



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

MARCH 2026

- CyberPatriot 18 National Finals Competition →
- Meet the CP-18 National Finalist Teams →
- CyberPatriot Cyber All-American →
- Host an AFA CyberCamp in 2026 →
- CyberPatriot on ShopAFA →
- CyberPatriot in the News →

CyberPatriot 18 National Finals Competition

The CyberPatriot 18 National Finals Competition is set for March 21–23, 2026. We are excited to welcome our National Finalist teams once again to Rockville, MD.

The event will kick off on March 21 with the Opening Ceremony, followed by Competition Orientation and System Familiarization that afternoon. Day one will finish with The Career Portal/Industry Perspectives (TCP/IP) event in the evening. The main event - Competition Day – will be all day on Sunday, March 22. Teams will start with the Network Security Master Challenge and wrap up competition day with the Cisco NetAcad Challenge.

The National Finals Competition, and the CyberPatriot 18 season, will officially conclude on Monday evening at the Awards Banquet, marking the culmination of months of hard work and dedication. At the banquet, the winning teams are announced and will be deemed National Champions. The Awards Ceremony will also be live streamed on [CyberPatriot’s YouTube channel](#) starting at 6:30 PM ET.



THE CHALLENGES	
Network Security Master Challenge	During the Network Security Master Challenge, teams are provided with multiple virtual operating systems (also known as “images”). Each team serves as administrators for a small business, working to find and fix vulnerabilities, maintain critical services, resolve injects and defend against hostile Red Team attackers.
Cisco NetAcad Challenge	During the Cisco NetAcad Challenge, teams will be scored on their ability to demonstrate proficiency in network security administration. Cybersecurity knowledge and skills are tested with a networking quiz and a hands-on networking exercise.

Meet the CyberPatriot 18 National Finals Teams

OPEN DIVISION



CANYON CREST ACADEMY
:3



**EASTERN TECHNICAL
HIGH SCHOOL**
Pbchocolate



FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL
Fairview Knights



FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL
Cassiopeia



FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL
Half Dome



JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL
Team 2



LOYOLA BLAKEFIELD
Axios



**NORTH HOLLYWOOD
HIGH SCHOOL**
Pyre



**SCOUTING AMERICA
EXPLORING POST 2928**
CyberAegis Corvus



**SCOUTING AMERICA
EXPLORING POST 2928**
CyberAegis Perseus



SUNSHINE ELITE EDUCATION
TitanTurtles

ALL SERVICE DIVISION



ARMY JROTC



PUNAHOU SCHOOL
CELT



THEODORE ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL
Talk To Me Goose



NAVY JROTC



NOVA HIGH SCHOOL
CyberTitans Oceanus



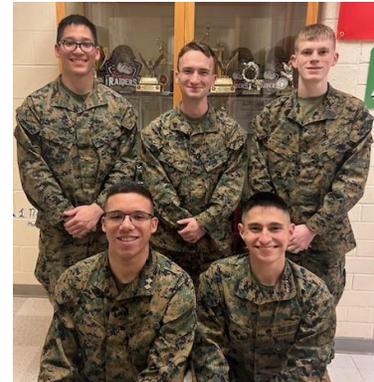
TROY HIGH SCHOOL
Runtime Terror



MARINE CORPS JROTC



ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL
Delta Eagles



MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
Scarlet



AIR FORCE JROTC



KNOB NOSTER HIGH SCHOOL
Komputer Kernels



SCRIPPS RANCH HIGH SCHOOL
Terabyte Falcons



CIVIL AIR PATROL



BURKE COMPOSITE SQUADRON
Cyber Monkeys



FULLERTON COMPOSITE SQUADRON 56
Iridium



U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS



SACRAMENTO DIVISION
Spartans

ALL SERVICE DIVISION WILD CARD

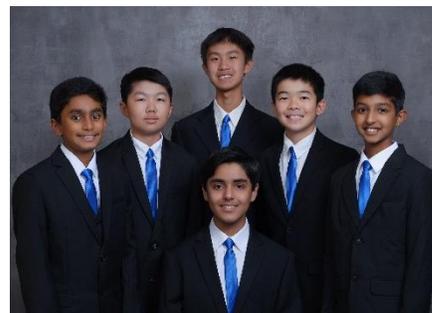
MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION



CEDARLANE ACADEMY
Team 1



PLYMOUTH SCHOLARS CHARTER ACADEMY
Cyber Crashouts



SCOUTING AMERICA EXPLORING CLUB 2927
CyberAegis Hydra

CyberPatriot Cyber All-American

The Cyber All-American honor is given to CyberPatriot competitors who have qualified for the National Finals Competition all four years of their high school careers. Past recipients include but are not limited to:

- 2020 Charissa Kim
- 2021 Evan Huang
- 2021 Justin Lin
- 2022 Emily Foreman
- 2022 Kevin Hu
- 2022 Emily Kelso
- 2022 Darius Kianersi

- 2022 Tristan Lee

- Troy High School
- US Naval Sea Cadet Corps Sacramento Division
- Del Norte High School
- Sacramento Division
- Del Norte High School
- Sacramento Division
- Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology
- Theodore Roosevelt High School

2022	Darin Mao	Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology
2022	Tanay Shah	Del Norte High School
2022	William Smith	Sacramento Division
2023	Chan Chung	Troy High School
2023	Akhil Guntur	Del Norte High School
2023	Jonathan Lin	Del Norte High School
2023	Brian Ni	Troy High School
2023	Akshay Rohatgi	Del Norte High School
2023	Alvin Zheng	Del Norte High School
2024	Anna Wu	Troy High School
2024	Rohan Juneja	Del Norte High School
2024	Safin Singh	Del Norte High School
2024	Yannis Smith	Sacramento Division
2025	Pratham Rangwala	Franklin High School
2025	Priyam Rangwala	Franklin High School
2025	Ethan Zhao	Scouting America Exploring Post 2928

This year, only one competitor has earned the title of Cyber All-American:

Joshua Fong



Franklin High School
Half Dome

2026 AFA CyberCamp Host Registration is OPEN



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 until May 1. 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 TODAY!](#)

CyberPatriot on ShopAFA

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



CyberPatriot in the News

[CyberPatriot Success at AHS!](#)



Two teams of Ankeny High School students competed in the annual CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition and earned 2nd and 3rd place in the Gold Division at the State level!

[DCHS Students Place Nationally in CyberPatriot Competition through DTC partnership with Afterschool Program](#)



The DCHS Cyber Tooth Tigers have reason to celebrate. This newly formed six-member team of the DCHS afterschool program recently competed in their first ever CyberPatriot competition and ranked 14th out of 40 teams nationally.

AFA and Civil Air Patrol: 30 Years of Building the STEM Pipeline



CAP has been an active participant in AFA's CyberPatriot program since its inception, competing in both the All Services and Middle School divisions. Over time, CyberPatriot has become a foundational element of CAP's cadet cyber education efforts.

Kenai Peninsula students win cyber defense competition

A group of middle and high school students from all over the Kenai Peninsula competed virtually in three rounds of the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition last fall. The five participants in the Kenai Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol Alaska Wing received the highest score in the state despite competing for the first time.

Succeeding as cyber patriots



The Marquette High Cybersecurity team placed second in the state in the highest, platinum tier of the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, which tasks students with analyzing and fixing system vulnerabilities and learning real-world cybersecurity skills under a time limit.

AFA Announces CyberPatriot 18 National Finalists

The Air & Space Forces Association has announced the national finalists for the 18th season of its CyberPatriot program, showcasing the exceptional skill, teamwork, and dedication of students nationwide.

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

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Please send email highlights or accolades to info@uscyberpatriot.org.*