# THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

**JANUARY 2024**

## CP-XVI Participant Kits

All team participant kits have been submitted for paid teams and mentor kits are on the way! Participant kits include a CP-XVI t-shirt, coin, and sticker for every registered team member. Coaches will receive one box with gear for themselves and their competitors. Mentor and team assistant gear is sent separately (directly to the volunteer).

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

*Coaches and Mentors – looking for some CyberPatriot XVI shirts to use for promotional purposes or giveaways? Complete this form and we will send you a small box of T-shirts in an assortment of sizes. These will be given out on a first come first serve basis, so don't wait!*

## Participation Certificates

The Participation Certificate Template is available on the coach's dashboard.

The template is customizable and can be edited to include each individual competitor's name on the certificate.

## CyberPatriot XVI 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.

Digital tier awards certificates are 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.  See the CP-XVI State Round scores and awards HERE.

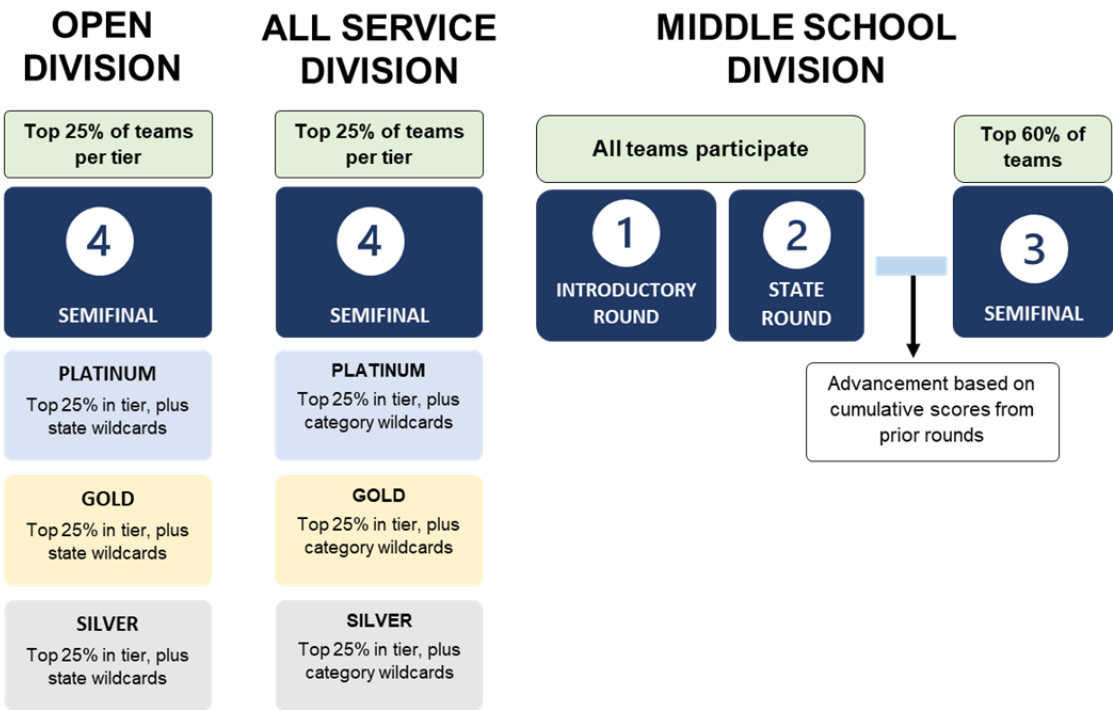# CyberPatriot XVI Semifinals

**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.



IMPORTANT:  CP-XVI Semifinals will take place January 18-20, 2024.  The Semifinals is a three-day only event and does not include Sunday as a competition day.  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.

| Competition Windows | Semifinals Round Challenges | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Images | Platinum Tier | Gold Tier | Silver Tier | Middle School Division |
| *Teams may choose any 4-hour window from the following availability:*<br><br>*TH, Jan 18: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM ET*<br>*FRI, Jan 19: 9:00 AM – 11:59 PM ET*<br>*SAT, Jan 20: 8:00 AM – 11:59 PM ET* | Windows 10 | 100 | | | |
| | Ubuntu 22 | 100 | 100 | | |
| | Debian 11 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | Server 22 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | **Cisco NetAcad Challenge** | | | | |
| | Networking Quiz: Modules 16-18 | 72 | 30 | 30 | 10 |
| | Packet Tracer: Modules 1-18 | 168 | 70 | 70 | 20 |
| | **CyberPatriot Web-Based Challenge** | 80 | | | |
| | **Boeing Cyber-Physical System Challenge** | 80 | 80 | 80 | |
| | **Total Possible Points** | **800** | **480** | **380** | **230** |

# CyberPatriot Alumni Spotlight

### Annika Santhanam| CyberPatriot XII, XIII, XIV, XV



After joining CyberPatriot as a freshman in high school, Annika knew she wanted a career in computer science but wasn't sure exactly what path would be right for her. Annika believes the CyberPatriot competition truly opened her eyes to the world of cybersecurity for the first time and showed her that she had a passion for cybersecurity and systems defense. Annika knew then that she wanted to pursue those in her future.

Currently attending Carnegie Mellon University, Annika completed her first semester as an undergraduate student in December. She is majoring in Information Systems with a concentration in Cybersecurity and International Conflict.

The most valuable lesson Annika has learned from CyberPatriot is perseverance, stating, "The competition rounds can be long and sometimes grueling, but if I had given up at any point earlier in the competition, I would not have done as well as I did later on." She also wants to encourage others to always think outside of the box. Annika remembers during some of the challenges feeling like she had hit a brick wall, that was going to be impossible to break through, but she knew she had to keep working at it. Sometimes, Annika would even take a lap around her house before coming back to her computer to work on the problem again!



If Annika was able to offer any advice to current and future CyberPatriot competitors, it would be to try your hardest, always prioritize learning all that you can, and of course, enjoy the time with your team and have fun! Annika always leaned on her team for support and motivation throughout the competition. "The best part of CyberPatriot is that it teaches you a lot along the way. As you work through the challenges, learn from them, and take in all that you can!"

*Fun Fact: Annika formed a band with her friends, and she is the drummer for the group!*

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

# 2024 CyberCamp Host Registration



Looking to keep your students engaged in cybersecurity over summer break?  Host Registration for 2024 CyberCamps is **now open** until May 1!

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

# CyberPatriot in the News
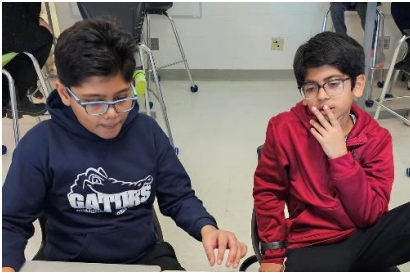
### MCHS MCJROTC competes in Cyberpatriot

Cyber Security is one of the fastest growing occupational fields, a career that pays well and has high job satisfaction.  The cadets of the Michigan City High School (MCHS) Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) are obtaining a head start on the requirements of being a security manager of an information systems network by participating in CyberPatriot, the national high school cyber security competition.

### Garrett Middle School wins third straight state championship

The Garrett CyberPatriot program maintained its claim as one of the best in the State of Indiana during the state round of competition that was held in December. Garrett Middle School won its 3rd straight state championship, while the group from Garrett High School placed in the top 10.  The Garrett Middle School program has been in existence for just 5 seasons. In that time, GMS has placed 2nd in the state twice before winning the state championship the past 3 years.

# CP-XVI Competition Highlights

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

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| *Cyber Platinum Sponsors* | **NORTHROP GRUMMAN** FOUNDATION |
| *Cyber Diamond Sponsors* | CISCO.    U.S. Department of Homeland Security |
| *Cyber Gold Sponsors* | AIR FORCE RESERVE    AIR & SPACE STEM Outreach    AT&T    BOEING |
| *Cyber Silver Sponsors* | American Military University AMU    EMBRY-RIDDLE Aeronautical University FLORIDA \| ARIZONA \| ONLINE    GANNON UNIVERSITY    leidos    UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS |

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