



THE CYBERSENTINEL

The official newsletter of CyberPatriot – AFA’s National Youth Cyber Education Program

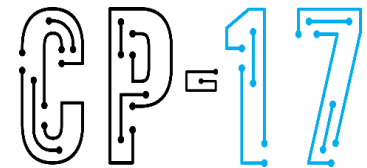
DECEMBER 2024

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CyberPatriot 17 State Round

The CyberPatriot 17 State Round will take place December 12-15, 2024.

All registered teams may compete in the CyberPatriot 17 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: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM ET**

Round Challenges

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

- Server 2019
- Windows 10
- Ubuntu 22
- Cisco Quiz
- Cisco Packet Tracer

CyberPatriot 17 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 tier recognition, since they are recognized as top in their state.

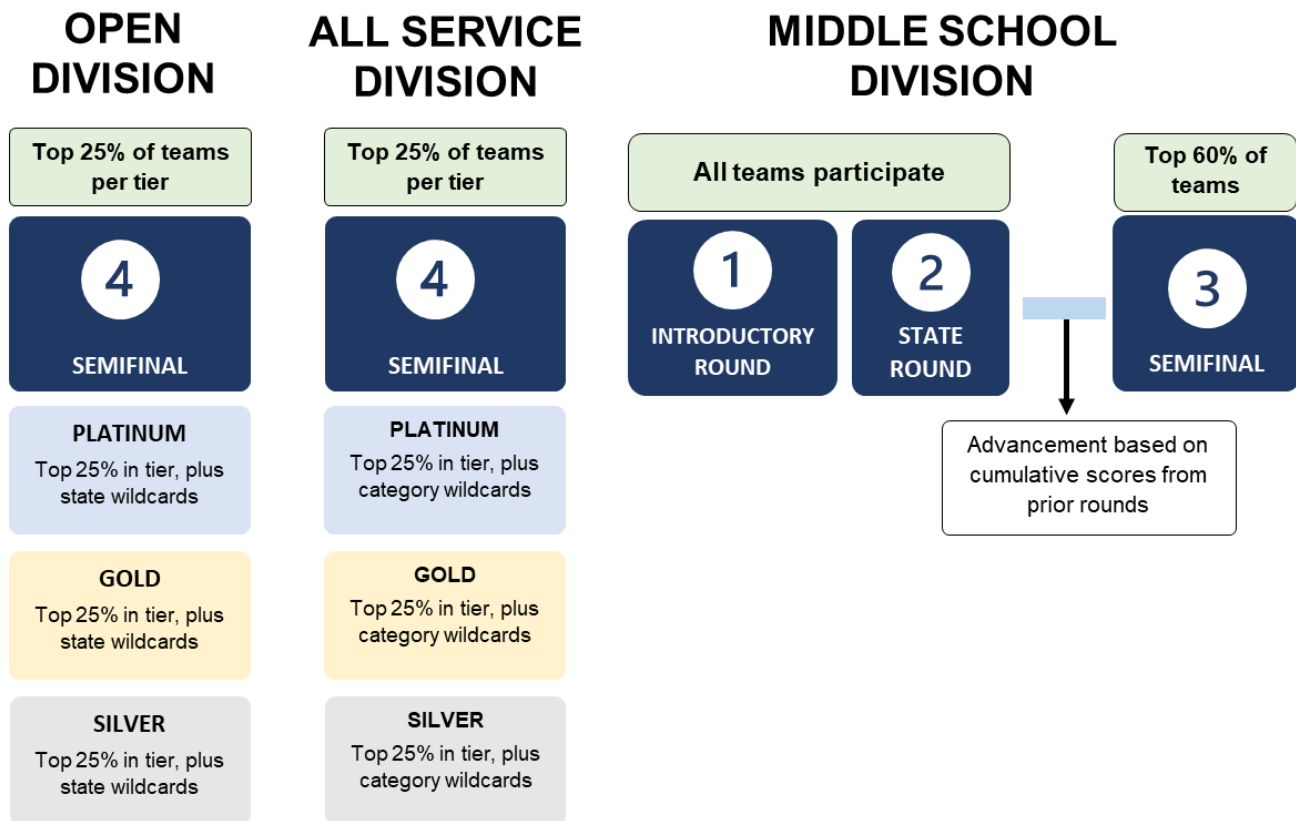
Semifinals Advancement

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-17 Participant Kits

Participant kits are being shipped! Participant kits include a CP-17 t-shirt and sticker for every registered team. Coaches will receive one box with gear for themselves and their competitors only. **Please note, mentor and team assistant gear is sent separately (directly to the volunteer) and not included in the team order.*





The CP-17 participation certificate template is also available for download from the coach dashboard.

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

CyberPatriot Alumni Spotlight

Landon Byrge | CyberPatriot X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV



What are you up to now?

After graduating high school, I joined as an intern with CIAS at UTSA to help with developing future CyberPatriot competition images and have been responsible for many of the challenges for Windows in CP-XV and CP-XVI, especially the GooseDesktop Persistence Malware. I am currently a student at Tennessee Technological University studying Computer Science with a focus in Information Assurance and Cybersecurity. I also help our cybersecurity club "CyberEagles" with the competitions portion of the club, running tryouts for competitions like CCDC and the DOE's CyberForce.

How did participating in the CyberPatriot Competition influence your plans for your future?

When I started CyberPatriot in 8th grade, the competition was new to our school district, and we were the first set of students to participate. I had very little experience with computers, and no idea what cybersecurity really was. After my first year, I found the gamification of CyberPatriot to be extremely enjoyable and was excited to start a team at my high school. The next four years of high school, our team would go on to qualify for the CyberPatriot National Finals competition 3 times, and even place 3rd in CyberPatriot XIV National Finals Open Division. Throughout this time, CyberPatriot created a desire to learn more about many aspects of cybersecurity, and it solely influenced my decision to make a career in it. Without CyberPatriot, I have no idea what my future would be and could not be more grateful for this competition and its wonderful staff.

What is the most valuable lesson you learned from CyberPatriot?

During my CyberPatriot competition experience, I grew not only in hard skills like Windows and Linux system administration and threat hunting, but also in soft skills like leadership and time management. However, the most valuable lesson I learned was stress management skills. During the National Finals competition, our team had to work with 7 images with scored services, find-and-fix vulnerabilities (and a lot of them too), scored injects, a web-based component, and a professional red team. Without being able to stay calm even when it seemed like everything was burning down, we never could have performed the way we did. Since then, stress management has applied to every aspect of my personal life, school life, and work life.

What is your advice for the next generation of CyberPatriot?

My best advice for the next generation is to make new friends and connections. I built so many friendships within the CyberPatriot community that I still maintain to this day, and some of those friendships have provided me with future opportunities. Connections are so important to have when going into the workforce and the best time to form them is now!



Fun Fact: In CyberPatriot 12, I wrote bash and batch scripts that completed the CCS portion of round 1 in just 30 minutes. Also, my favorite CyberPatriot tradition I do every year is eat at the JINYA Ramen Bar during the CyberPatriot National Finals.

**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

[Cybersecurity Resources for Digital Literacy Educators: Enhance Your Teaching Toolbox](#)

AceShowbiz - In today's digital age, ensuring that students are well-versed in cybersecurity practices has become a critical component of digital literacy education. As educators, it's imperative to possess the proper tools and resources to teach these skills effectively. In this article, we'll explore a variety of cybersecurity resources for digital literacy educators that will enhance your teaching toolbox and empower your students to navigate the digital world safely.

[MCHS Cadets compete In national STEM game](#)

Michigan City High School (MCHS) Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) cadets competed in CyberPatriot on November 15th. Major Tom McGrath, the Senior Marine Instructor, pointed out what valuable skills the cadets are learning because of this competition. "Technology is such an important part of just about every career the students will eventually enter. The STEM skills required of this competition are applicable to any vocation these cadets end up doing."

Cisco NetAcad Learn-a-Thon 2024

Click the photo below to learn more about the Cisco Learn-A-Thon Pathway and the opportunity to earn an industry certification FOR FREE!

**The Cyber Challenge:
DEFENDING THE DIGITAL WORLD**

Learners have up to 7 months to complete 6 courses, 1 exam, and 1 industry certification leading them to their first entry-level job opportunity in the cybersecurity industry, all funded by Cisco. Jump start your new career today!

LEARN-A-THON PATHWAY

Course Name	Duration	Exam
Intro to Cybersecurity	(8 Hours) OPTIONAL	
Networking Basics	(25 Hours)	
Networking Devices & Initial Config.	(25 Hours)	
Endpoint Security	(40 Hours)	
Network Defense	(40 Hours)	
Cyber Threat Management	(20 Hours)	
Career Path Exam	(50 Questions)	

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Please send email highlights or accolades to info@uscyberpatriot.org.*