



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION'S

# CYBERPATRIOT

NATIONAL YOUTH CYBER EDUCATION PROGRAM



## Talking Points

CyberPatriot is the premier national youth cyber education program created to inspire high school and middle school students toward careers in cybersecurity and other STEM disciplines critical to our nation's future. The program features the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition for high school and middle school students, AFA CyberCamps, and an elementary school cyber education initiative.

### History (Elevator Speech)

The Air Force Association is a non-profit organization that has for decades been concerned with national security. We see building a national technical workforce and increasing STEM education as national security issues.

- CyberPatriot started in 2009 as a pilot cyber defense competition with just eight teams from Florida
  - Competition has grown to over 4,400 teams in all 50 states, Canada, and DoD dependent schools overseas
  - Awarded over \$350,000 in scholarships in the past six years
  - Added two additional programs: AFA CyberCamps and an elementary school program for grades K-6

### The Importance of Cybersecurity:

- Banking, commerce, manufacturing, defense and other industries all critically rely on cyber systems – grave implications can occur if our cyber systems are disrupted.
  - ID theft : 27.3 million cases in five-year period
- Predators can exploit young people on the Internet if good security practices aren't followed
- Technology is important, but biggest challenge in keeping America strong in cyber is creating a well-qualified cyber workforce
  - Cyber careers are high-demand, high-paying (pay on average \$12K/year more than other IT jobs)
- Need bright young minds pursuing STEM disciplines in school – waiting until college or even high school is too late to attract students to STEM.
  - CyberPatriot draws students to STEM by engaging them in an exciting, motivating, and educational competition where they learn skills that can be carried forward through college and cyber careers

### About CyberPatriot's Largest Program: The Competition

- CyberPatriot is aimed at ANY high school or middle school student, not just "alpha geeks"
  - No prior knowledge of cybersecurity needed; training materials are designed so any students can excel within the competition
  - Program structured to focus all students on cyber security awareness
- **Team Requirements**
  - **Coach:** Usually a teacher or adult JROTC/Civil Air Patrol/Naval Sea Cadet Corps leader
    - Modest commitment of time to teach cyber security basics
    - All training materials provided
    - Must have access to a suitable desktop/laptop computer
  - **Competitors:** Between 2-6 students per team (5 competitors, 1 alternate)
  - **Technical Mentor (optional):** Local IT professionals volunteer to help teams prepare for the competition. AFA helps pair mentors with team requesting them.
  - **Team Assistants (optional):** Local community members volunteer to help coach with administrative tasks such as registering competitors, coordinating after school meetings, etc.





AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION'S

# CYBERPATRIOT

NATIONAL YOUTH CYBER EDUCATION PROGRAM



## Cost to Participate:

- \$205 registration fee for Open Division Teams / \$165 for Middle School Division
  - Waived for JROTC/CAP/Naval Sea Cadet Corps teams
  - Waiver available for all-girls teams
  - Waiver available for Title 1 schools
- Included in registration fee:
  - Microsoft Imagine and Cisco Networking Academy software for all team members
  - Access to online training materials
  - Access to CyberPatriot email list for information on cybersecurity, scholarships, internships, career opportunities
  - Participant kits (mementos, competition shirts, certificates)
  - All travel, lodging, and food expenses for teams qualifying for final rounds of in-person competitions

## Competition Timeline:

- Team preparation and practice exercises throughout the summer  
**Team registration for the next competition season is open until October 4, 2017.**
- Online qualification rounds in November, December, January, and February
  - No travel required: Rounds completed from a team's home location (school, library, home, etc.)
  - All teams guaranteed three online rounds of competition
- Winners of online competition rounds invited to in-person National Finals Competition in Baltimore, Md. each spring
- All travel expenses paid for in-person competitors

Questions? Visit [www.uscyberpatriot.org](http://www.uscyberpatriot.org) to learn more!

Presented by:

