



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

MAY 2026

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AFA CyberCamps 2026

Hoping to attend an AFA CyberCamp this summer, but not sure which camp is right for you? The Standard CyberCamp is designed for campers who are new to the world of cybersecurity. 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 already attended an AFA Standard CyberCamp.

[CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF REGISTERED 2026 AFA CYBERCAMPS](#)

STANDARD CAMP

Intro to CyberPatriot
Intro to Virtual Machines
Cyber Ethics
Windows 11

- Security Policies
- Account Management
- File Protections
- Auditing & Monitoring

Linux Mint

- Terminology & Concepts
- Basic User Interface Security
- Basic Command Line
- Intermediate Security

ADVANCED CAMP

Cyber Ethics

Windows 11

- Graphical Utilities Windows
- Command Line
- Sysinternals Suite

Linux Mint

- Init Systems
- Advanced Command Line
- Processes and Scheduled Tasks
- Security Policies and PAM
- Networking

Cisco Networking Academy



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

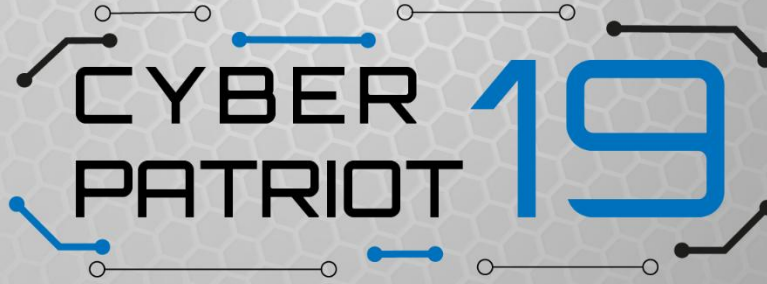
* Juneteenth will be observed June 19, 2026. Camps can be held this week if the host organization would like but limited tech support will be available on June 19th

For those organizations hosting a camp, the official AFA CyberCamp store will open in mid-May. Camp

All camps include a competition image for both Windows 11 and Linux Mint

coordinators with *approved* camps will receive an email with additional information on how to purchase printed copies of camp materials. As a reminder, all approved camps receive digital camp materials as part of the camp registration fee.

CyberPatriot 19



REGISTRATION OPENS JUNE 1

CyberPatriot is getting a new website and registration system which will launch on June 1st. Registration for the CyberPatriot 19 season will go from June 1 – October 1, 2026.

CP-19 Dates

CyberPatriot 19 (2026-27) Competition Timeline

ROUND	DATES	WHO	DESCRIPTION
Exhibition Round	June 3 – August 24	All registered teams	The purpose of the round is for team practice and recruiting.
Training Round 1 (Beginner)	September 3 – October 5	All registered teams	Beginner level images with answer keys are available in the ReadMe file.
Sneak Preview	September 24	All registered teams	One day test of new software.
Practice Round (Critical)	October 7 – 20	All registered teams	The software is updated, and teams must test at least one image to ensure no problems accessing the images for the competition. Answer keys available in the ReadMe file.
Training Round 2 (Intermediate)	October 30, 2026 – January 19, 2027	All registered teams	Intermediate level images with answer keys are available in the ReadMe file. All teams may participate.
Round 1 (HS teams only)	October 22 – 25	All approved High School teams	Tests basics of cybersecurity skills. Image answers will be released after the round is completed. All approved HS teams can participate.
Round 2 (HS) Introductory Round (MS)	November 12 – 15	All approved teams	HS Teams: More difficult than Round 1. Based on scores teams will be divided into skill-level tiers for future rounds. MS Teams: Tests basics of cybersecurity skills. Image answers will be released after the round is completed.
State Round	December 10 – 13	All approved teams	Teams compete against other teams based on skill level for State Awards and Tier Awards. For HS teams past performance in Rounds 1 and 2 does not count towards placement.
Semifinals Round	January 21 – 23	Only teams that qualify	3 days only.
National Finals	March 12 – 16	Only teams that qualify	Teams compete for the National Championship in their respective division. Only platinum tier teams can advance.

CP-18 Coach & Mentor of the Year Nominations

Do you know a coach or mentor that deserves recognition? Nominate them for the CyberPatriot 18 Coach or Mentor of the Year Award! These awards recognize excellence among volunteer coaches and mentors. If you think your coach or mentor deserves such recognition, nominate them today! **Nominations will be accepted through Friday, June 5, 2026.**

Be prepared: [Click here to see out a preview of what is expected from each nomination.](#)

CYBER PATRIOT 18

COACH OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

MENTOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

CyberPatriot on ShopAFA

CyberPatriot 18 challenge coins and other CyberPatriot branded items are available on ShopAFA. Visit [ShopAFA](#) today and to get your CyberPatriot items.



CyberPatriot 18 Challenge Coin
\$10.50



CyberPatriot T-Shirt
\$35.00



CyberPatriot Logo Hat
\$33.00



CyberPatriot Polo
\$45.00



CyberPatriot Lapel Pin
\$7.00



CyberPatriot Insulated 32 oz Bottle
\$36.00



CyberPatriot Insulated 20 oz Bottle
\$29.00

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