



TALKING POINTS: CYBERPATRIOT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CYBER DEFENSE COMPETITION

Air Force Association



BACKGROUND: AFA's CyberPatriot is the nation's premier national high school cyber defense competition. It is entering its fourth year of competition, and is open to any high school in the nation, as well as any JROTC unit or Civil Air Patrol composite or cadet squadron.

TALKING POINTS:

- Our nation critically dependent on cyber systems
 - Banking, commerce, manufacturing, defense all critically rely on computers and networks—cyber systems
 - If our cyber systems are disrupted, grave implications
- Individuals also at risk if they aren't "cyber aware"
 - ID theft : 27.3 million cases in five-year period
 - Malicious logic (viruses, worms, etc.) can harm home computers
 - Predators can exploit young people on the Internet if good security practices aren't followed
- Technology is important, but biggest challenge in keeping America strong in cyber: Creating a well-qualified cyber workforce
 - Need bright young minds pursuing STEM disciplines in school (science, technology, engineering, math)
 - Can't wait until students are in college—too late if they haven't already begun STEM preparation in high school
 - CyberPatriot draws students to STEM by engaging them in exciting, motivating, educational competition
 - CyberPatriot Goal: Excite students to pursue STEM studies, carry interest forward to college, pursue cyber careers
 - Cyber careers are high-demand, high-paying
- CyberPatriot aimed at most any high school student
 - Not aimed at only "alpha geeks" (they are likely STEM focused already)
 - Program structured to focus all students on cyber security awareness
 - Intent: Orient all students, attract many students to cyber careers
- Requirements to field team minimal
 - Need: A "coach"
 - Usually a teacher (Open Division and JROTC teams) or adult CAP unit leader
 - Not required to be a techie



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- If your Chapter has tech-savvy members or community partners, they can assist a CyberPatriot team from the start
 - Otherwise, AFA can arrange technical mentors from local area to assist
- Biggest requirement: Care about youth, be approved by organization/school
- Need: Modest commitment of time to teach cyber security basics
 - All materials provided
 - Coach can teach, or can draw on mentor
- Need: Access to a suitable desktop/laptop computer
- Need: \$350 fee
 - Waived for CAP units, JROTC units (whose headquarters have agreed to pay for travel)
 - More than made up for with tangible benefits
 - Microsoft Alliance Developer software for coach and each team member (\$499 value per copy)
 - Access to on-line training materials
 - Access to CyberPatriot website for information on cyber security, scholarships, internships, career opportunities
 - Participant kits (mementos, competition shirts, certificates)
 - All travel, lodging, and food expenses for teams qualifying for final rounds of in-person competitions
- Competition well structured
 - Each division (Open Division and All Service Division) limited to 1,250 teams
 - Team preparation and practice exercises
 - On-line rounds played from home location (school, library, home, etc.)
 - Details available online at www.uscyberpatriot.org
 - Winners of on-line competition move on to in-person competition
 - All travel expenses paid for in-person competitors
- Key Dates:
 - Registration closes October 8, 2011
 - Practice rounds in Sept, Oct
 - All Service Division (JROTC, CAP) on-line competition begins Oct 28-29
 - Open Division (any high school) on-line competition begins Nov 4-5
 - In-person Championships in Washington DC area March 22-24
- More information: www.uscyberpatriot.org.



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