



THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

SEPTEMBER 2024

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CyberPatriot XVI Coach & Mentor of the Year

Congratulations to the CyberPatriot XVI Coach of the Year, Gerald Chung, and the Mentor of the Year, Chase Larocque. We had several worthy candidates, but these two stood out for their support and dedication to CyberPatriot.

Coach of the Year | Gerald Chung

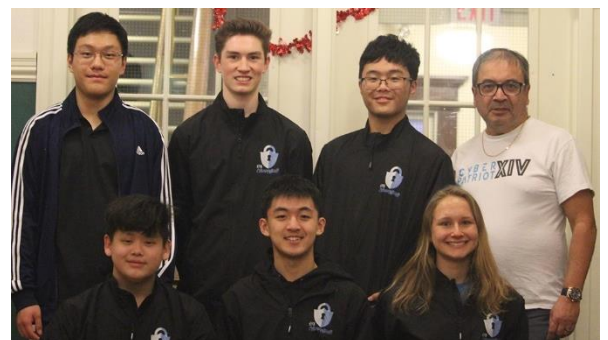
Old Scona Academic – Edmonton, Alberta



"It is an honor to be selected as the CyberPatriot XVI Coach of the year. I consider this a team award because I am fortunate to have the support of my school administration, staff, students and family. Being nominated by the student competitors makes this most rewarding. Our cybersecurity program has seen tremendous growth over the past few years. Along with this growth has come success at the national and international levels. CyberPatriot has been a fun and awesome experience for me and the students. The competition brings out the passion and enthusiasm of our school teams."

Gerald Chung's genuine care for students is commendable and his innovative teaching methods and passion for their success makes him an inspirational figure in their lives. Mr. Chung's teaching method emulates real-world industry conditions, and his creativity in his instruction ensures that students are always actively engaged. From disassembling PCs to competitive packet tracer races, students are constantly learning new concepts. Through his dynamic approach to teaching, he keeps his students enthusiastic about cybersecurity and technology and as a result, students are always competing to get a spot in Mr. Chung's classroom.

Creating and sustaining relationships is also very important to Mr. Chung. He remains connected with all his students. Even when students may need to transfer, Mr. Chung assists in establishing CyberPatriot clubs at their schools. He has coached at many schools with CyberPatriot clubs. Mr. Chung also organized a career fair to expose his students to career opportunities in cybersecurity and



STEM. This event featured a panel of company founders, including the founder & CEO of Trust Science, a billion-dollar local tech startup where several CyberPatriot alumni work.

Mr. Chung's dedication knows no bounds. He has spent summers teaching cybersecurity/Cisco classes for students who couldn't get placement during the school year. His clear dedication and commitment to his teams has inspired many youths to pursue CyberPatriot, cybersecurity, and technology in general.

Mentor of the Year | Chase Larocque

Knob Noster High School – Knob Noster, MO



"I really enjoy helping and being involved with CyberPatriot because it's not only a fun competition that teaches teamwork, discipline and perseverance, but it also teaches real world knowledge and skills that are in demand."

Chase is a college student who has dedicated his time mentoring AFJROTC cadets. He is a former cadet and was a CyberPatriot team lead. Chase has volunteered his time the past two years to mentor the cadets. Each year Chase has volunteered he has propelled one of his organization's teams to CyberPatriot National Finals. Even with his heavy load of responsibility, he has dedicated 4 hours every week to teaching CyberPatriot cadets for 6 months, not including all the additional time spent preparing lessons and competition strategies for the teams.

To help the team stay engaged, Chase designed lessons to enhance their online learning. Each lesson he designed ensured the cadets would interact with the NetAcad lessons. He also developed additional lessons providing hands-on learning through additional practice sessions above and beyond those provided in NetAcad. Through Chase's dedication and creative thinking, all the cadets improved their knowledge and competition scores to no less than 90%.

Chase also focused on educating the cadets about cybersecurity. He uses the CyberPatriot Program to show cadets future requirements and opportunities in cybersecurity and his efforts have already influenced 75% of the graduating CyberPatriot cadets to pursue cybersecurity careers. Though it may be too early to truly know the future of these students, through Chase's mentoring and guidance, they are well on their way to achieving their goals!



CyberPatriot 17

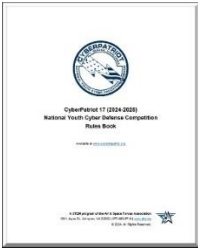
The final deadline to register a team is Tuesday October 2, 2024. [Register your team today for CyberPatriot 17.](#)

CP-17 Registration Dates:

October 2 – Team Registration Deadline: The last day a coach can register a new team to compete in CyberPatriot 17. Teams do not need to have completed any other registration tasks by this date. Directions on how to register teams can be found on the CyberPatriot website and questions regarding registration can be directed to info@uscyberpatriot.org.

October 23 – Competitor Registration Deadline: The last day to register competitors and finalize team rosters.

November 6 – Payment Deadline: The last day to pay the registration fee, request a fee waiver, submit a Purchase Order, or request a payment extension.



CP-17 Competition Rules Book:

The CyberPatriot 17 (2024-25) Competition Rules book is now posted to the CyberPatriot website:

<https://www.uscyberpatriot.org/competition/rules-book>

CP-17 Competition Requirements:

1. New this year. CyberPatriot 17 teams are required to register for a VMware PRO account. VMWare Workstation Pro 17.5.2 will be the new standard virtual machine player for CP-17. Coaches will need to create an account with Broadcom and select "for Personal Use" for either Windows or Linux. Downloading the application involves multiple screens to verify your account. Instructions can be found on the CyberPatriot website [here](#).

2. There are also two courses required for the Cisco NetAcad Challenge. The Content Course which teams will use to study & train for the competition and the Competition Course which teams will use to compete.

- **Content Course:** This course includes all training materials for the Cisco NetAcad Challenge. After the coach has been enrolled, they can enroll students into the Networking Academy so they may access materials. Instructions are available [here](#). Coaches will start being enrolled on Friday September 6th and we will upload newly registered coaches Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays through the close of registration.
- **Competition Course:** This is the course that teams will use to compete in the Networking Quiz and Packet Tracer Exercise. This is different from the Content Course log in. Content course log ins will NOT work for the Competition Course. Coaches must create a unique email address and Cisco NetAcad account specific to each team. Full instructions will be released in the coming weeks.

*Teams cannot compete without enrolling in the Competition Course. This is only used during the competition rounds and includes the Networking Quiz and the Packet Tracer Exercise. Enrollment is a several-step process and includes creating an email address for each team. If a team tries to enroll in the course during a competition round, it is too late to guarantee the team can get an account for that round.

CP-17 Things to Remember:

Competition Windows

For the CyberPatriot 17 season, we will offer a 4-day competition window. Rounds will kick off on Thursday and go through Sunday. Please note, the Semifinals Round will be a 3 day only event, running Thursday through Saturday.

Reduced Competition Period

Like last year, the competition period will be 4 hours for the CP-17 competition. Teams must complete all images or tasks within the consecutive time block.

Middle School Division Schedule

We will keep the same schedule set up as last year with the Middle School Division having a later start to competition rounds. The Middle School Division will have its first competition round, the Introductory Round, on November 14-17. The later start will allow more time for middle school teams to be formed and practice prior to the first competition round. Middle School Division teams will only have three available online rounds rather than four that high school teams will have the opportunity to participate in.

TRAINING ROUNDS	MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION COMPETITION ROUNDS	HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS COMPETITION ROUNDS
Exhibition Round May 16 – August 15	Introductory Round November 14 – 17	Round 1 October 24 – 27
Training Round 1 (Basic Level) September 6 – October 7	State Round December 12 – 15	Round 2 November 14 – 17
Sneak Preview (Optional Test) September TBD	Semifinals January 23 – 25 (3 days only)	State Round December 12 – 15
Practice Round October 10 – 20	National Finals (In-Person event, Bethesda, MD) March 14 – 18, 2025	Semifinals January 23 – 25 (3 days only)
Training Round 2 (Intermediate Level) October 31 – December 10		National Finals (In-Person event, Bethesda, MD) March 14 – 18, 2025

CP-17 Upcoming Training Opportunities:

Training Round: September 6 – October 7

The Training Round images are a great resource for teams since they come with answer keys for each image. This is the best training opportunity for new teams. Scores do not count towards the competition.

The CP-17 Training Round will have three practice images: Ubuntu 22, Windows 10, Windows 2019 Server

Sneak Preview: September 19

The Sneak Preview is a practice/test of new software. This is a one day only event – there will be no alternate dates. Scores do not count toward competition. All teams may participate. Only Coaches must be registered.

Practice Round: October 10 – October 20

The Practice Round is a re-release of the Training Round images. However, it is also a test of the new CCS software for host computers and networks. It is critical for teams to participate with at least one connecting image to troubleshoot any problems prior to the competition round.

Training Round 2: October 31 – December 10

Like last year we will open a second training round to allow teams access to practice images. The training images will have answer keys available in the README file.

**Looking for some additional training materials? Feel free to check out our [archived training materials](#) available on the CyberPatriot website.*

CyberPatriot Alumni Spotlight

Slateon Frederick | CyberPatriot IX, X, XI, XII

What are you up to now?

I am an Army ROTC cadet on a four-year active-duty scholarship at The Citadel. I am participating in cyber competitions and finishing a paper for a research project under an NSA CAE-C grant for Context Aware Access Control within IoT Networks. This research project recently got me invited to join Citadel's Sigma Xi chapter (there are only 4 students from our class). I also did ranger challenge junior year, and last summer I had two internships. The first internship was with MSTs (Mission Support & Test Services), where I created an easily interpretable view for charge code and conducted mission essential research. My second internship was with ACI (Army Cyber Institute), where my partner and I researched the application of deepfakes in an adversarial capacity to the Army's mission.



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

CyberPatriot sparked my learning of cyber and everything computers. I had an idea what I wanted to do, but the competition atmosphere made me want to learn more. I really enjoyed the hands-on learning and securing the machines, which inspired me to join The Citadel's cyber team. I can't express how much CyberPatriot inspired my future.

What was the most valuable lesson you learned from CyberPatriot?

I really like the idea of always learning. I never felt satisfied or content with the competitions and I was always looking to learn more. CyberPatriot gave me a purpose and kept me motivated to continue learning. I plan to keep learning, not only so I can apply myself more, but also so I can teach and grow others around me.



What is your advice for the next generation of CyberPatriot?

My advice for the next generation is to just keep grinding and keep your options open. You may never know who you will meet, what that interaction may lead to, or why things happen the way they do unless you keep an open mind. Never settle, stay hungry, and keep learning. Also, it is ok to pivot in your career. I am currently in the process of doing that myself.

Fun Fact: In April 2024, The Citadel's cyber team participated in Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition (PCDC) and HackWarz. We placed 1st in HackWarz and 2nd place in PCDC! I also competed in NCX (National Cyber Exercise) which was super fun. At one point

during the cyber combat exercise, I owned 4 or 6 boxes. Aside from cyber things, I have two cats at home named Batman and Robyn.

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

Last Call: Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award



The Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award honors two K-12 teachers for excellence in cybersecurity education, and the call for nominations is now open!

The award is part of a coordinated federal effort to develop and maintain a superior cybersecurity workforce. The U.S. Department of Education recognizes the critical role teachers have in preparing students with the skills needed to fortify our nation's security and to succeed in the ever-evolving cybersecurity environment.



The award is presented annually to two teachers, one at the elementary level and one at the secondary level, who demonstrate superior achievement in instilling skills, knowledge, and passion with respect to cybersecurity education and cybersecurity-related subjects.

The nomination period will close on September 13, 2024. You can find the rules, terms, and conditions and details on how to apply on the [PCRN website](#). Award recipients are selected for their superior accomplishments as teachers, academic achievement indicators, and leadership contributing to the field of cybersecurity. Anyone may nominate a teacher for this honor; self-nominations are also permitted. Nominations should be submitted to CyberAwards@ed.gov.

CyberPatriot in the News

[Briar Wood High School Teacher and Graduate Receive Recognition for Cybersecurity Education Achievements](#)

The Cybersecurity Educator Award highlights the achievements of educators who have significantly contributed to advancing cybersecurity education in Virginia. Mr. Starke, entering his 19th year as an LCPS educator, said he first became interested in teaching cybersecurity seven years ago when he learned that LCPS would begin offering cybersecurity courses and immediately volunteered.

From that initial expression of interest, Starke has taught Introduction to Cybersecurity and Cybersecurity Operations. He also sponsored the Briar Woods' CyberPatriot team and the Briar Woods Cyber Club. Both the CyberPatriot team and the Cyber Club have grown significantly over the years. The CyberPatriot team advanced to the semifinal round of the CyberPatriot competition last year, which is a national youth cyber defense competition sponsored by The Air and Space Forces Association.

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