



ISSUE 43 | OCT 2015

THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

COMMISSIONER'S CACHE



October is here! That means things are moving fast -- team registration ends on Oct. 9 and the Practice Round begins on Oct. 13. For the first time this year we have released challenge information for all rounds to give you more time to prepare. Cisco's Networking Academy has streamlined its training materials just for you. AT&T has again graciously provided a limited number of air cards for teams with severe Internet challenges. See the announcement emails for details.

We have exceeded the record set last season for registered teams and improved our training materials to try to give everyone a chance to excel.

Though at CyberPatriot every month is Cyber Security Awareness Month, this month is the official one. To celebrate we highlight the Department of Homeland Security's Stop. Think. Connect campaign with articles on p. 3.

Before I forget, the Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative is a hit! More than 1000 of the kits have been ordered. It is because of the reputation you have given CyberPatriot that the initiative has exceeded our goals.

That is it for now. Good luck. We'll meet back here in November.

Bernard K. Skoch

Bernard K. Skoch | National Commissioner



DATES TO KNOW

OCT. 9	Team Creation Deadline
OCT. 13-27	CP-VIII Official Practice Round
NOV. 6	Student Registration Deadline
NOV. 6	Registration Fee Due Date
NOV. 13-15	CP-VIII Round 1



CYBERPATRIOT VIII PREPARATION OVERVIEW

CyberPatriot VIII will provide teams with better preparation opportunities than ever before. The schedule, training materials, and practice events are designed to help prepare teams do their best during the competition.

Schedule

The competition schedule is designed to allow teams more time to prepare for the first round of competition. Teams have a break between the end of the Practice Round and Round 1 to train and develop competition strategies. Additional time between the December and January rounds gives teams time to prepare for the competition without squeezing in training before and after the holiday season.

Training Materials

Introductory images were available to teams in September. For the only time this season,

answer keys were provided to help students understand basic cybersecurity vulnerabilities and how to remediate them.

On the Coach and Mentor Dashboard, updated training modules are available. Companion training videos will be added shortly.

Texas A&M Corpus Christi (TAMCC) provided Ubuntu practice images and software to allow teams to create their own Windows practice images using their MSDN DreamSpark accounts and TAMCC software at: <http://uscyberpatriot.org/competition/training-materials/practice-images>.

Training Events

The Practice Round will be conducted Oct. 13-27. It allows teams to practice in a competition environment. The round's images are basic

and will stop scoring in six hours. Unlike a competition round, teams may run multiple instances of images and Coaches and Mentors may use the images. Practice images will be available for specific dates during the season to allow teams additional practice.

The Middle School Division's January practice round will allow Semifinalist teams to prepare for the Semifinals in February by allowing them to practice on advanced competition images without being scored for the record.

Additional preparation information is located under the Competition tab on the CyberPatriot website. Hardware and software standards can be found at: http://uscyberpatriot.org/Documents/CP-VIII%20Rules%20Book_FINAL_28_Sep_2015.pdf#nameddest=Chapter3

COE: HUNTSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS



Meet the newest CyberPatriot Center of Excellence — Huntsville City Schools.

The Huntsville City Schools system is one of the premier school districts in the state of Alabama, with 64 Pre-K programs, 21 elementary schools, five middle schools and two junior high, six high schools, and five P-8 schools, providing services for more than 23,000 students. Since joining the CyberPatriot program in 2013, Huntsville City schools have placed both an Open Division and All Service Division team in the National Finals Competition, have won first and second place in the Open Division, and have also been recognized with a CyberPatriot Coach of the Year.

The success stems in large part from the school system's collaboration with the Alabama State Department of Education to develop a four-year cybersecurity curriculum to help prepare students to pursue cybersecurity postsecondary education and careers. The Huntsville City Schools system has also developed partnerships with local industry leaders to secure internships for CyberPatriot Competitors, and has helped prepare students to earn professional credentials, including COMPTIA's Fundamentals, Network +, and Security +. In addition, the school system offers training to first-time Coaches and Mentors.

Huntsville City Schools' dedication to CyberPatriot has not gone unnoticed. They have been featured in interviews with CBS Sunday Morning News and National Public Radio, increasing local and national awareness of cybersecurity education as a critical workforce need. The school system has also earned recognition and support from the Huntsville City Council, Mayor Tommy Battle, Madison County Commission, Alabama State legislators, Governor Robert Bentley, United States Congressional delegation, Cyber Huntsville Industries, and Huntsville City School Board.

FEE PAYMENT + STUDENT REGISTRATION

Friday, Oct. 9, is the deadline for Coaches to submit a Team Registration Form for each of the teams they will coach. This does not include registering competitors or paying registration fees. (see Coaches' Corner)

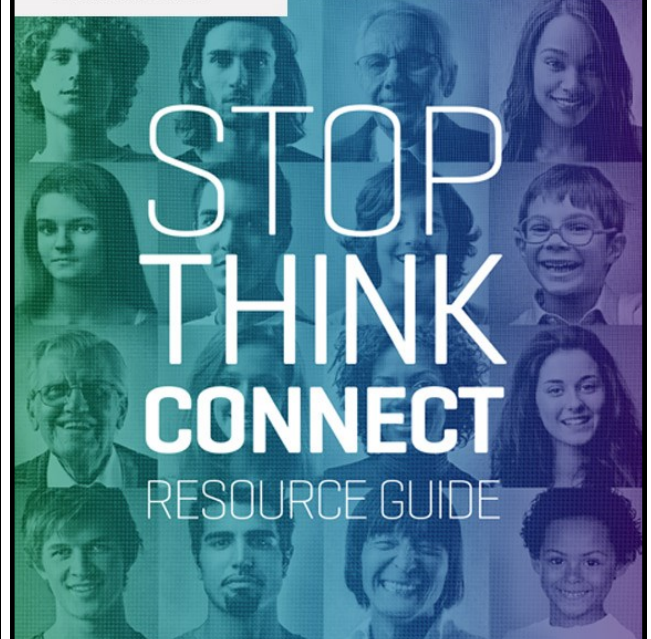
Friday, Nov. 6, is the deadline to pay team registration fees (or request fee waivers). It is also the deadline to finalize your team roster(s). This includes registering competitors and/or moving competitors between teams. Once this deadline has passed, rosters cannot be changed.

Competitors cannot be added until your team is verified by your verification official and approved by the CyberPatriot Program Office. When you add students to your team's roster, they are automatically emailed a link to a short Competitor registration form. Students must complete that Competitor registration form (i.e., appear with "Registered" status on the dashboard) by **Nov. 6, 2015.**

Coaches who fail to finalize their rosters will be ineligible to compete in Round 1. Click [HERE](#) for registration instructions.

DOWNLOAD

Stop Think Connect
Overview Booklet



Coaches' Corner

- **Team Registration Deadline.** From the Volunteer Central Dashboard, click the "Create Team" button to complete a Team Registration Form for each of the teams you will coach. If you will coach five teams, you will need to complete five separate Team Application forms, each of which must be verified separately by the verification official(s) you list on the forms. A verification official must be a principal, vice principal, commander, deputy commander, other administrator who can verify your status at the school/organization. **The deadline to submit team applications is 11:59 PM on Oct. 9.**
- **Online Coaches and Mentors Meetings.** The Coaches Meetings are a great time to ask any questions about CP -VIII! The format has changed to an interactive chat session until later in the season. Information on joining these meetings will be emailed to Coaches a few days before the meeting. Additional questions can be directed to info@uscypatriot.org.

Next Meeting: Oct. 13, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

- **Training Materials.** Registered Coaches and Mentors may access exclusive training materials at the Dashboard on the CyberPatriot website. Just click on "Sign-In" and enter your login and password to access the Dashboard. Competitors do not have direct access to the training modules, but Coaches and Mentors are welcome to share the modules.

SPOTLIGHT: DHS's NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH



It's Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and we're celebrating five years of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Stop.Think.Connect Campaign, a national public awareness campaign aimed at increasing American's understanding of cyber risks and empowering everyone to be safer online.

As an official member of the campaign, CyberPatriot is partnering with more than 150 organizations to promote cybersecurity awareness, and we invite you to join the national effort to keep the Internet a safer place! Learn more at:

www.dhs.gov/stophinkconnect

Connected Communities: Staying Protected While Always Connected

Cybersecurity means staying protected in our interconnected world. From banking and shopping to health care, social networking, and downloading the latest apps – we live robust online lives. Wherever we are and however we access the digital world, every step we take to be safer will make ourselves, our families, and our communities more secure.



Your Evolving Digital Life

In the 20th century, the Internet was about how an individual connects. In the 21st century, the Internet will evolve into how everything is connected to the Internet. Our cars are quickly morphing into "computers on wheels," the fully connected home is nearly a reality, and connected medical devices may offer tremendous benefits to our health and safety. However, securing all of these devices in the vast Internet ecosystem will be a new challenge. The more connected we become, the more interdependent we will be on one another and the country's basic infrastructure – which keeps the lights on and the water running and enables Internet access.



Creating a Culture of Cybersecurity at School/Work

The best security technology in the world cannot help you unless employees understand their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding sensitive data and protecting company resources. This will involve putting practices and policies in place that promote security and training employees to be able to identify and avoid risks.

Keep a clean machine: There should be rules for what you can install and keep on your school/work computer. Make sure you understand and abide by these rules.

Follow good password practices: Make passwords long and strong, with a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Change passwords frequently.

When in doubt, throw it out: Do not open suspicious links in email, tweets, posts, online ads, messages, or attachments – even if you know the source. Understand how to use spam filters to prevent unwanted, harmful email.

Stay watchful and speak up: Say something if you notice strange happenings on your computer.

Backing up your work: Whether it's automatic or manual, you should understand how backup works and why it's important in protecting

Building the Next Generation of Cyber Professionals

One of the greatest risks to our cybersecurity is the shortage of professionals to protect the vast networks we are creating. The demand for cybersecurity experts is growing at three-and-a-half times the pace of the overall IT job market. In addition to professionals whose jobs are to protect the Internet, the trend is for earlier adoption of technology by young people, including fully connected classrooms, access to mobile devices – phones, tablets, and laptops – and more ways to socially connect with one another. It is essential that we graduate students entering the workforce and adulthood prepared to use technology safely, securely, ethically, and productively.

**This is exactly why the Air Force Association
created CyberPatriot!**

COACH AND MENTOR OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED AT AFA CONVENTION



Chris Sutton, Coach of the CP-VII Open Division champions from Grissom High School in Huntsville, Ala., was presented with her Coach of the Year Award during the AFA Field Awards Dinner last month. Pictured left to right: Scott Van Cleef (Chairman, AFA), Chris Sutton, Jerry White (Vice Chairman, Aerospace Education), Dave Dietsch (Vice Chairman, Field Operations)



Evan Dygert, Technical Mentor at Winter Springs High School in Winter Spring, Fla., was presented with his Mentor of the Year Award during the AFA Field Awards Dinner last month. Pictured left to right: Scott Van Cleef (Chairman, AFA), Evan Dygert, Jerry White (Vice Chairman, Aerospace Education), Dave Dietsch (Vice Chairman, Field Operations)

Last month, Major William M. Blatchley (Colorado Wing) earned the Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award for his outstanding contributions, out of selfless devotion, to the advancement of youth in aerospace activities.

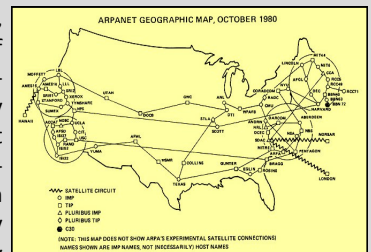


Thanks in large part to Blatchley, aerospace education officer for his squadron for the past six years, two continuity binders are now required to hold all his squadron's activities. He has outdone himself coaching teams for AFA's CyberPatriot competition, spending scores of hours honing the skills of multiple teams. In 2014, he mentored 13 teams, including one from a local school, a Girl Scout team from California, four Army Junior ROTC teams from Colorado, and CAP teams from California, Georgia, Iowa, and Colorado. Over the years, he has become a regular at the CyberPatriot semifinals and finals competitions and has lectured on the CyberPatriot program at the annual conferences for both the wing and nation. He has carefully folded aerospace activities into the overall Cadet Program, incorporating lessons on leadership, communications, ethics, and small-team dynamics. He has boosted the squadron's robotics program with STEM robotics kits from CAP and a mentoring program that matches senior and younger cadets. His original design to teach the launch of pneumatic paper rockets led to their being showcased at the University of Colorado's Cool Science event and several other meetings where STEM was highlighted.

THIS MONTH IN CYBER HISTORY

Oct. 27, 1980— On this day in cyber history, the first major network crash—the Four-Hour Collapse of the ARPANET— occurred.

The ARPANET, predecessor of the modern Internet, was set up by the Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Initially it had linked four sites in California and Utah, and later was expanded to cover research centers across the country.



The network failure resulted from a redundant single-error detecting code that was used for transmission but not storage, and a garbage-collection algorithm for removing old messages that was not resistant to the simultaneous existence of one message with several different time stamps. The combination of the events took the network down for four hours.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.computerhistory.org/t dih/October/27/>

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