



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

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Commissioner's Cache | from Acting Commissioner Rachel Zimmerman



As we close registration for our 14th season of CyberPatriot, I reflect on how different this season is from CyberPatriot III, my first season with the program. For starters, more teams register for the competition this past week than did in all of CP-III. I once knew CyberPatriot solely as the National High School Cyber Defense Competition, but today it six programs that span preschoolers to senior citizens. Those high school students from CP-III are now in their mid-late 20's and hopefully in a STEM field (or coaching a CyberPatriot team!). I can't wait to see how much the program continues to grow and expand and I look forward to seeing what it will look like in another 11 years.

But back to the present – we have a new addition to our team. Please join me in welcoming Stuart Pettis, who came aboard just a few weeks ago and will lead AFA's STEM education programs. Stu will play a big role in helping figure out what CyberPatriot will look like in the future and provide strategic guidance for the program. I'll act as the CyberPatriot Commissioner and assist with executing his strategic guidance, and the CyberPatriot Program Office will continue to put on challenging and educational competitions and programs which we hope will inspire the next generation of the STEM workforce.

Good luck to all the CyberPatriot XIV teams! We'll see you later this month for the Round 1 and the virtual kickoff event!

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month!



Now in its 18th year, Cybersecurity Awareness Month—previously known as National Cybersecurity Awareness Month—continues to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity across our Nation, ensuring that all Americans have the resources they need to be safer and more secure online.

Visit [Cybersecurity Awareness Month | CISA](#) to learn how you can Do Your Part! #BeCyberSmart

CyberPatriot XIV – Importation Information

Competition Kickoff Event



Would you like to be part of the Kickoff Event?

Each year, CyberPatriot hosts a Kickoff Event to mark the start of the AFA's National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. This year, the Kickoff Event will stream live on the official CyberPatriot YouTube Channel.

Please send high-energy photos or videos of your team (excited faces, signs with supportive messages, etc.) to info@uscyberpatriot.org with subject: Kickoff Event Submission. (Landscape photos/videos preferred over portrait.)

Media Packet

The CyberPatriot Program Office has released a media packet that coaches, mentors, and competitors can use to promote their participation in the CyberPatriot XIV competition season. The packet includes logos and templates for your organization's social media accounts, websites, and newsletters. The downloadable content is designed to help share your CyberPatriot involvement with your fans and followers.



Coaches and mentors should be on the lookout for an email with the Media Kit download.

Round 1 Information (Oct. 22-24)

The weekend of Oct 22-24, teams will tackle Round 1 of the CyberPatriot XIV competition season. Image download instructions and links will be sent to coaches on or before the Monday prior to the competition round. The StartEx email with the image extraction password will be released to teams at 9:00 AM ET the Friday of the competition round.

Competition Windows

Teams may choose any 6-hour window from the following availability:

Fri., 9:00 AM – Sat., 3:00 AM ET
Sat., 8:00 AM – 11:59 PM ET
Sun., 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM ET

Open & All Service Division Challenges

Teams will be challenged on three virtual machines and two Cisco Networking exercises.

- Windows 10
- Server 2019
- Ubuntu 18
- Cisco Quiz (Modules 3-7)
- Cisco Packet Tracer (Modules 1-7)

Middle School Division Challenges

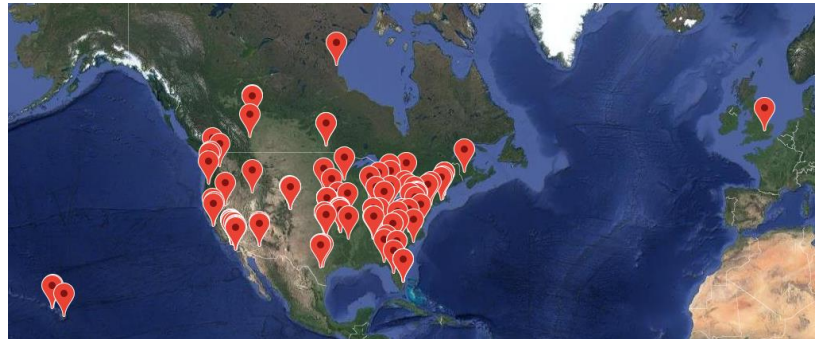
Teams will be challenged on two virtual machines and two Cisco Networking exercises.

- Windows 10
- Server 2019
- Cisco Quiz (Modules 3-7)
- Cisco Packet Tracer (Modules 1-7)

Sneak Preview Round Recap

Leading up to each competition season, a Sneak Preview Round is released as a way to test new competition software updates and provide additional practice for competitors. This year, the one-day event included two virtual images (Windows 10 and Ubuntu 18) and saw participation from 299 teams.

Thank you to everyone who participated!



AFA CyberCamp 2021 Report



AFA CyberCamps saw solid registration numbers for the summer of 2021. Between virtual camps and in-person camps, it is estimated that over 8,000 campers attended an AFA CyberCamp this summer. The [AFA CyberCamp 2021 Report](#) provides camp participant demographics, effectiveness, and quality as reported in the post-camp survey of participants and instructors. This report also tabulates recommendations for improvement received from participants and instructors.

Sponsor Spotlight | ClearFocus Technologies



Last month, ClearFocus Technologies signed on as a CyberPatriot CyberPartner, providing \$5,000 in funding for the program.

[ClearFocus Technologies](#) aims to make positive changes in the world by embracing their client and their mission, while enriching careers. The company provides cybersecurity solutions that include Cyber Hunt, Cyber Deception, Threat Analytics, Security Engineering, and Security Operations. They are the ideal solution for constructing a Security Operations Center (SOC). We look forward to working with ClearFocus Technologies in our mission of motivating students toward STEM education and careers!

Participant Spotlights

CyberPatriot XIII Coach and Mentor of the Year receive awards at recognition dinner



Coach of the Year | Stephen Morrill



Mentor of the Year | Jacques LaCour

Congratulations again to the CyberPatriot XIII Coach and Mentor of the Year. Stephen Morrill (Coach of the Year) and Jacques LaCour (Mentor of the Year) were recognized at the Air Force Association's Field Awards Dinner at the Gaylord Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland on September 18th.

Middle schoolers find support through a local non-profit to compete in CyberPatriot competition

Ananya Shukla, an 8th grader at Ardsley Middle School in Westchester, New York was motivated to compete in CyberPatriot after seeing her sister – Tanya, a sophomore at Ardsley High School – compete in CyberPatriot XIII. Unfortunately, Ananya's middle school didn't support the program. But that wasn't going to stop her from competing. Ananya banded with four other middle schoolers – Aidan Herrod, Sophie Huang, Khushi Karthikeyan, and Aayan Kapoor – to form a team outside of the school. The team is coached by two parents, Chris Herrod and Sunil Shukla, and is registered through a local non-profit called Bridging Dots.



Bridging Dots is a youth-led 501(c)(3) non-profit aimed at providing food security in our community. It looks to involve the youth in community service projects like the Caring Cupboard and encourage solidarity in our community. Bridging Dots grew out of the desire to help our community during the COVID-19 crisis. Tanya Shukla, then a freshman at the Ardsley High School, along with her friend Khushi Goel and sister Ananya, started a GoFundMe in April 2020 and were able to raise over \$5,000 which they used to buy ingredients to prepare fresh meals for hospital workers and people economically affected due to COVID. They distributed PPEs to local hospitals and volunteer ambulance corps. Tanya's passion for community service led her to form the non-profit, Bridging Dots under which she continues her work to address the food insecurity problem in the local community. Tanya is now a Junior at the Ardsley High School and plans to again compete this year as a part of the High School team run by the school. Please visit bridgingdots.org to find out more about Bridging Dots and donate to the cause.

AFA's STEM Office Announces New Director

An Interview with Stuart Pettis | Director of Aerospace Education Programs, Air Force Association



Figure 1: Chief Stuart Pettis walks with Queen Margrethe II of Denmark in 2015.

Q: Hi Stuart! CyberPatriot is excited to have you on our team. Can you tell us a little bit about your time with the Air Force and your background?

A: I'm originally from Tallahassee, Florida and served in the Air Force for 29 years. I was stationed in places like Colorado, California, North Dakota, Germany, and England but my most amazing experience was serving as the Commander of the Air Force base in Thule, Greenland, 750 miles above the Arctic Circle. Of interest to CyberPatriot, one of my jobs was leading initial and advanced skills training for new space and cyber operators in the Air Force. Outside of work, I enjoy watching soccer and reading.

Q: What is your outlook for the CyberPatriot program?

A: I couldn't be more excited about

CyberPatriot. This is a great initiative to build both practical cyber as well as leadership skills. Even though this is sponsored by the Air Force Association, we see CyberPatriot as being for the nation. We judge our success on the number of alumni that go on to STEM degree programs. Our objective for the near term is to expand our industry sponsorships and expand our partnerships with universities.

Q: What advice would you give CyberPatriot competitors who aspire to be in your position as a leader in a STEM field?

A: Contrary to the old saying, leaders aren't born, they're built. The best way to learn leadership is to practice it. As you compete each year and onboard new team members,



Figure 2: Chief Stuart Pettis with Gunner the Arsenal football team's official mascot.

take an active role in teaching them their role on the team. Volunteer for tough jobs and don't be afraid to try new things. That way, when you become a leader, you're ready for the challenge.

Q: Do you have any fun CyberPatriot stories?

A: I've only been with CyberPatriot for a short while but already have some funny stories. I was explaining to a friend what CyberPatriot was and he interrupted me, his son competed in CyberPatriot throughout middle and high school and just received a full scholarship to study computer science at Texas Tech.

CyberPatriot & The News

Canyon Crest Academy wins Cyber Cup | By Karen Billing

This spring the Canyon Crest Academy cybersecurity team won the SoCal Cyber Cup Challenge, upsetting the reigning champions Del Norte High School. Now in its 12th year, the SoCal Cyber Cup is a cybersecurity competition for middle school, high school, and community college students in the entire Southern California region, started by the San Diego chapter of the National Defense Industry Association.

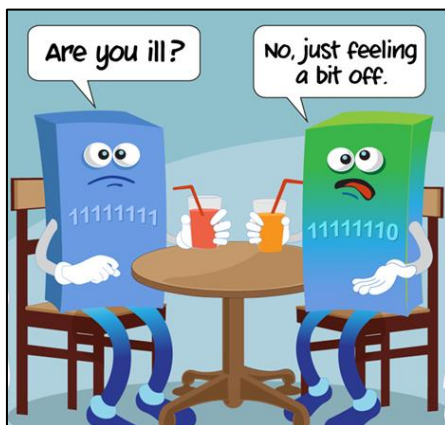
TECH TIME – Program teaches students about Cybersecurity | By Chris Sorensen

CyberPatriot is an afterschool program for high school and middle school students that offers an introduction to the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to excel in the field of cybersecurity. The kids typically meet one or two days a week to learn concepts and tasks from volunteer industry professionals, and then get to practice with a collection of hands-on activities.

LOLs & Executables



Source: Pinterest.com



Source: <https://www.devtopics.com/best-programming-jokes/>

Pictoword: Use the pictures to figure out the Halloween-themed word or phrase.

SOLUTION

Sarah the Cyber Hero Puzzle

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
5				19				26				

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	22						15					

B R I G H I R E D
 20 13 26 9 16 14 13 19 23

S K U L L A N D
 4 11 15 24 24 5 7 23

B O N E S
 20 22 7 19 4