THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

MARCH 2024

CyberPatriot XVI National Finals Competition

The CyberPatriot XVI National Finals Competition is set for March 16-18, 2024. We are excited to have the 28 qualifying teams join us in Rockville, MD.

The event kicks off on March 16 with the Opening Ceremony, followed by Competition Orientation and System Familiarization in the afternoon, and The Career Portal/Industry Perspectives (TCP/IP) event in the evening. The main event - competition day – will be all day on Sunday, March 17. Teams will start with the Network Security Master Challenge and wrapping with the Cisco NetAcad Challenge and Boeing Cyber-Physical System Challenge.

The National Finals Competition (and the CyberPatriot XVI season) will come to a close Monday evening at the Awards Banquet. Here, the winning teams are announced and deemed National Champions. The Awards Ceremony will also be live streamed on CyberPatriot's YouTube channel starting at 6:30 PM ET.

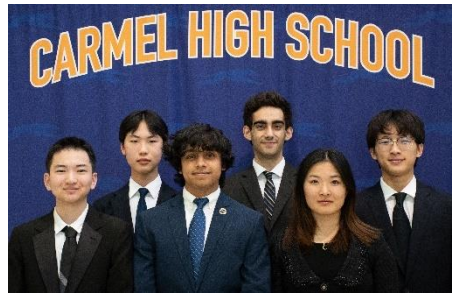| THE CHALLENGES	
Network Security Master Challenge	During the Network Security Master Challenge, teams are provided with multiple virtual operating systems (also known as "images"). Each team serves as administrators for a small business, working to find and fix vulnerabilities, maintain critical services, resolve injects, and defend against hostile Red Team attackers.
Cisco NetAcad Challenge	During the Cisco NetAcad Challenge, teams are scored on their ability to demonstrate proficiency in network security administration. Cybersecurity knowledge and skills are tested with a networking quiz and a hands-on network exercise.
Boeing Cyber-Physical System Challenge	In the Boeing Cyber-Physical Systems Challenge, teams are presented with an operational system that tracks and maintains flight information. Each team acts as a product security engineering team that has been tasked with securing the system from threats that could impact air safety.

Meet the National Finalist Teams

Congratulations to these 28 teams that qualified for the CP-XVI National Finals Competition.

OPEN DIVISION

CANYON CREST ACADEMY

Conspiracy

CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL

cyb3rh0u#d5

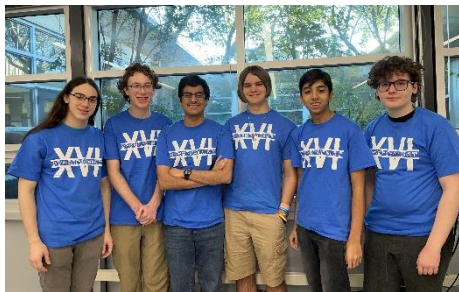**DEL NORTE HIGH SCHOOL**

CyberAegis Aegir

DEL NORTE HIGH SCHOOL

CyberAegis Triton

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

Half Dome

HIGHLANDS RANCH HIGH SCHOOL

Falcon Transfer Protocol

LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

CyberPotatoes

LOYOLA BLAKEFIELD

Charlie's Angels

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

View Source

ROCK CANYON HIGH SCHOOL

Killer Queen

TROY HIGH SCHOOL

Runtime Terror

WESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

TitanTurtles

ALL SERVICE DIVISION

ARMY JROTC

LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL
CyberCardinals

THEODORE ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL
TX Patriot | Carebears' Revenge

NAVY JROTC

MIAMI BEACH SENIOR HIGH
Super Moggers

TROY HIGH SCHOOL
W.A.T.T.

MARINE CORPS JROTC

ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL
Bravo Eagles

MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
Wildcat Battalion Scarlet Team

AIR FORCE JROTC

KNOB NOSTER HIGH SCHOOL
Komputer Kernels

SCRIPPS RANCH HIGH SCHOOL
Terabyte Falcons

CIVIL AIR PATROL

BURKE COMPOSITE SQUADRON

Cyber Monkeys

RARITAN VALLEY COMPOSITE SQUADRON

CyberEagles

U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

CENTURION BATTALION

Netrunners

SACRAMENTO DIVISION

Error404teamnotfound

ALL SERVICE DIVISION WILD CARD

FULLERTON COMPOSITE SQUADRON

Eirene

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION

BSA TROOP 261

Chunky Marios

DESIGN 39 CAMPUS

CyberAegis Titan

OAK VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

CyberAegis Callisto

CyberPatriot Cyber All-American

The Cyber All-American honor is given to CyberPatriot competitors who have qualified for the National Finals Competition all four years of their high school careers. Past recipients include:

2015	Connor Quick	Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School
2015	Joshua Klosterman	Big Sioux Composite Squadron
2015	Carlin Idle	Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
2016	Victor Griswold	Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
2017	Leon Gaulin	Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School
2018	Noah Bowe	Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
2018	Taylor Coffey	Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
2020	Charissa Kim	Troy High School
2021	Evan Huang	US Naval Sea Cadet Corps Sacramento Division
2021	Justin Lin	Del Norte High School
2022	Emily Foreman	Sacramento Division
2022	Kevin Hu	Del Norte High School
2022	Emily Kelso	Sacramento Division
2022	Darius Kianersi	Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology
2022	Tristan Lee	Theodore Roosevelt High School
2022	Darin Mao	Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology
2022	Tanay Shah	Del Norte High School
2022	William Smith	Sacramento Division
2023	Chan Chung	Troy High School
2023	Akhil Guntur	Del Norte High School
2023	Jonathan Lin	Del Norte High School
2023	Brian Ni	Troy High School
2023	Akshay Rohatgi	Del Norte High School
2023	Alvin Zheng	Del Norte High School

This year, four new competitors have earned the Cyber All-American designation:

ANNA WU
Troy High School

ROHAN JUNEJA
Del Norte High School

SAFIN SINGH
Del Norte High School

YANNIS SMITH
Sacramento Division

CyberPatriot Alumni Spotlight

Christian Talavera| CyberPatriot XII, XIII, XIV

After completing his first year in CyberPatriot, Christian knew he wanted to work with computers for his career. "Participating in CyberPatriot influenced my future plans by giving me an interest in how security is done on computers." He also credits CyberPatriot for giving him the passion to really explore what computers can do. This exploration turned into a hobby of testing various vulnerabilities on his own computers and fixing them, and ultimately led to his career at Miva, Inc. Christian is a software tester who specializes in the security of the software released at his company.

Aside from learning copious amounts of technical skills and expanding his computer knowledge, the most valuable lesson Christian learned from CyberPatriot was teamwork. "Working for a corporation has taught me that teamwork matters. Having gone through CyberPatriot and dealing with problem solving as a team, it really made the transition to working for a company that much easier."

The most important advice Christian has for the next generation of CyberPatriot competitors is to have patience, noting, "When starting out it can feel like you don't know a lot and that you are constantly getting stuck, but if you give it time you will learn how to find the solutions to your problems and fix them. Always have patience and don't give up!"

Fun Fact: Christian is forever curious to learn more. "Learning for me is an activity that I'm always striving to do every day and in my line of work, it is something that I must do. There is always something new to learn in the cyber world." Christian hopes to encourage others to want to learn as well, especially if it's different from what you may typically study.

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 Is Open

Looking to keep your students engaged in cybersecurity over summer break? Register to host an AFA CyberCamp!

Host Registration for 2024 CyberCamps is now open until May 1st.

CyberCamps emphasize fun, hands-on learning of cybersecurity principles that are relevant and applicable to everyday life.

The Standard CyberCamp is designed for campers who are new to the world of cybersecurity. The goal at the end of the camp is to have students ready to compete in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Competition. The Standard CyberCamp consists of an introduction to cybersecurity, cyber careers, the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, Windows Security Policies, auditing, Linux basics, intro to using a CLI, and command line security.

The Advanced CyberCamp option takes campers to the next level and is designed for students who may have either competed in the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition or have attended an AFA Standard CyberCamp. The Advanced CyberCamp curriculum consists of Windows graphical utilities, command line, Sysinternals Suite, Linux Init Systems, advanced command line, processes and scheduled tasks, security policies, PAM and Cisco NetAcad.

The CyberCamps includes a competition for both Windows and Linux where campers are securing virtual images by finding and fixing vulnerabilities.

Host organizations can choose to host a camp during any of the available weeks. Both standard AND advanced camps are offered each week.

Find out more about CyberCamps at:
https://www.uscyberpatriot.org/afa-cybercamps/overview

WEEK	DATE
Week 1	June 3 - 7
Week 2	June 10 - 14
Week 3*	June 17 - 21
Week 4	June 24 - 28
Week 5	July 8 - 12
Week 6	July 15 - 19
Week 7	July 22 - 26
Week 8	July 29 - August 2
Week 9	August 5 - 9

* Juneteenth will be observed on June 19, 2024. Camps can be held this week if the host organization would like, but limited tech support will be available on that Wednesday, June 19.

Riya Bhakkad Memorial Scholarship Program

In an exemplary union of purpose and passion, Science Systems and Applications, Inc. (SSAI) and the Bahethi Family Foundation (BFF) are partnering to provide equitable opportunities to the STEM community.

With the BFF Riya Bhakkad Memorial Scholarship Program, selected recipients will receive a scholarship award of up to $10,000 (determined by annual tuition costs at each institution and program funding) to participate in a 12-week program working with an advisor from SSAI in a remote environment for the duration of the program.

The application window for the Summer 2024 session opens on March 18, 2024. Interested students can learn more about the program, application process and eligibility, **here**. All questions can be referred to the program email at BFF.Internships@gmail.com.

CyberPatriot Shoutout

Three Huntsville City School's CyberPatriot Center of Excellence students and lead Instructor, Jim Morse, were honored at the 2024 CyberHuntsville CyberGala. Dallas Briggs (HHS), Thomas Dinca (GHS) and Jay Neil (HHS) were all awarded a $4000 scholarship to pursue a cyber related degree at the college of their choice. Mr. Morse was awarded the prestigious "Force of Cyber" award for his efforts in the education of students and mentoring fellow teachers around the Huntsville Metro area. Congratulations to all!

CyberPatriot in the News

Allen ISD's CyberPatriot Team takes 3rd place at statewide youth cyber defense competition.
In the network security challenge, students in high school and middle school from across Texas competed to find and fix cybersecurity vulnerabilities in virtual operating systems, according to Allen ISD CyberPatriot member Saketh Sripada. Each of the team members, using virtual machines, faced issues on multiple operating systems, including Linux and Windows, Sripada added.

MICyberPatriot Program Gets Team into National Finals (Video)
The Michigan CyberPatriot program, that works with grade school students to make the cyber security savvy, has placed a team in the national finals, where they will compete against 11 other teams from around the country.

Farmington's Brightest Minds Tackle Cybersecurity: Students Soar in Statewide CyberPatriot competitions
Middle and high school students in Farmington, Michigan are making waves in the cybersecurity world through the CyberPatriot program. With a recent top 5 finish in a statewide competition, these young minds are showcasing their ability to tackle real-world IT problems and shaping the future of cybersecurity.

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 box of T-shirts in an assortment of sizes. These will be given out on a first come first serve basis, while supplies last, so don't wait!

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

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