

Air Force Association's CyberPatriot National Middle School Cyber Education Program



The CyberPatriot Middle School Cyber Education Program

Air Force Association



Why?

Since 2009, the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot National High School Cyber Defense Competition has captured the interest of educators, parents, youth program leaders, and students nationwide because it meets a critical need in drawing young people to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers. As middle school educators have witnessed the growth of the high school program, they have asked that the program be expanded to include middle school students.

Additionally, students today are making education and career plans sooner than their predecessors. Efforts to shape their choices (and draw them to STEM fields) must be done sooner than high school.

Finally, students are active online at increasingly early ages. AFA sees a real need to equip them with information they need to be safe on the Internet and on their mobile devices.

What are the program's objectives?

CyberPatriot's middle school program is intended to:

- Help students understand the importance of cyber systems
- Introduce students to cyber systems and how they work
- Introduce students to cybersecurity principles
- Equip students to better protect themselves on the Internet

How is the 2013-2014 pilot program structured?

Participation in the CyberPatriot VI National High School Cyber Defense Competition will be opened to a limited number of middle school teams. Participating teams will have access to the same training materials, as well as compete on the same competition images as high school teams. They will also be expected to abide by the guidelines and team structures outlined in the CyberPatriot VI Rules Book.

How can my school participate in the upcoming pilot season?

Schools associated with CyberPatriot Centers of Excellence can register CyberPatriot VI teams beginning August 19. If middle school registration has not already reached 100 teams by September 10, the remaining slots will be opened to schools nationwide. To register a team, visit www.uscyberpatriot.org and select "Middle School" as the "Organization Type". The registration fee will be waived for all middle schools participating in the pilot season.

For more information, contact info@uscyberpatriot.org.

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