



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

OCTOBER 2024

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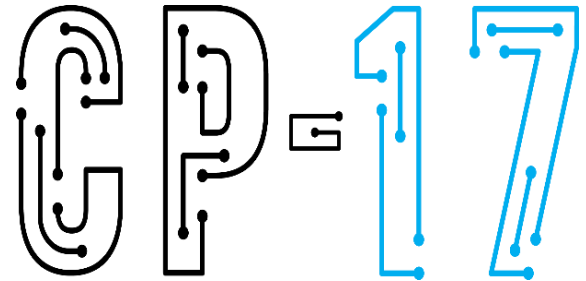
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CyberPatriot 17

The deadline to register a team is **Wednesday, October 2, 2024**. [Register your team today for CyberPatriot 17!](#) Make sure to register any teams you think you may need for the CyberPatriot 17 season. Teams can be removed after the deadline, but we cannot add teams.

As a reminder, by October 2nd teams:

- Do not need to be verified by the verification official
- Do not need to be approved by the CyberPatriot Program Office
- Do not need to have competitors registered to the team
- Do not need to have competitors fully registered
- Do not need to have the registration fee paid or the fee waived



***Impacted by Hurricane Helene? Contact info@uscyberpatriot.org and we will work with you to register your team late.**

CP-17 Registration Dates:

October 23 – Competitor Registration Deadline: The last day to register competitors and finalize team rosters.

November 6 – Payment Deadline: The last day to pay the registration fee, request a fee waiver, submit a Purchase Order, or request a payment extension.

CP-17 Competition Requirements:

1. New this year. CyberPatriot 17 teams are required to register for a VMware PRO account. [VMWare Workstation Pro 17.5.2](#) will be the new standard virtual machine player for CP-17. Coaches will need to create an account with Broadcom and select "for Personal Use" for either Windows or Linux. Downloading the application involves multiple screens to verify your account. Instructions can be found [here](#).

2. There are also two courses required for the Cisco NetAcad Challenge. The Content Course which teams will use to study & train 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. After the coach has been enrolled, they can enroll students into the Networking Academy so they may access materials. Instructions are available [here](#). As coaches will be enrolling, we will upload newly registered coaches Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays through the close of registration.
- **Competition Course:** This is the course that teams will use to compete in the Networking Quiz and Packet Tracer Exercise. This is different from the Content Course log in. 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 can be found [here](#).

**Teams cannot compete without enrolling in the Competition Course. This 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 each team. If a team tries to enroll in the course during a competition round, it is too late to guarantee the team can get an account for that round.*

CP-17 Competition Rules Book:

Know the rules of the competition. The CyberPatriot 17 (2024-25) Competition Rules book is posted to the CyberPatriot website: <https://www.uscyberpatriot.org/competition/rules-book>



CP-17 Things to Remember:

Competition Windows	Reduced Competition Period	Image Difficulty Level	Middle School Division Schedule
For the CyberPatriot 17 season, we will offer a 4-day competition window. Rounds will kick off on Thursday and go through Sunday. Please note, the Semifinals Round will be a 3 day only event, running Thursday through Saturday.	Like last year, the competition period will be 4 hours for the CyberPatriot 17 competition rounds. Teams must complete all images or tasks within a consecutive 4-hour time block.	The challenge difficulty levels will now be geared toward new teams in Round 1 and 2 for high school teams and the Introductory Round for middle school teams. Overall, there will be fewer images for middle school and Silver Tier teams.	The Middle School Division will again have a different competition schedule than the High School Divisions. The Middle School Division will start with the Introductory Round, November 14-17.

CP-17 Upcoming Training Opportunities:

Training Round: Available through October 7

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.

The CP-17 Training Round will have three practice images:

- Ubuntu 22
- Windows 10
- Windows 2019 Server

Practice Round: October 10 – October 20

It is important that all teams participate in the Practice Round to test the new CyberPatriot Competition System. Any local network issues with school or organization systems should be resolved during the round. Teams should score on at least one image to test the system. Below are the Practice Round images:

- Windows 11 (Answer Key)
- Server 2022 (Answer Key)
- Mint 21 (No Answer Key)
- Ubuntu 22 (Answer Key)

Training Round 2: October 31 – December 10

Like last year we will open a second training round to allow teams access to more difficult images. The Training Round 2 Windows 10 and Ubuntu 22 images will be more difficult than Training Round 1 but will have answer keys available in the ReadMe file.

**Looking for some additional training materials? Feel free to check out our [archived training materials](#) available on the CyberPatriot website.*

New Coach Workshop CP-17



The CyberPatriot New Coach Workshop can be viewed in a stand-alone [PowerPoint presentation](#) or by watching a [video on YouTube](#). This New Coach Guide will go over the structure of the competition, registration process, training resources, competition rounds, technical specifications, how to download and open a virtual image, and Cisco Networking Academy (Cisco NetAcad).

CyberPatriot Alumni Spotlight

Hannah Rowe | CyberPatriot X, XI



What are you up to now?

I graduated from The University of Texas at San Antonio in 2023 with a BBA in Cybersecurity. I am currently working as a Federal Business Development Representative at GuidePoint Security.

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

When first introduced to CyberPatriot my junior year of high school, I was not sure that it was going to be something I was interested in. As the weeks passed, I began catching on to new skills, I really enjoyed the competitions and I realized that cyber was something I was genuinely intrigued by and decided to study cybersecurity in college.

During my studies I had an internship at MITRE in the summer of 2022 and worked part time/on call until April 2023. Thanks to my coach and CyberPatriot, I not only graduated with newfound knowledge that will stay with me forever, but also an eagerness to begin my career following graduation.

What is the most valuable lesson you learned from CyberPatriot?

Through CyberPatriot I learned the power of teamwork and the importance of research skills. Working on group projects is something that many people are not a fan of because of negative past experiences, but establishing a trusting team and open communication from the beginning is key. I was fortunate in learning this on my CyberPatriot teams. To this day I continue to talk about the many lessons I learned from CyberPatriot, including the importance of teamwork.

What is your advice for the next generation of CyberPatriot?

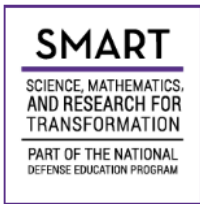
My advice for the next generation is to try new things, even if you do not think you will be good at it, and do not be afraid to try something you have never heard of. I had no clue what CyberPatriot was until I attended the first practice at my school. In my first competition round, I fell asleep after 2 hours of working on my machine. I had no clue what I was doing and did not think I could succeed. But now, look at where trying something new has gotten me! I graduated with a degree in cybersecurity and have an internship under my belt and I am ready for the industry to take me in.



Fun Fact: I would say an interesting fact about me is that I love anything related to art! I am always doing little projects and I make sure to keep that part of me going, even with my studies. I found that over the past 4 years, with COVID and everything that has happened in the world, it can be very easy to lose yourself and even harder to find it again. Putting your hobbies as a priority after your work is key to a balanced life!

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

Scholarship Opportunity



SMART Scholarship Opportunities

The Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship-for-Service Program is a combined educational and workforce development opportunity for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) students funded by the DoD.

This unique DoD scholarship program offers two opportunities: **The SMART Scholarship:** For students currently enrolled at a college or university, or with previous college credit who intend to pursue another degree; and **The Dellums Memorial SMART Scholarship:** For students with no previous college credit who intend to pursue a bachelor's degree. To learn more about these opportunities and to review eligibility requirements, visit the [About Dellums page](#).

Applications will be accepted until 5PM on December 6, 2024 – [Apply Now!](#)

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

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