



CyberPatriot Engagement Guide: **AFA CyberCamps**



CyberPatriot – A STEM program of the Air & Space Forces Association

CyberPatriot Program Overview

CyberPatriot – the National Youth Cyber Education Program was established by the Air & Space Forces Association to attract students to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education and careers. CyberPatriot programs include:

- National Youth Cyber Defense Competition (Grades 6-12)
- AFA CyberCamps (Grades 6-12)
- CyberPatriot Alumni Network (ages 18+)
- Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative (Grades K-5)
- Cyber Education Literature Series (Grades K-5)
- CyberGenerations (Senior Citizens)
- Tech Caregiver Program (student and adult volunteers [ages 14+])

The success of CyberPatriot has been made possible because of the outstanding support offered by sponsors and volunteers. Participation in CyberPatriot can make a real difference in your community and in the public's perception of your organization. This leading STEM program enables you to engage directly and in an extremely positive way with educators, administrators, community leaders, parents, and students interested in improving STEM and cybersecurity education.

This guide is specifically designed to assist you in identifying and recruiting schools and other host organizations to join in the excitement of conducting an AFA CyberCamp!

For information on promoting or getting involved in other CyberPatriot programs, please see the program-specific guides offered on our website.

General Guidance – Get Organized

Organizations that are most successful are those that adopt CyberPatriot as a key activity and those that give it consistent focus throughout the year. These tips may help you in your efforts to be successful:

- **Appoint someone to lead your CyberPatriot efforts:** This will lead to improved continuity, communication, and consistency.
- **Make CyberPatriot a regular topic in your communications.** CyberPatriot has a variety of programs that are offered throughout the year. Make sure you know what is happening and when:
 - **January through early May:** Registration for organizations to host an AFA CyberCamp
 - **June through early August:** AFA CyberCamps in session
 - **October:** National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (and a good time to promote the program!)
- **Tell your CyberPatriot story:** Use your CyberPatriot involvement with local schools and youth organizations to tell your community and state how you are inspiring students to get more involved in STEM studies! This could include reaching out to media (crafting media releases or letters to the editor or making local media appearances) or informing your local congressional representatives about CyberPatriot's success. You can also submit your stories directly to CyberPatriot for a chance to be featured in *The CyberSentinel*, CyberPatriot's monthly newsletter.

- **Ask for help:** AFA's CyberPatriot Program Office is happy to help you in any way it can. Staff members can be reached at info@uscyberpatriot.org or by phone at (877) 885-5716.

AFA CyberCamps

Step 1: Familiarize yourself with the AFA CyberCamp program

Before introducing AFA CyberCamp's to prospective host organizations, we strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself at a basic level with how AFA CyberCamps are conducted.

To provide a brief summary, AFA CyberCamps allow registered host organizations to teach standard (beginner) or advanced cybersecurity curriculum over the course of five, four-hour days (totaling 20 hours of content). Host organizations purchase the camp curriculum and resources from the CyberPatriot Program Office but are responsible for providing their own facility and instructors, and for registering their own attendees. The camps may be conducted in-person or virtually.

The following resources are most useful:

- [AFA CyberCamp Factsheet](#): This two-page factsheet is a good starting point for understanding the five W's of AFA CyberCamps.
- [AFA CyberCamp Checklist](#): Explains the responsibilities of host organizations and resources needed to host an AFA CyberCamp.
- [Registration Instructions for Host Organizations](#): Step-by-step instructions on the camp registration process.
- [Technical Specifications](#): List of technical specifications (hardware and software) needed to successfully conduct camps.

Step 2: Identify host organizations

Once you feel confident in your understanding of AFA CyberCamps, it's time to identify organizations that might be interested in hosting a camp. This includes:

- AFA Chapters
- Local middle schools and high schools
- Local colleges and universities
- JROTC units, Civil Air Patrol squadrons, or Naval Sea Cadet Corps battalions
- Local offices of corporate CyberPatriot sponsors
- Youth organizations (scouting units, boys' and girls' clubs, 4-H, etc.)
- Youth STEM programs already hosting other summer camps

Step 3: Facilitate camp registration

Registration for AFA CyberCamps consists of several stages (outlined below). The registration period for a host organization is typically open from January 2 through May 1 each year. Note: Student registration is handled by the host organization at a later date.

1. A prospective host (the organization who will conduct the camp) assigns an individual to be the “camp coordinator.” The camp coordinator is the official and sole point of contact between the camp and the CyberPatriot Program Office for all things regarding camps.
2. The assigned camp coordinator creates a CyberPatriot Volunteer account on the CyberPatriot website and signs into the CyberCamp Dashboard.
3. Using their newly created volunteer account, the coordinator can sign up to host as many camps as they wish. Note that camps must be conducted Monday-Friday and are only offered during the designated weeks. The coordinator must select the type of camp (standard or advanced) and the specific week they wish to host the camp.
4. Once a camp application has been submitted, CyberPatriot staff will contact the coordinator with a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) and memorandum of understanding (MOU) that must be signed and returned by the camp coordinator in order for the camp to be approved.
5. Approved camps will have access to the camp curriculum (PowerPoints, instructor guides, student workbooks, etc.) when it is posted to the camp dashboard. This happens three weeks before the first camp session. They will also be able to order additional camp supplies if necessary (t-shirts and printed copies of instructor guides or student workbooks).

Step 4: Help with promotion to camp attendees and facility set up

The host organization is responsible for providing a facility and equipment for in-person camps (or virtual platform if being conducted online). They are also responsible for promoting to and registering their camp attendees

Ideas for recruiting camp attendees include:

- Promote camp registration in your next newsletter
- Personal phone calls to “likely volunteers”
- Contact local high schools and middle schools to inform them of the opportunity
- Promote the camp through local media outlets (flyers, newspapers, county webpages, etc.)

Ways to support facility set up:

- Volunteer as a camp instructor, classroom assistant, or guest speaker (or refer someone who would be a good fit)
- Donate:
 - Computer equipment
 - Food and beverages for camp attendees
 - Funds to cover the camp registration fee
 - Funds to cover supplies (t-shirts or printed materials)
- Provide a facility if the organization does not have a usable space

We greatly appreciate your support of the CyberPatriot Program!

**If you have any questions, the CyberPatriot staff can be reached at
877-885-5716 or by email at info@uscyberpatriot.org.**