



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

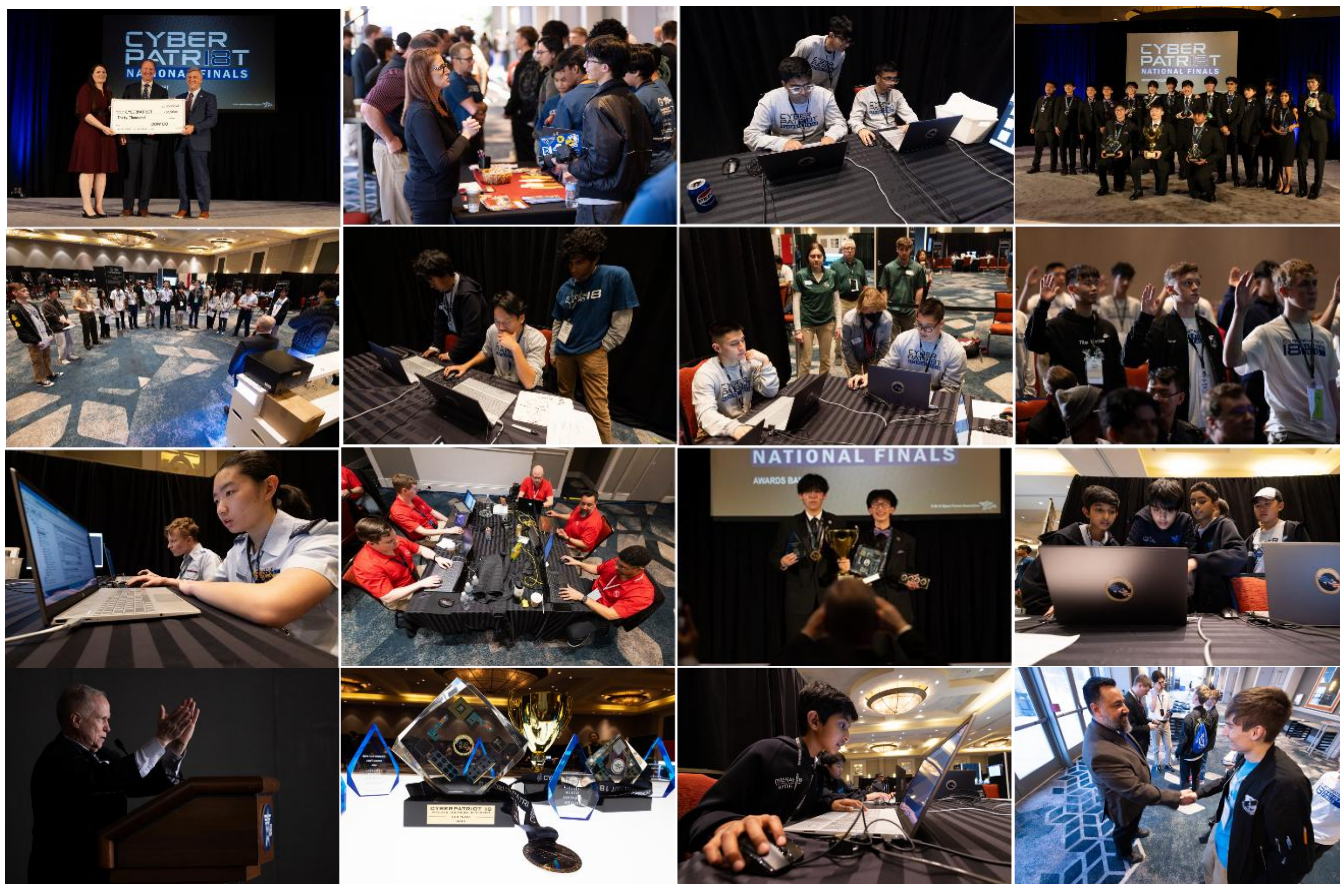
APRIL 2026

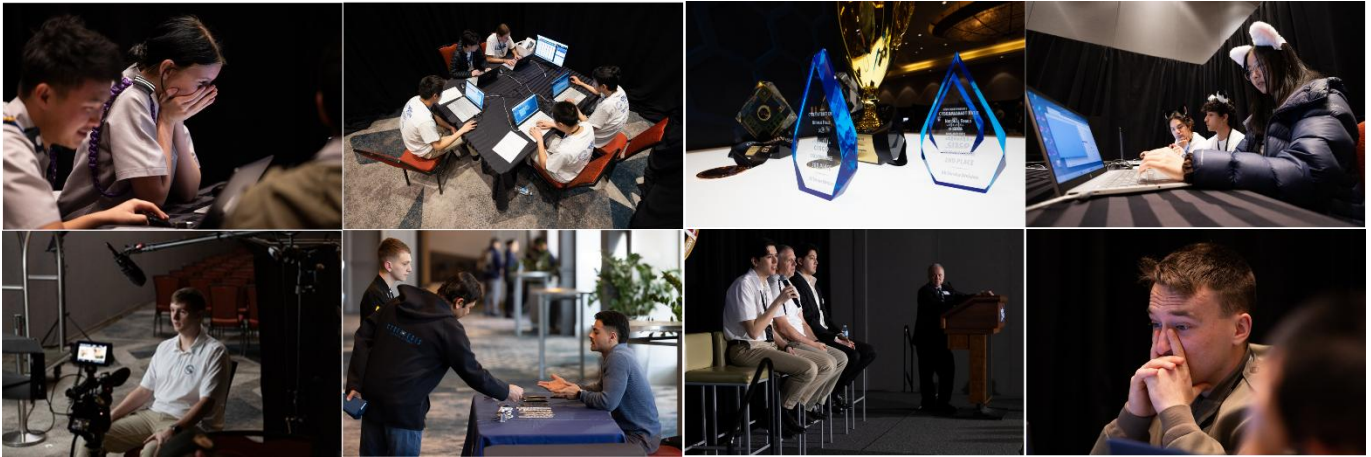
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CyberPatriot 18 National Finals Recap

Congratulations to the National Finalist teams who wrapped up an incredible season at the CyberPatriot 18 National Finals Competition, held March 21–23, 2026. The main competition day took place on Sunday, March 22, where competitors tackled the Network Security Master Challenge before finishing strong with the Cisco NetAcad Challenge. The season concluded on Monday evening, March 23, at the Awards Banquet, where the top teams were officially recognized as National Champions.

Photos from the event are available on the [Air & Space Forces Association Flickr page](#), and a livestream of the Awards Ceremony can be viewed on [CyberPatriot’s YouTube channel](#).





CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CYBERPATRIOT 18 WINNERS



OPEN DIVISION WINNERS

National Champion: *TitanTurtles*
Sunshine Elite Education (Beaverton, OR)

Runner-Up: *Half Dome*
Franklin High School (Elk Grove, CA)

Third Place: *CyberAegis Perseus*
Scouting America Exploring Club 2928 (San Diego, CA)

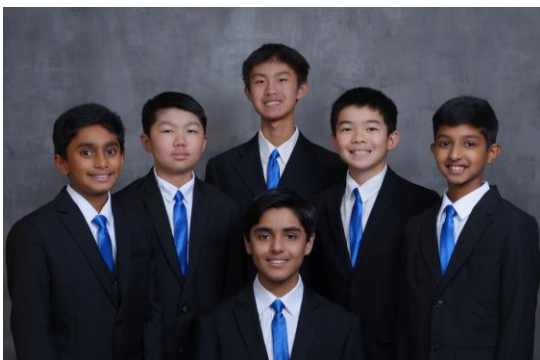


ALL SERVICE DIVISION WINNERS

National Champion: *Terabyte Falcons*
Scripps Ranch High School, AFJROTC (San Diego, CA)

Runner-Up: *Runtime Terror*
Troy High School, NJROTC (Fullerton, CA)

Third Place: *Cyber Monkeys*
Burke Composite Squadron, CAP (Springfield, VA)



MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION WINNERS

National Champion: *CyberAegis Hydra*
Scouting America Exploring Club 2927 (San Diego, CA)

Runner-Up: *Team 1*
Cedarlane Academy (Hacienda Heights, CA)

Third Place: *Cyber Crashouts*
Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy (Plymouth, MI)

Cisco NetAcad Challenge

During the Cisco NetAcad Challenge, teams had three components to complete in 90 minutes. They were required to manage and troubleshoot network security components in a hands-on exercise, complete a Cisco networking quiz, which covered what they learned this season and teams were also presented with a physical component, similar to a "scavenger hunt." During the scavenger hunt, teams had to physically create a Cat5 cable to connect a security camera to a network and find physical, verbal, and written clues to complete a complex task.



Open Division Cisco Networking Challenge:

1st Place: TitanTurtles from Sunshine Elite Education (Beaverton, OR)

2nd Place: Axios from Loyola Blakefield (Towson, MD)

3rd Place: CyberAegis Perseus from Scouting America Exploring Post 2928 (San Diego, CA)

All Service Division Cisco Networking Challenge:

1st Place: Runtime Terror from Troy High School, Navy JROTC (Fullerton, CA)

2nd Place: Cyber Monkeys from Burke Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol (Springfield, VA)

3rd Place: Talk to me Goose from Theodore Roosevelt High School, Army JROTC (San Antonio, TX)

Middle School Division Cisco Networking Challenge:

1st Place: CyberAegis Hydra from Scouting America Exploring Club 2927 (San Diego, CA)

2nd Place: Team 1 from Cedarlane Academy (Hacienda Heights, CA)

3rd Place: Cyber Crashouts from Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy (Plymouth, MI)

CyberPatriot Cyber All-American



Also recognized at the event was the newest Cyber All-American award recipient: Joshua Fong. Joshua joins a small group of competitors who qualified for the National Finals Competition all four years of their high school careers. Congratulations to our newest Cyber All-American!

Time is running out to host a CyberCamp!



Registration to host an AFA CyberCamp is open until May 1, 2025.

Are you looking to keep your students engaged in cybersecurity over summer break? Do your students need some training or review before the next competition season? Host Registration for 2026 CyberCamps is now open! *This year is particularly exciting, as we are launching our new Windows 11 curriculum.*

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 Defense Competition. The Standard CyberCamp consists of an introduction to cybersecurity, cyber careers, the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, Windows 11 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 11 graphical utilities, command line, Sysinternals Suite, Linux Init Systems, advanced command line, processes and scheduled tasks, security policies, PAM and Cisco NetAcad. This is a robust curriculum offering the ability for each camp to personalize the experience for the campers.

During each AFA CyberCamp, campers are immersed in a mock competition where they work on securing virtual images by finding and fixing vulnerabilities. This is a great way to both apply real-world learning and experience our competition. Host organizations can choose to host a camp during any of the available weeks. Both standard AND advanced camps are offered each week.

WEEK	DATE
Week 1	June 1-5
Week 2	June 8-12
Week 3	June 15-19
Week 4	June 22-26
Week 5	July 6-10
Week 6	July 13-17
Week 7	July 20-24
Week 8	July 27-31
Week 9	August 3-7
Week 10	August 10-14

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CYBERCAMPS!](#)

CyberPatriot Alumni Survey

Are you a current or former CyberPatriot competitor? No matter where you are in your CyberPatriot journey, your voice 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.](#)



CyberPatriot 19

You may have noticed that registration for the CyberPatriot 19 competition season did not open on April 1st this year. The CyberPatriot Program Office is currently working on updates to the CyberPatriot website, as well as preparing for the release of our new registration system. **Registration for CyberPatriot 19 is expected to open on May 1, 2026.** Our office will continue to share more information as it becomes available.

CyberPatriot in the News

[AFA Congratulates CyberPatriot National Champions](#)



The 18th season of CyberPatriot came to an exciting end on Monday, March 23, with the announcement of the winners of the Air & Space Forces Association's (AFA) annual National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. Of the 4,787 teams that started the competition season, only 25 made the cut to attend the National Finals in Rockville, Md.

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

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