



CYBERPATRIOT

The National Youth Cyber Education Program

AFA's Mission



The Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) is a non-profit, independent, professional military association.

Our mission is to:

- promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense;
- to honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families;
- and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.



CyberPatriot's Mission



Inspire K-12 students towards careers in cybersecurity and other STEM disciplines critical to our nation's future

- Instills in participants the importance of cyber ethics, cyber hygiene, and cybersecurity
- Creates the next generation of cyber defenders
- Advances AFA's advocacy for a strong defense industrial base

How we Accomplish our Mission

Annual National Youth Cyber Defense Competition

- Put teams of students in real-world scenarios
 - System Administrators in a small business
 - Students tasked with finding and fixing vulnerabilities while maintaining critical services
- Current participation: 5,000+ teams and 20,000 competitors





CyberPatriot Programs

Attract K-12 students to STEM

High School & Middle School



National Youth
Cyber Defense
Competition



CyberCamps

Elementary School



Elementary School
Cyber Education
Initiative



Cyber Education
Literature Series

Community Service

Senior Citizens



Cyber
Generations

Volunteers (14+)



Tech Caregivers

Continued Engagement

Ages 16+



Alumni Network

National Youth Cyber Defense Competition

Competition Divisions

Middle School Division – Middle schools and other youth organizations

Open Division – High schools and youth organizations

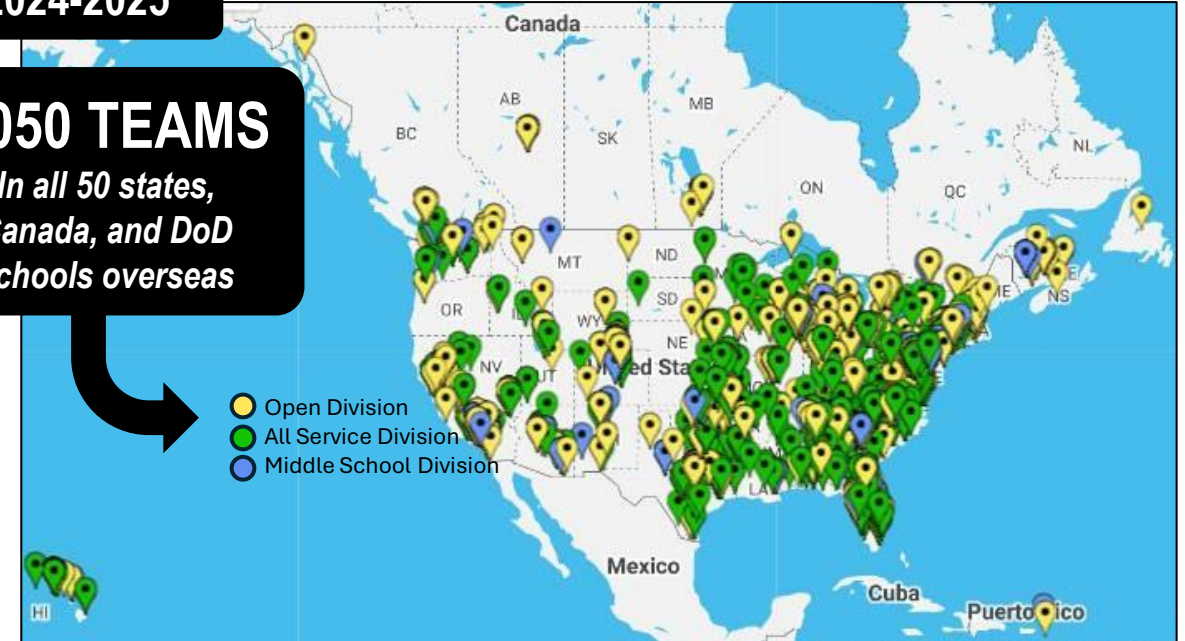
All Service Division

- Army JROTC
- Navy JROTC
- Marine Corps JROTC
- Air Force JROTC
- Coast Guard JROTC
- Space Force JROTC
- Civil Air Patrol
- Naval Sea Cadets

2024-2025

5,050 TEAMS

*In all 50 states,
Canada, and DoD
schools overseas*





National Youth Cyber Defense Competition

Team Roles

COACH

- Adult leader – teacher, parent, youth group advisor, etc.
- Verified by organization administrator
- Responsible for registering team and team safety

COMPETITOR

- Student in grades 6-12
- No prior cyber experience required
- 2-6 competitors per team

TECHNICAL MENTOR

- Technical volunteer with knowledge of Windows, Linux, and Networking
- Flexible time commitment. Volunteers as much or a little as desired.
- Must complete background check

TEAM ASSISTANT

- Non-technical volunteer. Helps with administrative and logistical
- Flexible time commitment. Volunteers as much or a little as desired.
- Must complete background checks

National Youth Cyber Defense Competition

CyberPatriot 18 (2025-2026) Competition Timeline

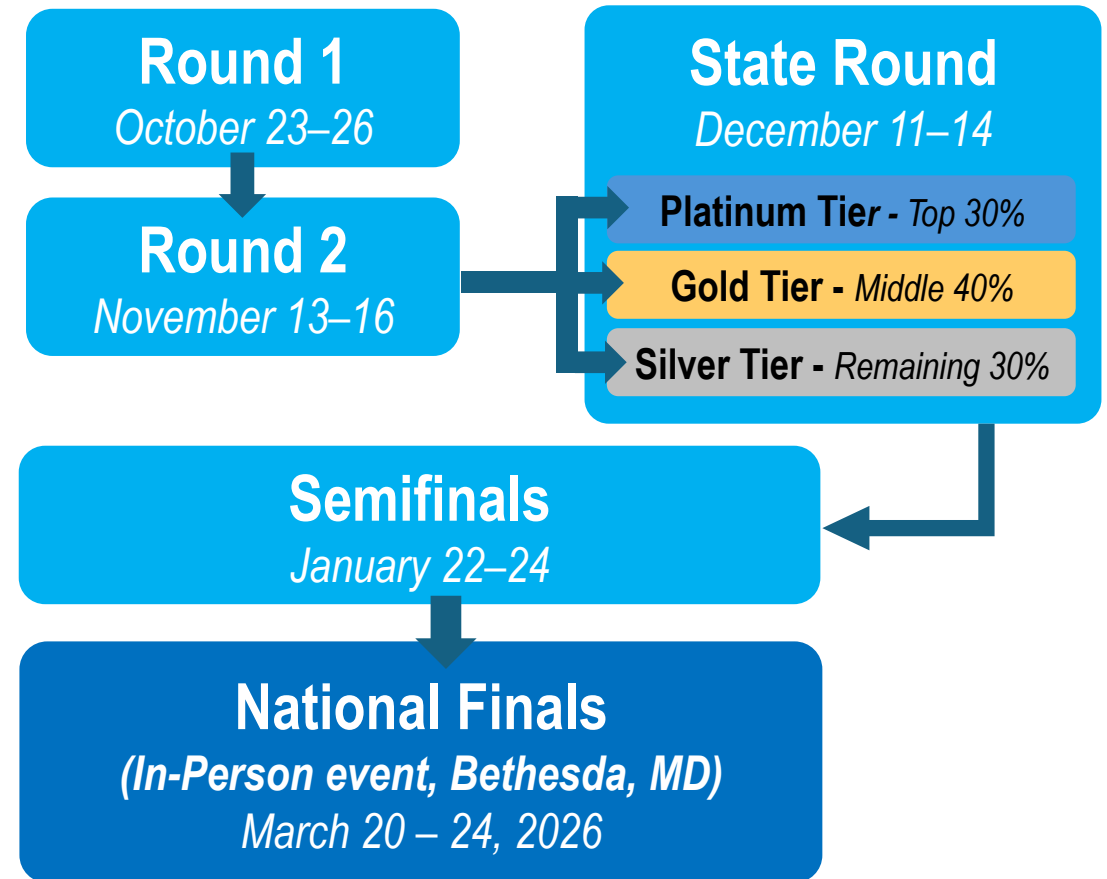
TRAINING

- Training Modules
- Access to Cisco NetAcad
- Training Round (Basic)
September 4 – October 22
- Practice Round
October 6 – 20
- Training Round (Intermediate)
October 28 – January 20

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION



HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS (Open / All Service Divisions)



National Youth Cyber Defense Competition

Competition Mechanics



Competition “Image”

Virtual operating system purposely filled with cybersecurity vulnerabilities that teams must find and fix within an allotted time.

- Earn (or lose) points for changes
- Windows, Server, Linux images
- Accompanied by Cisco NetAcad quizzes and packet tracer exercises

Host machine must meet minimum hardware and software requirements

CyberCamps



Summer camp program designed for students who are new to cybersecurity or who want to build on the cybersecurity skills they've learned through the cyber defense competition

Grades 6-12

CURRICULUM

- 20 Hours or materials designed to be given over five, 4-hour days
- Monday – Friday
- Mini-competition on Friday
- Held in-person or virtually



322 CAMPS
held in 2024



237
Basic Camps

85
Advanced Camps



Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative (ESCEI – “Ess-Key)



FREE interactive learning modules aimed at increasing student awareness of online safety and cybersecurity principles

Grades K-5

Released in 2016 – 12,500+ downloads

SECURITY SHOWDOWN

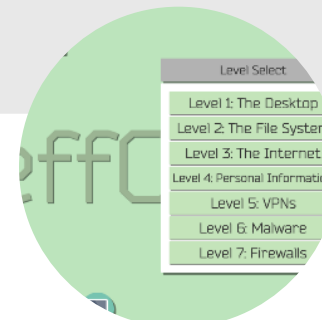
Teaches the importance of protecting personal information and the dangers of sharing information with strangers



JEFF OS

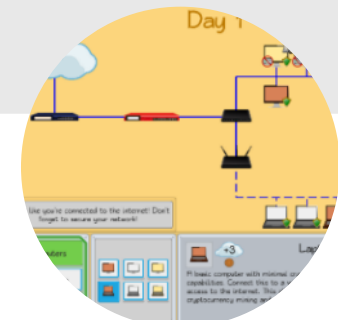
Introduces the ‘operating system’ and basic cybersecurity skills

Covers threats like phishing and malware



PACKET PROTECTOR

Introduces network security by having students create their own virtual networks while mining for cryptocurrency



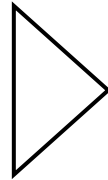
Cyber Education Literature Series



Children's books that pioneer the topic of cybersecurity for early elementary youth.

Paperback or e-books available on Amazon or Bookbaby.com

Grades K-5



SARAH THE CYBER HERO

Published December 2017

Sarah has a chance to protect her town from a computer virus using the skills she learned in her elementary school cyber education lesson



BEN THE CYBER DEFENDER

Published March 2020

Follow a cybersecurity whiz on his epic adventure to save his cousin and friends from impending cyber disaster

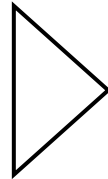




CyberGenerations



FREE program designed to equip senior citizens with the knowledge needed to stay protected from cybercrimes, fraud, and scams



Ages 55+

The Senior Citizen's Cyber Safety Initiative

SELF-PACED GUIDE

Self-paced PDF guide for individuals to read through at their own pace. Topics include:

- Password Management
- Online Threats
- Marketing & Fraud Scams
- Social Media Awareness
- Victim Support Resources

WORKSHOP

- Host organizations request workshop resources (slide decks and guides)
- Facilitate the event at local senior centers
- Virtual workshop available on our website
- Printed materials now available through Mimeo

Tech Caregivers



FREE certification program that allows student and adult volunteers to offer cybersecurity support to vulnerable populations.

Ages 14+

SELF-PACED TRAINING

Self-paced training for individuals.

Topics include:

- Password Management
- Online Threats
- Marketing & Fraud Scams
- Social Media Awareness
- Victim Support Resources

CERTIFICATION EXAM

- 40+ question exam
- 30 minute to complete
- Certification issued immediately upon receiving passing grade

COMMUNITY SERVICE

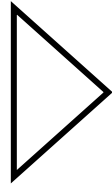
Tech Caregivers give back to community by hosting CyberGenerations Workshops or having one-on-one sessions with those in need of cybersecurity help.

CyberPatriot Alumni Network



Private LinkedIn Group created to connect CyberPatriot participants with each other and with STEM opportunities available through program sponsors and supporters

Ages 16+



- All requests to join reviewed by CP staff
- All posts to page reviewed by CP staff
- Must be 16+ years of age to join



- 1,300+ members (since Aug '22)
- Notable alumni schools
 - Harvard
 - Yale
 - Stanford
 - Wharton School of Business
 - Purdue University
 - University of California (all campuses)
 - University of Texas – San Antonio
- Graduates employed companies like:
 - Apple
 - Google
 - Amazon
 - Mellon BNY





Impact of CyberPatriot

Data Source: 2024 CyberPatriot Alumni Survey

77%

**of current CyberPatriot
students plan to
pursue STEM
education or careers**

84%

**of Alumni are studying
or working in a STEM
field**

77%

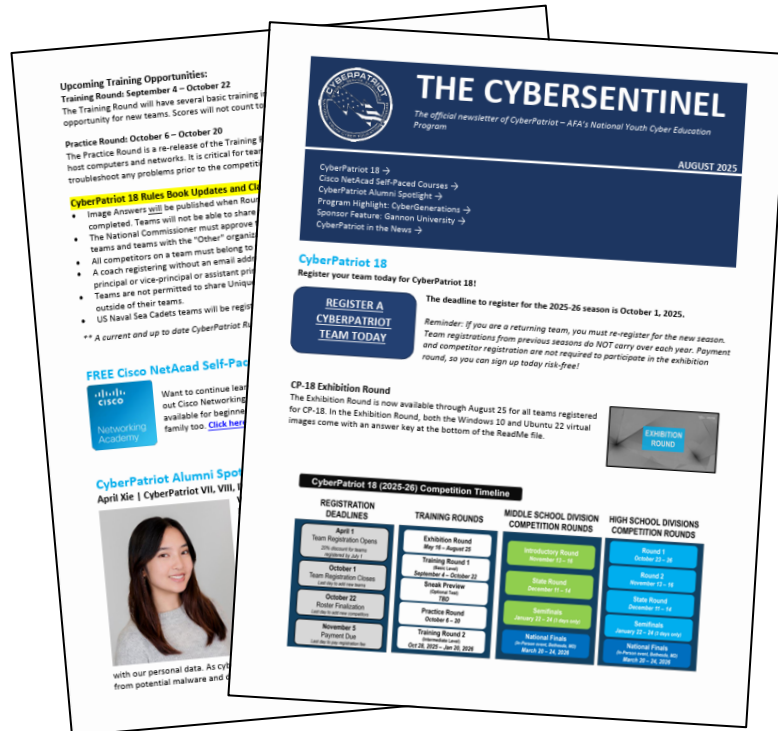
**of respondents said
CyberPatriot positively
impacted their
decision to pursue
STEM**

Compared to 25% national average

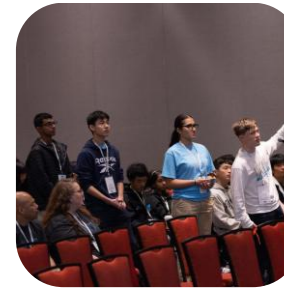


CyberPatriot Outreach

Newsletter



National Finals



Alumni Network



- Scholarships
- Internships and Job opportunities
- Resume and interview tips



CyberPatriot Sponsors





QUESTIONS?

Please contact info@uscyberpatriot.org