



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

JANUARY 2025

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CP-17 Participant Kits

All team participant kits have been submitted for paid teams and mentor kits are on the way! Participant kits include a CP-17 t-shirt 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).

We do plan to have a small number of coins for sale for anyone who wishes to purchase them and will notify teams once that information is finalized.

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



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 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. See the CP-17 State Round scores and awards [HERE](#).

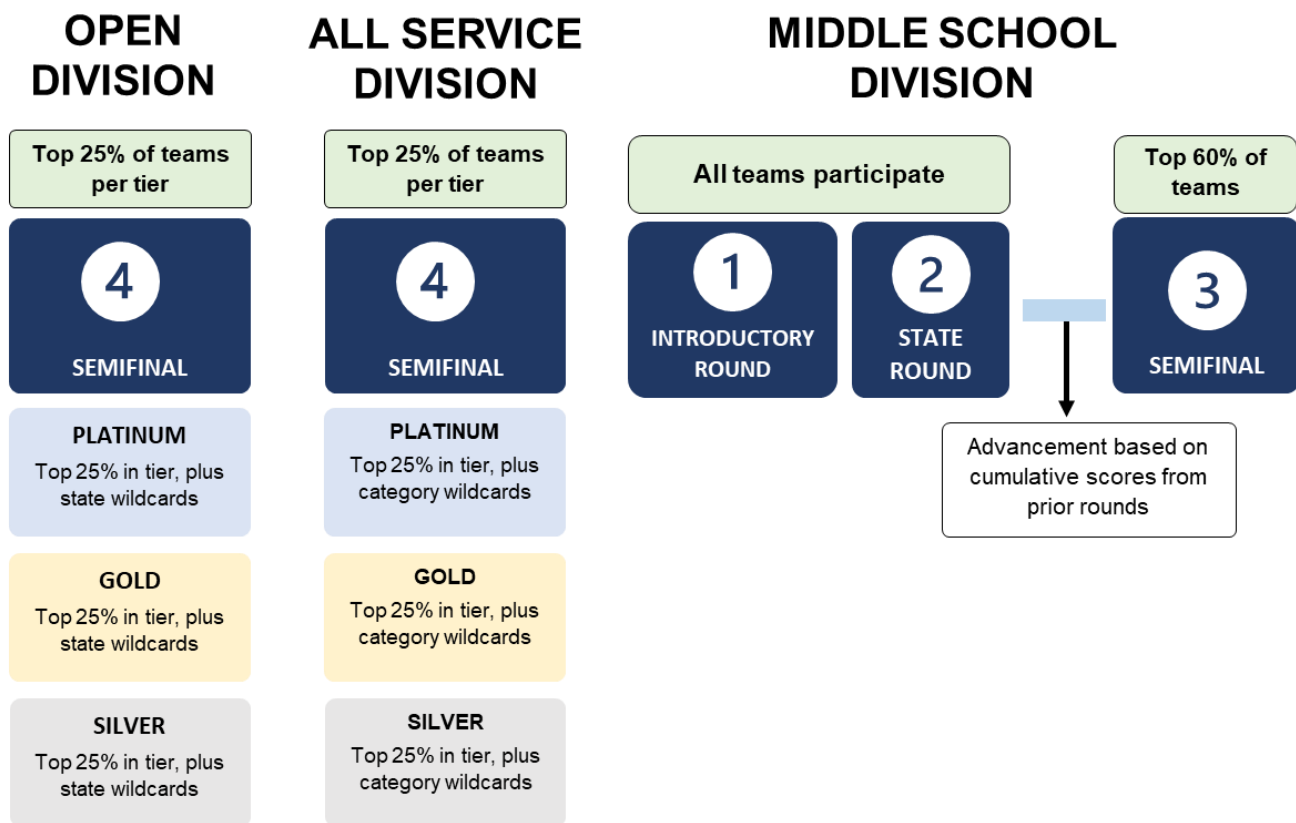
Semifinals Advancement

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.



IMPORTANT: CP-17 Semifinals will take place January 23-25, 2025. 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					
<p><i>Teams may choose any 4-hour window from the following availability:</i></p> <p>TH, Jan 23: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM ET</p> <p>FRI, Jan 24: 9:00 AM – 11:59 PM ET</p> <p>SAT, Jan 25: 8:00 AM – 11:59 PM ET</p>	Images	Platinum Tier	Gold Tier	Silver Tier	Middle School Division	
	Windows 11	100	100			
	Mint 21	100	100	100	100	
	Server 22	100	100	100	100	
	Cisco NetAcad Challenge					
	High School Division: Networking Quiz: Modules 16-20; 23	72	30	30		
	High School Division: Packet Tracer: Modules 1-23	168	70	70		
	Middle School Division: Networking Quiz: Modules 12-17				10	
	Middle School Division: Packet Tracer: Modules 1-17; 21-22				20	
	CyberPatriot Web-Based Challenge	80				
	Boeing Cyber-Physical System Challenge	80	80	80		
	Total Possible Points	700	480	380	230	

2025 AFA 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](#).

CyberPatriot Alumni Spotlight

Avery Hirsch | CyberPatriot XV, XVI



What are you up to now?

I was selected as one of the 2024 Texas Leadership Scholars. I plan to attend Texas A&M University-San Antonio starting Fall 2024 to Major in Cybersecurity and Minor in Criminology/Criminal Justice.

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

My participation, and subsequently my leadership position, in the CyberPatriot Competition solidified my passion for Cybersecurity. It allowed me to explore different offensive and defensive techniques, and ultimately showed me how much impact I could have on the community and country through this field.

What is the most valuable lesson you learned from CyberPatriot?

Being a leader of my CyberPatriot team most importantly taught me how to use each team member's strengths and weaknesses to the team's advantage. I was able to assign certain images to members based on their past performance as well as their interests. It made the competitions run more smoothly and made our experience more enjoyable overall.

What is your advice for the next generation of CyberPatriot?

First and foremost: Trust your team. If you don't trust them, y'all aren't a team. A team is a group of people who have a common passion and work together to pursue that passion. No team will ever progress if they just yell and bicker and fight. Instead, I ask you to do this: take your shoes off, and just enjoy the time you have. Do that, and you will succeed more than you believed was possible.

Random Fact: *Though I was born with Shone's Syndrome, a combination of Congenital Heart Defects that occurs in less than 1% of all congenital cardiac abnormalities, this hasn't stopped me from setting ambitious goals and achieving my dreams!*



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

Cisco NetAcad Learn-a-Thon 2024

Don't forget about this great opportunity! Click the photo below to learn more about the Cisco Learn-A-Thon Pathway and the opportunity to earn an industry certification FOR FREE!

A promotional graphic for 'The Cyber Challenge: Defending the Digital World'. It features a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a pink shirt, holding a light blue sign that says 'Networking Academy' with the Cisco logo. The background is a grid of puzzle pieces. In the bottom right, there is a blue shield with a white padlock icon. Below the shield, the text reads 'The Cyber Challenge: DEFENDING THE DIGITAL WORLD'. At the bottom, a blue banner contains the text: '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!'.

CP-17 Competition Season Highlights



CYBERPATRIOT 17



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

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Cyber Diamond Sponsors



Cyber Gold Sponsors



Cyber Silver Sponsors



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