [watching a video on YouTube](#). The New Coach Guide will go over the structure of the competition, registration process, training resources, competition rounds, technical specifications, how to download and open a virtual image, and Cisco Networking Academy (Cisco NetAcad).



Coaches & Mentors LinkedIn



Don't forget about the 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. <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12861069/>

CyberPatriot Highlight – NCS Cyber Cup Challenge



One New Century Technology High School and two Huntsville High School cyber teams placed at the Cyber Cup Challenge, which was part of the 2023 National Cyber Summit on September 20-21, after being entered in the competition by the Huntsville City Schools CyberPatriot Center of Excellence.

from around the country. To advance to the finals on the second day of the competition, teams had to qualify based on their day one score.

The three HCS teams advanced to the day two finals, which lasted two hours. The New Century High team placed 2nd, while Huntsville High's two teams placed 3rd and 4th. Students from the top three teams received cash scholarships for their efforts. Congratulations to all – what an accomplishment!



Scholarship Opportunity



New! For 2024 Rising Freshmen - Ronald V. Dellums Memorial SMART Scholarship

The Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship-for-Service Program is a combined educational and workforce development opportunity for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) students funded by the DoD.

Recently, the SMART Program expanded the scholarship program eligibility by introducing the Ronald V. Dellums Memorial SMART Scholarship (Dellums SMART Scholarship). The goal of this scholarship is to increase participation of underrepresented students in the DoD STEM workforce.

This opportunity expands the SMART scholarship opportunity to rising college freshmen who plan to pursue a bachelor's degree in one of the 24 SMART STEM disciplines. To learn more about this opportunity and to review eligibility requirements of the Dellums SMART Scholarship, visit the [About Dellums page](#).

Applications are accepted annually from August 1 until December 1 – [Apply Now!](#)

CyberPatriot Alumni Spotlight

Kevin Kilbourne | CyberPatriot VII, VIII, IX



Kevin has always been driven by puzzles and brain teasers. CyberPatriot helped him explore a love for computer science and problem solving in the technical field. In fact, Kevin credits CyberPatriot as a motivating factor in the pursuit of his degree in Computer Science from Northern Arizona University.

After graduating from college in 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Kevin spent some time as a Software Development Engineer with Amazon Music. He is currently a Software Engineer with iBoss Network Security.

If Kevin has learned anything at all from CyberPatriot, it is to take in all that you can from the competition, stating, "Learn everything you possibly can and know that your curiosity will lead you to success."

CyberPatriot pushed Kevin to get comfortable with different operating systems, specifically Linux systems, which he says has paid dividends in almost every role he has held in the tech field.

Aside from helping expand his knowledge in the field of cybersecurity, Kevin appreciates the tenacity CyberPatriot has instilled in him to troubleshoot difficult problems and persistently pursue answers even when they are not forthcoming.

Fun fact: Kevin is now back in California and happily engaged to his high school sweetheart!



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

CyberTitan Update



CyberTitan completed its sixth consecutive national finals in May 2023. Because of lingering COVID restrictions, the ICTC CyberTitan team ran regional finals in Atlantic and Eastern Canada as a way to clarify cybersecurity learning and career pathways for the competitors. The Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity (CIC) at the University of New Brunswick hosted all the NB finalists, giving the finalists a chance to explore the campus and discover the many research opportunities the province has created for the students.

In Ontario, national finalist teams assembled at the University of Waterloo's Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute where they took on a sticky challenge of securing a maple syrup manufacturer on Field Effect's Cyber Range. The Western finalists elected to work from their schools, but they hope to eventually have a regional center of excellence to host there as well.

Congratulations to all the CyberTitan finalists and winners! A special shout out to Halifax Grammar School who became the first Nova Scotian school to attend national finals, and to Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, both of whom launched their first teams to compete in Canada's national cybersecurity competition. Also, CyberTitan would like to send a special thank you to Noel Murphy and his competition team at Field Effect. These individuals created another great capture the flag event on their cloud based Cyber Range for.

Be sure to check out the new CyberTitan promotional video! <https://youtu.be/xq3DMHX7dow?si=Y-jPu7Pz7OrGARaR>

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.