



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

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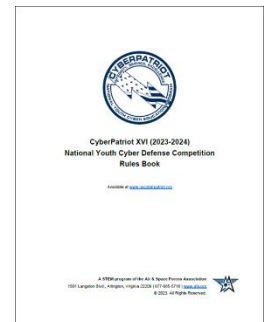
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CyberPatriot XVI

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.



CP-XVI Training Round

The CyberPatriot XVI Training Round kicks off on September 8th. The round will have three practice images:

- Ubuntu 22
- Windows 10
- Windows 2019 server

The Training Round images are a great resource for teams since they come with answer keys for each image. This is the best training opportunity for new teams. Scores do not count towards the competition.

Important Changes

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

- **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 had previously. The number and complexity of images will also be adjusted to correspond to the reduced time.

- **Image Difficulty Level:** The challenge difficulty levels will now be geared toward new teams in Round 1 and Round 2 for high school teams and the Introductory Round for middle school teams. Though more seasoned teams may find the challenges basic, new teams will now have a better chance of putting points on the scoreboard. Overall, there will be fewer images for middle school and Silver Tier teams than in previous seasons.
- **New Middle School Division Schedule:** 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. 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 the four that high school teams could participate in.

CyberPatriot XVI (2023-2024) Competition Timeline

TRAINING ROUNDS	MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION COMPETITION ROUNDS	HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS COMPETITION ROUNDS
Exhibition Rounds <i>Round 1 – May 11 – June 13</i> <i>Round 2 – July 20 – August 22</i>	Introductory Round <i>November 2 – 6</i>	Round 1 <i>October 19 – 23</i>
Training Round <i>September 8 – October 4</i>	State Round <i>December 7 – 11</i>	Round 2 <i>November 2 – 6</i>
Sneak Preview <i>TBD</i>	Semifinals <i>January 18 – 20 (3 days Only)</i>	State Round <i>December 7 – 11</i>
Practice Round <i>October 5 – 15</i>	National Finals <i>(In-Person event, Bethesda, MD)</i> <i>March 15-19</i>	Semifinals <i>January 18 – 20 (3 days Only)</i>
		National Finals <i>(In-Person event, Bethesda, MD)</i> <i>March 15-19</i>

CP-XVI Registration Dates

- **October 3 – Team Registration Deadline:** The last day a coach can register a new team to compete in CyberPatriot XVI. Teams do not need have completed any other registration tasks by this date. Directions on how to register teams can be found on the [CyberPatriot website](https://www.uscyberpatriot.org) and questions regarding registration can be directed to info@uscyberpatriot.org.
- **October 25 – Competitor Registration Deadline:** The last day to register competitors and finalize team rosters.
- **November 15 – Payment Deadline:** The last day to pay the registration fee, request a fee waiver, submit a Purchase Order, or request a payment extension.

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.

- **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. After the coach has been enrolled, they can enroll students into the Networking Academy so they may access materials. As coaches register their teams, they will be added to the access list to create their own accounts by Friday of the week they enroll.
- **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 linked below.

Teams cannot compete without enrolling in the Competition Course. It is only used during the competition rounds and includes the Networking Quiz and the Packet Tracer Exercise. Enrollment is a several-step process and includes creating an email address for the team. If a team tries to enroll in the course during a competition round, it will be too late to guarantee they can get an account for that round. 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 fill out the Google Form in the instructions linked below.

Instructions:

https://www.uscyberpatriot.org/Documents/CyberPatriot_16_Cisco_NetAcad_Compensation_Course_Registration_Instructions.pdf

Coaches & Mentors LinkedIn



CP Coaches & Mentors - Don't forget - 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

Angie Barrera | CyberPatriot XII, XIII, XIV, XV



Angie is a 4x CyberPatriot competitor and a recent graduate of Mountain View High School in VA. Fall 2023 she is attending Regent University where she will be majoring in Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics.

Angie credits CyberPatriot for influencing her plans for her future to a great extent, stating, "It is through CyberPatriot where I found my interest in digital forensics. It really is amazing to learn all that technology can be used for!"

Although Angie has learned many lessons while competing in CyberPatriot, the most valuable has been patience. She learned how important it is to be patient and not get frustrated when you may feel like you have hit a wall during a challenging time. She notes, "It is important to always take a step back, take a break, reread the scenario or question and always be patient when looking for a solution."



Angie believes technology is the future and there is always something new to learn within cybersecurity. "My advice for the next generation is to take every opportunity you can get- there is always something to learn from cybersecurity! Stay involved in CyberPatriot and learn all that you can and use it for your future."



Fun Fact: Angie may credit CyberPatriot for encouraging her to pursue a future in cybersecurity, but it seems that the interest in cyber runs in the family. Angie's twin sister, Aily, loves cybersecurity too and is also a CyberPatriot Alumni!

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

CyberPatriot Highlight

CyberPatriot Competitor participates in the WiCyS 2023 Conference

Ayushi Mehrotra, a rising junior from Troy High School and an active participant in CyberPatriot, recently presented her research at the Women in Cybersecurity Conference 2023 in Denver, CO. Ayushi received the Best Poster Award in the Undergraduate Section for her research titled: Machine Learning Trust Management System for Blockchain Organ Donation Framework. Congratulations Ayushi on this outstanding accomplishment!



Fort Gordon Cyber District CyberPatriot Recruitment



Individuals from Fort Gordon Cyber District recently enjoyed an Augusta Green Jackets baseball game, while also promoting their CyberPatriot programs in their region. Thank you for helping spread the word about CyberPatriot!

New CyberPatriot Center of Excellence – Elmhurst University



CyberPatriot has a new CyberPatriot Center of Excellence – Elmhurst University in Elmhurst, Illinois. Elmhurst University supports the local community through the participation of local CyberPatriot teams and CyberCamps.

Check out the full story here! <https://www.elmhurst.edu/news/elmhurst-u-named-cyberpatriot-center-excellence/>

CyberPatriot in the News

[16th AF cyber warriors teach cyber security awareness](#)

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO- KELLY, Tx - Five 16th Air Force cyber Airmen spoke to middle and high school students from local schools about the basics of cybersecurity during the CyberPatriot Summer Camp, July 17-28, at Tech Port Arena. Hosted by the San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology, the camp held courses focused on cybersecurity careers, cyber ethics, computer functions and online safety.

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

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