Happy New Year! 2017 is beginning with a LOT of busy activity in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program. We are of course bustling with the ninth season of CyberPatriot’s National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. Following two amazingly competitive qualifying rounds, we are about to tee up the State Round this month. It won’t be very long before we know our National Finalist teams, and we are excited to see who’s in.

And there are BIG things on the horizon for CyberPatriot in 2017. We expect to pilot sessions of an advanced AFA CyberCamp focused on participants with CyberPatriot experience. We also hope to be rolling out an badly needed program to help senior citizens stay safe online. And our “book project” is on the horizon as well, helping teach even preschoolers about cyber safety.

2017 will be busy for us, and we hope busy, fun, and productive for you, our valued participants, cheerleaders, advocates, supporters, mentors, coaches, and our sponsors led by the Northrop Grumman Foundation. YOU are what make this “thing” work. And it is all of YOU for whom we are grateful.

THANKS!

Bernard K. Skoch  |  National Commissioner

DATES TO KNOW

JAN. 3      | CP Program Office Open
JAN. 10     | Coaches Meeting
JAN. 13-15  | CP-IX State Round
JAN. 16     | CP Office Closed—MLK Day
JAN. 20     | CP Office Closed—Inauguration
FEB. 3-5    | CP-IX Regional/Category Round
FEB. 3-5    | CP-IX Semifinals (Middle School)

As the cold crept into the December air it did not seem to have an effect on the CyberPatriot teams in Round 2. More than 3,000 teams competed in the round, which ran Dec. 9—11. A backup round was held on Dec. 17 for teams affected by severe weather.

Round 2 was designed to be more difficult than Round 1. The Program Office’s Frank Zaborowski stated, “Round 2 was much more challenging than Round 1 in order to provide a test of each team’s skillset. The round results allowed us to determine appropriate tiers for teams to compete with similarly skilled teams in the State Round.”

Teams may find their Round 2 scores on the CyberPatriot website at: http://uscyberpatriot.org/competition/current-competition/scores
Cyberthreats will continue to worsen in 2017

New year, new cyber attacks. Lower your odds of falling victim to a breach by familiarizing yourself with 2017’s greatest cyberthreats:

1. Domestic and international corporate espionage through hacking will increase as companies raid the intellectual property and trade secrets of other companies for profit.
2. Expect growth of the business model in which criminal cybergeniuses use the Dark Web to sell and lease malware — ransomware, botnets and the tech support necessary to effectively perpetrate massive cybercrimes. — to less savvy cybercriminals.
3. Law firms will become increasingly targeted and victimized by data breaches.
4. Ransomware attacks will increase and evolve to include taking control of companies’ computer-operated systems.
5. ATMs and gas pumps will have increased credit card fraud through skimmers that steal magnetic strip information from credit and debit cards. While the greater use of EMV chip cards has resulted in decreased credit card fraud, few ATMs have been adapted for the EMV system.
6. Medical information data breaches, which according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in 2015 involved more than 113 million records, will become an even bigger problem.
7. Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks such as we saw in October that temporarily took down Amazon, Twitter, Netflix and others will increase, fueled by botnets of infected computers.
8. Cybersecurity of cars and medical devices in particular will become major issues in 2017.
9. Banks will be increasingly victimized by devastating cyberattacks.
10. Mobile devices will be increasingly targeted by cybercriminals as increasingly companies and individuals utilize smartphones and other mobile devices for sensitive activities with many companies and individuals not utilizing proper security precautions. Critical infrastructure will be increasingly targeted by criminals extorting money and nation states attacking for political reasons.
11. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson has said that the most devastating attacks by the most sophisticated attackers almost always begin with spear phishing emails. These are emails with malware-infected links that lure victims into clicking on them.

Source: “Think cyberthreats are bad now? They’ll get worse in 2017 with ‘spear phishing,’ etc.” by Steve Weisman, Special for USA Today

CP-IX Participant/Mentor Kits

We hope you enjoy the gear that was sent as part of this season’s CyberPatriot Participant Kits! As of December 20, 2016, all packages were delivered to teams that were registered and paid on time.

During the month of January, the CyberPatriot staff will be working to complete remaining packages for teams that were late to finalize their rosters or submit payment. We will also be sending out packets for active/linked mentors and team assistants. These will be sent directly to the address provided by the volunteer during the registration process.

In the box: T-Shirt, challenge coin, lapel pin, stylus pen, charging cables, participation certificate, and cyber bullying booklet (courtesy of Symantec) for the coach and each student listed on the roster. T-Shirt sizes cannot be changed at this point in time.

Coaches’ Corner

- **CP-IX Registration Fee Payment.** The CyberPatriot Program Office is still accepting payment for CP-IX teams. Payment can be made via credit card (online of over the phone), PO, or check. POs can be emailed directly to info@uscyberpatriot.org

- **Coaches Meeting/Open Q&A.** The next online Coaches Meeting is Tuesday, January 10. The format is a WebEx chat session for any CyberPatriot topic. This is not a mandatory meeting, rather a good time to ask any questions about the upcoming round or program in general.

- **Scores.** As soon as they are available, competition round scores can be found on the CyberPatriot website at: http://uscyberpatriot.org/competition/current-competition/scores

- **Coach’s Dashboard.** Please check the Dashboard for important information and email for the competition.
**SPOTLIGHT: ROUND ADVANCEMENT VS. ROUND AWARDS**

With Rounds 1+2 in the books, we’ve reached the advancement and award portion of the season. The charts below provide an overview of what it takes to advance, and what it takes to earn an award. A full explanation can be found in the CyberPatriot IX Rules book [sections 3007-3011].

### ADVANCEMENT THROUGH CYBERPATRIOT IX: WHO COMPETES IN EACH ROUND?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Regional Category Semifinals</th>
<th>OPEN</th>
<th>ALL SERVICE</th>
<th>MIDDLE SCHOOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All teams eligible to compete in State Round regardless of performance/participation in Rounds 1 +2</td>
<td>Platinum: Top 3 scoring teams in each state + 36 wildcard teams, based on State Round scores</td>
<td>Platinum: Top 6 scoring teams in each category + 45 wildcard teams, based on State Round scores</td>
<td>Top 3 teams overall, based on Semifinals scores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold: Top 3 scoring teams in each state + 36 wildcard teams, based on State Round scores</td>
<td>Gold: Top 6 scoring teams in each category + 45 wildcard teams, based on State Round scores</td>
<td>Platinum ONLY: Top 2 teams overall from each category +1 wildcard, based on Category Round scores</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver: Top 3 scoring teams in each state + 36 wildcard teams, based on State Round scores</td>
<td>Silver: Top 6 scoring teams in each category + 45 wildcard teams, based on State Round scores</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CYBERPATRIOT IX AWARDS: WHO GETS AFA AWARDS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPEN</th>
<th>ALL SERVICE</th>
<th>MIDDLE SCHOOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLATINUM TIER: Top 3 teams in each State/Region receive hardcopy awards (AFA Representatives may opt to present awards)</td>
<td>Gold Tier: Top 3 teams in each State/Region receive digital awards (AFA Representatives notified of winners)</td>
<td>Silver Tier: Top 3 teams in each State/Region receive digital awards (AFA Representatives notified of winners)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State: Top 3 teams in each State regardless of Category Category: Top 3 teams in each category receive hardcopy awards (AFA Representatives may opt to present awards)</td>
<td>State: Top 3 teams in each State regardless of Category Category: Top 3 teams in each category receive digital awards (AFA Representatives notified of winners)</td>
<td>State: Top 3 teams in each State regardless of Category Category: Top 3 teams in each category receive digital awards (AFA Representatives notified of winners)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALL SERVICE</strong></td>
<td><strong>MIDDLE SCHOOL</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 3 teams in each State (based on combined Rd. 1, Rd. 2, and State Rd. scores) receive hardcopy awards Teams that compete in the Semifinals but do not advance to the National Finals receive a digital award (AFA Representatives may opt to present hardcopy State awards)</td>
<td>Top 3 teams in each State/Region receive digital awards (AFA Representatives notified of winners)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WE ASKED FOR Round 2 photos and you delivered! (Can you spot the canine competitor?)