



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

JULY 2024

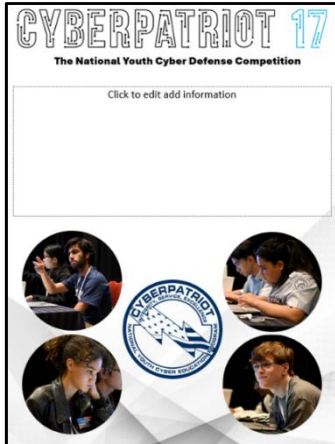
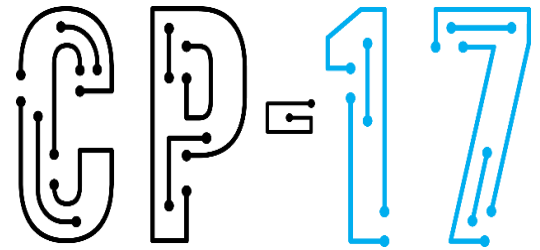
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CyberPatriot 17

Register your team for CyberPatriot 17 – the 2024-2025 season of the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition!

The final deadline to register a team is Tuesday October 2, 2024.

Reminder: If you are a returning team, you must re-register for the new season. Registrations from previous seasons do NOT carry over.



You can also promote the competition in your school or organization by downloading the CyberPatriot 17 promo flyer, which is available on the registered coach dashboard. Use the blank box on the flyer to fill in additional details about how students can get involved!

As of July 2, almost 2,000 teams are registered for the competition. Registration will remain open through October 2nd for any team to join.

REGISTER A CYBERPATRIOT TEAM TODAY!

Register your team now and gain access to the summer exhibition round and early fall training rounds. Remember, payment and competitor registration is not required to participate in the exhibition round, so you can sign up today risk-free!


CP-17 Exhibition Round



CP-17 Exhibition Round is now available for all teams registered for CyberPatriot XVII. The Exhibition Round is designed for practice and recruiting competitors to your CyberPatriot teams. In this round, both the Windows 10 and Ubuntu 18 virtual image comes with an answer key at the bottom of the Read Me file. *Access to the image will be available through August 15th.*

****If you want some additional training, feel free to check out our [archived training materials](#) available on our website.***

CyberPatriot Demo



**INTERACTIVE DEMO
SOFTWARE NOW AVAILABLE!**

Allow presenters to give potential participants a "hands-on" experience

- No active image required
- No internet required
- Useful at conferences and shows

Don't forget about the CyberPatriot Demo! This demo is a partial simulation of a CyberPatriot image, with a built-in tutorial. The Demo aims to introduce teachers, students, organizational leaders, and others to the CyberPatriot competition.

The small software package (50 MB) is designed as an informational and recruiting tool that can be used as a presentation or hands-on activity at an event, conference, meeting, or in the classroom (in-person or virtual).

To order the Demo download (free of charge), you must complete the [Demonstration Software Order Form](#). The Demo download and setup instructions are included in the Quick Start Guide, which can be accessed once the order form is submitted.

FREE Cisco NetAcad Self-Paced Courses



Ready to continue learning about cybersecurity outside of the CyberPatriot Competition? Check out Cisco Networking Academy's FREE self-paced courses. There is a wide selection of courses available for beginner and advanced students. Remember you can share these courses with friends and family too!

[Click here to see what is available!](#)

Try Cyber

In September 2023, CISA released Try Cyber. Try Cyber ([Try Cyber | Cyber Work Role Discovery & Exploration](#)) provides 14 micro-challenges as resources for cybersecurity awareness and career exploration. The micro-challenges are open to the public. The micro-challenges are quick, 15-minute, hands-on experiences that put users into cybersecurity workforce roles and ask them to execute the core cybersecurity tasks performed by cybersecurity professionals. The content is intended to help users understand the scope of cybersecurity careers, help explain some of the core tasks for the workforce roles and enable all users to see themselves in a cybersecurity workforce role.

This tool is great for those thinking about entering the workforce and having trouble deciding which career in cyber is right for them. The challenges are at a beginner level and are intended to help users discover their cybersecurity career.



CyberPatriot Alumni Spotlight

Carson Tucker | CyberPatriot X, XI, XII, XIII

What are you up to now?

I currently attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona. I was accepted into the College of Business, Security, and Intelligence and am pursuing an undergraduate degree in Cyber Intelligence and Security. Throughout my academic career, I've had internships with various Air Force entities, and am currently lined up as a Software Engineering Intern with Honeywell for the summer. I am currently the National Cyber Team Commander of i5 Space, the national student organization that operates in conjunction with the U.S. Space Force's Space Training and Readiness Command. I am also a DoD Undergraduate Research Assistant working on Cyber-Physical projects at Embry-Riddle. I've contracted with Air Force ROTC and will be commissioning next year upon graduation.



How did participating in the CyberPatriot Competition influence your plans for your future?

CyberPatriot gave me the exposure to cybersecurity and the opportunity to learn, develop, and practice fundamental and advanced cybersecurity skills which I found a passion for. I always had a bias towards computers and the CyberPatriot program helped me to grow as a team leader and a competent security specialist. I've used the skills I've learned during the program throughout my classes at my university. Having exposure to Windows Server and Linux distributions, as well as PowerShell, Batch, and Bash Shell scripting has boosted by progress towards my degree. Having the fundamental understanding of cybersecurity concepts has also helped in both academic and professional application.

What was the most valuable lesson you learned from CyberPatriot?

The most valuable lesson I learned from CyberPatriot encompassed the development of strong character, adaptability, continuous learning, teamwork, and a deep sense of responsibility and ethics. These lessons have not only influenced my approach to cybersecurity but also have had a profound impact on my personal and professional development as a leader and team player. I realized that effective leadership required not only technical expertise but also strong interpersonal skills. Building relationships and fostering a supportive environment were crucial in achieving our goals. CyberPatriot also taught me the significance of teamwork and collaboration. As we worked together to secure and defend our systems, I learned that no individual could achieve success alone. Each team member brought unique skills and perspectives, and by leveraging our collective strengths, we could overcome complex problems. I learned to value the input of others, encourage brainstorming sessions, and foster a culture of collaboration where everyone's contributions were respected and appreciated.



What is your advice for the next generation of CyberPatriot?

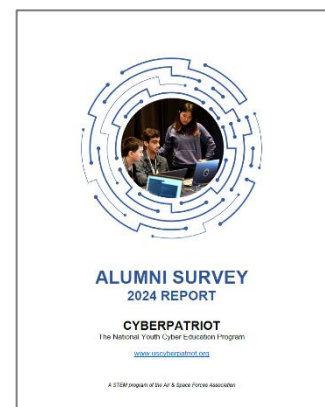
Widen the scope of your cybersecurity practice within the program! Learn as much as you can and find what you are truly passionate about. Don't stick to a single operating system or type of scripting, try packet tracer or the CTF questions too! It was because of the variety of practice I was exposed to that allowed me to find what I enjoy, and because of this, why I am pursuing a career in cybersecurity. Try everything, be humble, and find your passion.

Fun Fact: Cyber students don't stay indoors all the time! Carson is a certified Wilderness First Responder and enjoys going hiking, rock climbing, and off-roading with friends.

**Do you want to be featured in an issue of the CyberSentinel?
Complete the [survey](#) and your story could be in the spotlight!**

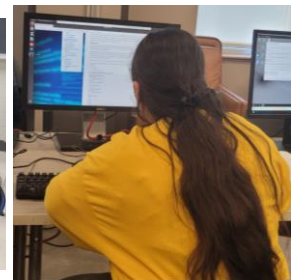
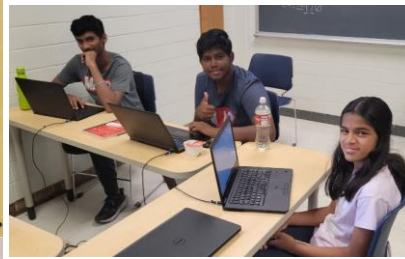
2024 CyberPatriot Alumni Survey Results

Every two years, we conduct an Alumni Survey to gauge CyberPatriot's impact on motivating students toward education and careers in STEM. This survey is a very important tool that helps us show potential participants, as well as prospective and current sponsors, the positive impact our program has on STEM education and on the students who have participated. Check out the 2024 survey results [HERE!](#)



AFA CyberCamp Highlights

CyberCamps are well under way this summer with a several more weeks remaining in the 2024 AFA CyberCamp season. Check out some of the highlights from across the program so far:



Recently, Fort Eisenhower Cyber District held two of the largest CyberCamps in their history. Between their Standard and the Advanced Camp, they had over 200 attendees! All camps are taught at the Georgia Cyber Innovation and Training Center with help from instructors from NSA Georgia, Fort Eisenhower, NIOC Georgia, and others from organizations across the Cyber Center of Excellence.

2024 AFA CyberCamps have also been in full swing through the CyberTexas Foundation. Over the last few weeks, they have held Standard and Advance camps for many young cyber enthusiasts. The students learn a lot during their week at camp, but also have a lot of fun!

CyberTitan



The 2024 CyberTitan National Finals Competition took place across Canada on May 8, 2024. This year over a thousand students from Newfoundland to British Columbia battled it out for top spot in CyberTitan.

Teams in New Brunswick competed at the Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, and Ontario based teams participated at Field Effect's offices in Ottawa and at the Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute at the University of Waterloo. Teams in Manitoba and Alberta competed from their classrooms but hope to be able to attend a Western Center of Cyber Excellence location next year. And for the first time since the pandemic, Cadets Canada also participated in the competition as exhibition teams.

For this year's competition, a regional airport on Field Effect's cloud based cyber range was hacked. The competition challenge included active network defense integrated with virtual machine operating system hardening, which offers a live networking challenge.

After a close competition, Old Scona Academic based in Edmonton, clinched the top spot. Pembina Trails Collegiate and Sislter High School in Manitoba rounded out the All-Western top three in the high school competition. Nashwaaksis

Middle School from Fredericton fended off Stittsville Ontario's CyberGuardians, who were at their first national finals, and kept their string of middle school championships going.

ICTC encourages schools, community groups and libraries across Canada to sign up for CyberPatriot this summer and engage local youth with the team-based competition that not only teaches essential cyber skills, but also highlights pathways into high demand careers.

[Top 10 CyberTitan Finalist Teams Progress to 2024 National Finals!](#)
[Edmonton, AB, Team Wins ICTC's National Cybersecurity Competition for Youth](#)

Thank you to all the CyberPatriot Sponsors who make our program possible:

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*Want to be featured in the next edition of the CyberSentinel?
Please send email highlights or accolades to info@uscyberpatriot.org.*