



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

NOVEMBER 2025

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CyberPatriot 18

Registration for CyberPatriot 18 closed on October 2 for the competition season. The competitor registration deadline was also last month and nearly 19,000 competitors are registered to compete this season! You can find the list and map of [CyberPatriot 18 teams](#) on the CP website.

CYBERPATRIOT 18

High School Divisions Round 1

Round 1 was held October 23-26. Nearly 3,000 High School Division teams faced a Windows 11 image and a Mint 21 image. Teams were also challenged with a Cisco Quiz and Packet Tracer activity, bringing the max score of this round to 230 points. Official scores for Round 1 can be found on the [CyberPatriot website](#).

NOVEMBER 13-16

TEAMS HAVE 4 HOURS TO COMPETE

MIDDLE SCHOOL INTRODUCTORY ROUND: 230 POINTS POSSIBLE

- WINDOWS 11
- MINT 21
- CISCO QUIZ & PACKET TRACER

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS ROUND 2: 330 POINTS POSSIBLE

- WINDOWS 11
- SERVER 2022
- MINT 21
- CISCO QUIZ & PACKET TRACER

Middle School Introductory Round

Introductory Round, the first round for CyberPatriot Middle School teams, takes place November 13-16. Middle School Division teams face a Windows 11 image and Mint 21 image, along with Cisco Quiz and Packet Tracer. This round has a maximum score possible of 230 points.

High School Divisions Round 2

Round 2 for CyberPatriot High School teams takes place over November 13-16. High School Division teams face a Windows 11 image, a Server 2022 image, and Mint 21 image, along with Cisco Quiz and Packet Tracer. This round has a maximum score possible of 330 points.

CyberPatriot 18 – Registration Fee Deadline

November 5th was the payment deadline for teams competing in CP-18. **Participant Kits will not be sent to unpaid teams, until one of the following occurs:*

- Payment has been received and processed
- A purchase order has been submitted to info@uscyberpatriot.org
- A waiver request with supporting documentation has been submitted
- A payment deadline extension has been granted for the team by the CyberPatriot staff

CP-18 Competition Requirements

Please note, all links are available through the Coach Dashboard and you will need to sign in to view the documents.

VMware PRO Account

[INSTRUCTIONS](#)

Cisco NetAcad Content
Course

[INSTRUCTIONS](#)

Cisco NetAcad Competition
Course

[INSTRUCTIONS](#)

Cisco dCloud Registration

[INSTRUCTIONS](#)

Training Round 2 is here

The Training Round 2 Windows 10, Server 2019, Ubuntu 22 and Mint 21 images will be more difficult than Training Round 1 but will also have answer keys available in the ReadMe file.



New Coach Workshop CP-18



The CyberPatriot New Coach Workshop has been updated for the 2025-26 season. This can be viewed in a stand-alone [PowerPoint presentation](#) or by watching a [video on YouTube](#). This 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).

CP-18 Participant Kits

GREAT NEWS! 2025-26 Participant Kits have started to be shipped to qualifying teams. The participant kit includes a CP-18 T-shirt and sticker for every registered team member. Coaches will receive an email with tracking information as soon as it is available. Coaches will receive one box with gear for themselves and their competitors ONLY. *Mentor and Team Assistant gear is sent separately (directly to the volunteer) and is not included in the team box.



CyberPatriot 18 State Round

The CyberPatriot 18 State Round will take place December 11-14, 2025. All registered teams may compete in the State Round. There is no score cutoff or participation requirement. If your team cannot compete in early rounds, you can still compete in the State Round.

For Open/All Service Division teams, the State Round is a stand-alone round where all teams start with a clean slate, and previous scores do not count. For Middle School Teams, the Introductory Round and State Round scores

are considered for State Awards. If a team did not participate in or did not score high in earlier rounds, they can still compete in the State Round. Teams may win awards even if this is the first time they compete this season.

CyberPatriot Alumni Spotlight

Eugene Woo | CyberPatriot VII, VIII, IX, X



What are you up to now?

I am currently a Security Risk Analyst at ServiceNow.

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

I probably would have been less inclined to try a cybersecurity minor in my second year of college. I was originally on track to do Education policy. I ended up getting an internship at ServiceNow while in college and received a full time offer upon graduating college.

What was the most valuable lesson you learned from CyberPatriot?

It was just the exposure and familiarity to cyber that perhaps made me think that it wasn't as daunting or mysterious as most people think (which is usually their first impression). Also, kudos to the CyberPatriot program for making cyber fun, especially in a team setting.

What is your advice for the next generation of CyberPatriot?

My advice for the next generation would be to try it, regardless of your reason (friends, genuine interest in cyber, etc.). I think there's a lot you can get from just the experience itself. Also, try to talk to adults about it too, if you want to learn more.

Fun Fact: I love playing sports! I originally played basketball and now I am trying soccer and volleyball.



**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



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.

The SMART Scholarship is a merit-based opportunity for students pursuing STEM degrees at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. In 2023, SMART expanded eligibility to incoming college freshmen with no prior college credit, extending the opportunity to high school seniors. [Click here](#) to learn more about these opportunities and to review eligibility requirements. **Applications will be accepted until December 5, 2025 – [Apply Now!](#)**

Gannon University

BREAK INTO THE CYBER INDUSTRY

As CyberPatriot competitors, you're already stepping into the role of future cybersecurity leaders—learning to stop threats and protect digital footprints around the globe. At Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania, our students share your passion, working to design safer systems and defend the world's data.



JOHN WHITE | CYBERSECURITY ALUMNUS '25 CYBER SECURITY SPECIALIST, FEDERAL RESOURCES CORPORATION

John White is a recent graduate of Gannon University's Cybersecurity program. As a student, he greatly valued the small class sizes and the program's continually evolving curriculum that reflects real-world cybersecurity practices. Through hands-on experiences and professional development opportunities, John was well-prepared to launch his career—securing a full-time position immediately after graduation.

"Thanks to my education at Gannon, my internship turned into a full-time job. I can confidently collaborate with industry professionals and perform at a high level." - John White

Click the button to learn more about our nationally accredited cybersecurity academic program.

[LEARN MORE](#)



GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE THAT GETS JOBS.

Gannon Institute for Health & Cyber Knowledge (I-HACK) is educating the next generation of cyber, engineering and computing professionals.

- Design and protect data and systems in cyber attack and defense labs.
- Opportunities to earn professional industry degrees during undergraduate studies.
- Unique learning spaces dedicated to innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- The Center for Manufacturing and Technology, Gannon's high-tech and versatile MakerSpace, features fabrication and additive manufacturing equipment that combines traditional manufacturing with a new age of technology.

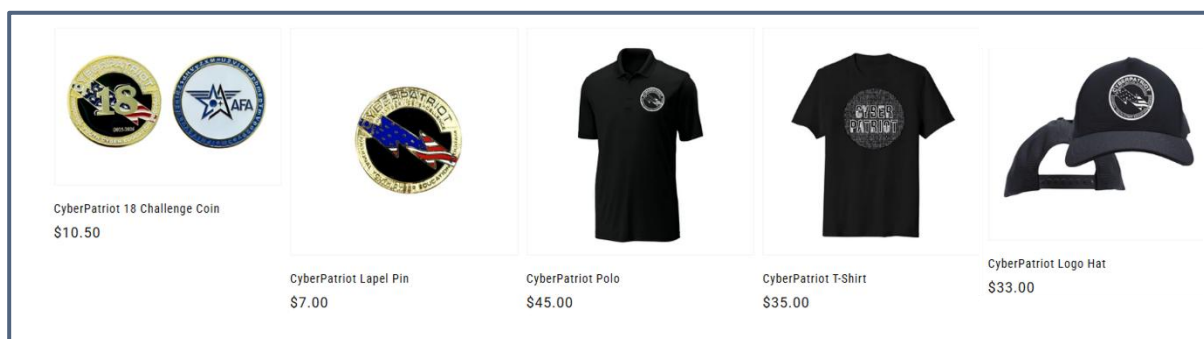
[TOUR I-HACK](#)

APPLY TODAY: [GANNON.EDU/CYBER](https://gannon.edu/cyber)

GANNON
UNIVERSITY

ShopAFA

CyberPatriot 18 challenge coins are available on ShopAFA. You'll notice we've also expanded the CyberPatriot collection! Visit [ShopAFA](#) today and see what new items are available!



CyberPatriot 18 Press Release Template

Want to showcase your team's achievements in CyberPatriot? A customizable press release template is now available on the Coach Dashboard! Use this resource to highlight your team or organization's accomplishments when sharing news with local media and community outlets. Additional templates for the State Round, Semifinals and more will be available as the season progresses.

CyberPatriot in the News

AFA Bids Farewell to Bernie Skoch as Board Chair



Long before Skoch became AFA's Chair, he laid the groundwork for new areas of growth and mission success at AFA. He retired from a 29-year communications career in the Air Force in 2003 as a one-star general. In 2010, Skoch helped AFA launch the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program. As the National Commissioner, he built the youth STEM program from a fledgling 200-team high school cyber defense competition to a comprehensive cyber education program that now encompasses 5,000 teams and 20,000 students annually.

Bellevue West teens training in cybersecurity, competing in national competition

Cybersecurity threats are increasing daily, but students at Bellevue West High School are learning to identify and avoid those threats. Now they're seeing how they stack up against other kids across the country. First Alert 6 met with the students to find out more about the skills and career foundations they're developing.

MCHS MCJROTC Competes in First Round of CyberPatriot 18

Cadets of the Michigan City High School (MCHS) Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) are receiving practical experience by participating in the first round of CyberPatriot, the national STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) competition. Cadets act as security managers for an organization's Information System Network, counterattacking a simulated cyber-attack.



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

Cyber Platinum Sponsors



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.*