



# THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

MAY 2024

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## AFA CyberCamps 2024

Not sure which AFA CyberCamp is right for you? The Standard CyberCamp is designed for campers who are new to the world of cybersecurity. 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 already attended an AFA Standard CyberCamp.

[CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF REGISTERED 2024 AFA CYBERCAMPS](#)

### STANDARD CAMP

- Intro to CyberPatriot
- Intro to Virtual Machines
- Cyber Ethics
- Windows 10
  - Security Policies
  - Account Management
  - File Protections
  - Auditing & Monitoring
- Ubuntu 18
  - Terminology & Concepts
  - Basic User Interface Security
  - Basic Command Line
  - Intermediate Security

### ADVANCED CAMP

- Cyber Ethics
- Windows 10
  - Graphical Utilities Windows
  - Command Line
  - Sysinternals Suite
- Ubuntu 18
  - Init Systems
  - Advanced Command Line
  - Processes and Scheduled Tasks
  - Security Policies and PAM
  - Networking
- Cisco Networking Academy



All camps include a competition image for both Windows and Linux

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

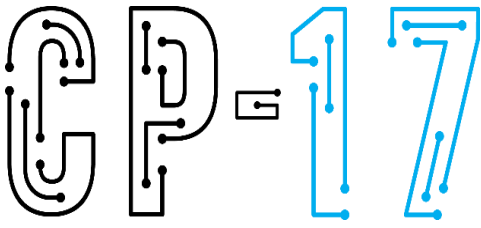
\* Juneteenth will be observed on June 19, 2024. Camps can be held this week if the host organization would like, but limited tech support will be available on that Wednesday, June 19.



The 2024 CyberCamp t-shirt will be available for purchase by host organizations to distribute at their camps.

For those organizations hosting a camp, the official AFA CyberCamp store will open in mid-May. Camp coordinators of approved camps will receive an email with additional information on how to purchase printed copies of camp materials or camp t-shirts. As a reminder, all approved camps receive the digital camp materials as part of the camp registration fee.

## CyberPatriot XVII



Registration is open for the CyberPatriot 17 (2024-2025 competition season)

**Register your team before July 1 to receive a 20% discount on registration fees. The final deadline to register a team is Wednesday October 2, 2024.**

*\*Reminder: If you are a returning team, you must re-register for the new season. Registrations from previous seasons do NOT carry over.*

**REGISTER A CYBERPATRIOT TEAM TODAY!**

### CP-17 Upcoming Dates

Exhibition Round 1 is scheduled to begin in May. Exhibition rounds are only available to teams that have already registered for CyberPatriot 17.

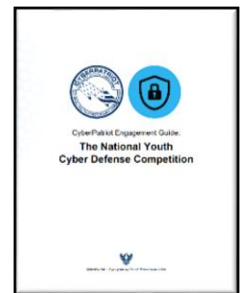
- *Exhibition Round 1: May 15 to June 17*
- *Exhibition Round 2: TBD – Coming soon*

The Exhibition Rounds are designed to be a recruiting resource for new and returning teams. These rounds are also a great way to show potential participants what it's like to compete.

### CP-17 Recruitment Tools

Want to recruit CyberPatriot teams in your local area? Check out the [Competition Engagement Guide](#) for tips and best practices on identifying and recruiting schools and youth organizations to join the CyberPatriot 17 Competition.

Other recruitment and outreach materials can be found on the [CyberPatriot website](#).



### CyberPatriot Demo

Don't forget about the CyberPatriot Demo! This demo is a partial simulation of a CyberPatriot image, with a built-in tutorial. The Demo aims to introduce teachers, students, organizational leaders, and others to the CyberPatriot competition.

The small software package (50 MB) is designed as an informational and recruiting tool that can be used as a presentation or hands-on activity at an event, conference, meeting, or in the classroom (in-person or virtual).



**INTERACTIVE DEMO SOFTWARE NOW AVAILABLE!**

Allow presenters to give potential participants a "hands-on" experience

- No active image required
- No internet required
- Useful at conferences and shows

To order the Demo download (free of charge), you must complete the [Demonstration Software Order Form](#). The Demo download and setup instructions are included in the Quick Start Guide, which can be accessed once the order form is submitted.

## FREE Cisco NetAcad Self-Paced Courses



Want to continue learning about cybersecurity outside of the CyberPatriot Competition? Check out Cisco Networking Academy's FREE self-paced courses! A wide selection of courses are available for beginner and advanced students. Remember you can share these courses with friends and family too!

[Click here to see what is available!](#)

## CyberPatriot XVI Coach & Mentor of the Year Nominations

Do you know a coach or mentor that deserves recognition? Nominate them for the CyberPatriot XVI Coach or Mentor of the Year Award!

These awards recognize excellence among volunteer coaches and mentors. If you think your coach or mentor is deserving of such recognition, nominate them today! **Nominations will be accepted through Friday, June 7, 2024.**



**COACH OF THE YEAR NOMINATION**

**MENTOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION**

## CyberPatriot Alumni Survey

Are you a current or former CyberPatriot competitor? Maybe you competed in CP-16 or have already taken your CyberPatriot skills out into the workforce. It doesn't matter where you are in your CyberPatriot journey, everyone's opinion matters!

Every two years, we conduct an Alumni Survey to gauge CyberPatriot's impact on motivating students toward education and careers in cybersecurity and STEM. This survey is a very important tool that helps us show potential participants, as well as prospective and current sponsors, the positive impact our program has on STEM education and on the students who have participated.

Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey: <https://forms.gle/55XZVAekLQCni1sVA>



## CyberPatriot Alumni Spotlight

**Bikash Adhikari | CyberPatriot V, VI**



Bikash credits CyberPatriot for helping him gain knowledge and awareness about both the cybersecurity field and about the Air Force. In high school he applied for the Air Force ROTC High School Scholarship Program and applied to James Madison University. While at JMU he studied Computer Science and commissioned in 2018 as a Cyber officer in the United States Air Force. Bikash is now a Cyber officer in the United States Space Force, since transferring from the Air Force in 2021.

After competing in CyberPatriot, Bikash knew his future opportunities were endless. "I wouldn't have participated AFROTC and studied Computer Science in college if it wasn't for my experience with CyberPatriot, so my time with this program fundamentally shaped the rest of academic and professional career."

During his time with CyberPatriot, Bikash learned the importance of teamwork. "I learned that everyone sees the same problem in vastly different ways, bringing with them a diverse array of ideas for how to solve that problem. As a leader and a teammate, it's important to leverage everyone's individual experiences and expertise to be successful." He also said he realized that one person can't be the "expert". "When competing in CyberPatriot, the entire team must come together and rise up to the challenge as a whole."

If Bikash could offer advice to future CyberPatriot competitors, he would hope they remain humble and eager to learn, noting, "There's always so much happening in the cybersecurity field, don't assume that you have it all figured out and rest easy. You should always strive to gain more experience, improve



your skills, and challenge yourself.” Bikash truly believes having this attitude will pay huge dividends, both in CyberPatriot and whatever the individual decides to do afterwards.

*Fun Fact: As a hobby, Bikash plays the bansuri, which is a side blown wooden flute from the Indian subcontinent.*

***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

### [Oak Valley team brings home Poway Unified's 12th CyberPatriot national championship](#)

For the eighth time, a middle school team from Poway Unified has won the CyberPatriot national championship. This time it was the CyberAegis Callisto team from Oak Valley Middle School, which also fielded the top national team in 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2021. The middle school runner-up was CyberAegis Titan from Design 39 Campus.

### [Troy High earns fifth national title at CyberPatriot competition](#)

Six students from the Troy High School NJROTC program recently earned their school’s fifth title as national champions at the CyberPatriot XVI National Finals. The student team known as W.A.T.T., or We Are Troy Tech, competed alongside their peers in the All Service Division through a series of challenges testing their cybersecurity expertise in network and operational systems.

***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](mailto:info@uscyberpatriot.org).*