

Air Force Association's CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program



Talking Points: CyberPatriot

Air Force Association



Background: AFA's CyberPatriot is the nation's premier national youth cyber education program. It is entering its sixth season of competition, and is open to any high school and middle school in the nation, as well as any JROTC unit or Civil Air Patrol composite or cadet squadron.

Talking points:

- Our nation critically dependent on cyber systems
 - Banking, commerce, manufacturing, defense all critically rely on computers and networks—cyber systems
 - If our cyber systems are disrupted, grave implications
- Individuals also at risk if they aren't "cyber aware"
 - ID theft : 27.3 million cases in five-year period
 - Malicious logic (viruses, worms, etc.) can harm home computers
 - 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
 - Need bright young minds pursuing STEM disciplines in school (science, technology, engineering, math)
 - Can't wait until students are in college—too late if they haven't already begun STEM preparation in high school or even middle school
 - CyberPatriot draws students to STEM by engaging them in exciting, motivating, educational competition
 - CyberPatriot Goal: Excite students to pursue STEM studies, carry interest forward to college, pursue cyber careers
 - Cyber careers are high-demand, high-paying
- CyberPatriot aimed at most any high school or middle school student
 - Not aimed at only "alpha geeks" (they are likely STEM focused already)
 - Program structured to focus all students on cyber security awareness
 - Intent: Orient all students, attract many students to cyber careers
- Requirements to field team minimal
 - Need: A "coach"
 - Usually a teacher (Open Division and JROTC teams) or adult CAP unit leader
 - Not required to be a techie

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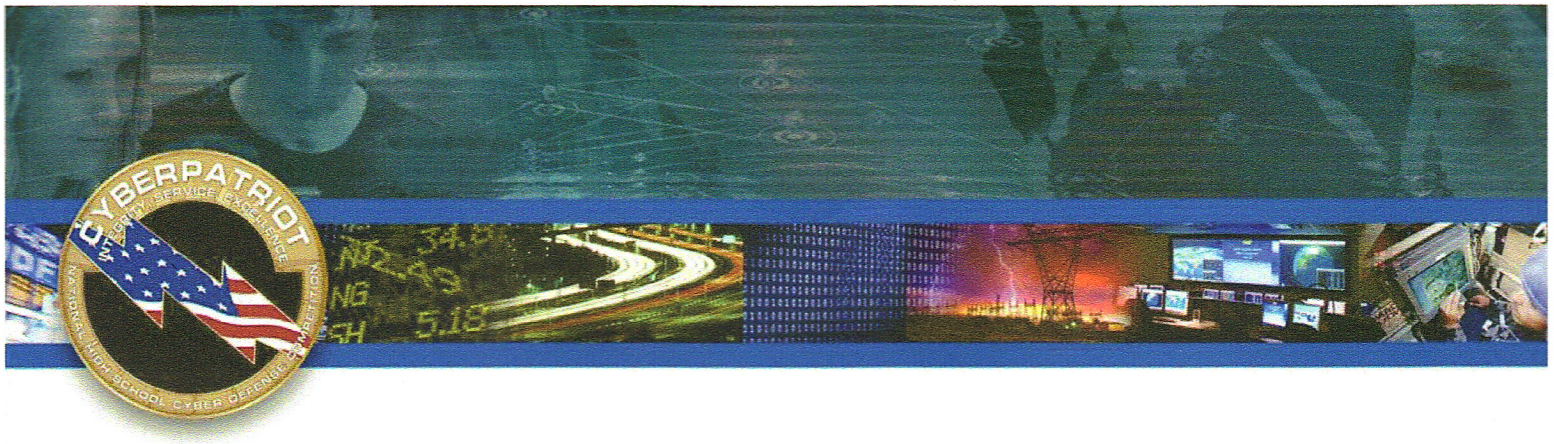


Cyber Gold



Cyber Silver





Air Force Association



- If your Chapter has tech-savvy members or community partners, they can assist a CyberPatriot team from the start
 - Otherwise, AFA can arrange technical mentors and team assistants from local area to assist
- Biggest requirement: Care about youth, be approved by organization/school
- Need: Modest commitment of time to teach cyber security basics
 - All materials provided
 - Coach can teach, or can draw on mentor
- Need: Access to a suitable desktop/laptop computer
- Need: \$385 fee
 - Waived for CAP units, JROTC units (whose headquarters have agreed to pay for travel)
 - More than made up for with tangible benefits
 - Microsoft Alliance Developer software for coach and each team member
 - Access to on-line training materials
 - Access to CyberPatriot website for information on cyber security, 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 well structured
 - Each division (Open Division and All Service Division) limited to 1,500 teams
 - Team preparation and practice exercises
 - On-line rounds played from home location (school, library, home, etc.)
 - Details available online at www.uscyberpatriot.org
 - Winners of online competition rounds invited to in-person National Finals Competition in Washington, D.C.
 - All travel expenses paid for in-person competitors
- Key Dates:
 - Coach Registration for CyberPatriot VI is now open. Reserve your spot today at www.uscyberpatriot.org
 - Practice rounds early fall
 - In-person National Finals Competition in March 2014
- More information: www.uscyberpatriot.org or 1-877-885-5716.

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