

Hondo Cyber Owls
CyberPatriot Team

September 2020
Volume 2, Issue 1



**THE CYBER OWLS:
RISING TO THE CHALLENGE**

Welcome back returning team members! I also want to officially welcome the newest members of the Hondo Cyber Owls: Samari Escobedo, Ashlyn Persyn, and Mariah Persyn. This competition season will be shorter and more intense than previous years. There will only be three competition rounds this year instead of the usual five rounds. I have published the full schedule in this edition of The Cyber Talon.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on our team. At the start of the pandemic, we stopped all in-person practices, cyber events that our team was invited to attend, and guest speakers. The last event our team attended was the annual CyberTexas Foundation Mayor's Cup Luncheon. This event was a great success and it provided an opportunity for our team to meet members of the other 400 teams in and around San Antonio, college recruits, and listen to some cybersecurity industry leaders. I posted the pictures of the event on the team's Facebook page in a photo album titled Cyber Cup Luncheon.

Over the summer our team members attended virtual conferences which introduced them to the cybersecurity community in the greater San Antonio area. Many of our team members attended cybersecurity and computer programming camps which will help them be competitive in CyberPatriot XIII. I am also pleased to announce that this summer the Cyber Owls have been blessed with two team sponsors: Becky's Home Bakery and RE-SPEC Consulting. I want to thank these two companies for supporting our team as these young people explore a potential career path.

I would like to ensure everyone that we will be following all the health guidelines as prescribed by the City of Hondo and the Hondo Public Library. During practices and competitions, each team member will have their own six foot table. The tables will be spaced as well to keep in standard with social distancing guidelines. All members of the team, coach, mentor, and library staff will be wearing a face mask. The library staff will screen all team members as they enter the library before being sent to the competition area.

If any middle school or high school age students are interested in learning more about The Cyber Owls, or if you would like to become a team sponsor, please send the team an email and follow us on Facebook. Contact information is listed on page 4.

Mrs. Melisa Joyner and I are looking forward to working with the team as they prepare for an intense CyberPatriot season.

-Head Coach Frank Hall



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“CYBER-SECURITY IS SOMETHING THAT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY MORE IMPORTANT IN BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, FARMING, ENERGY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE.”



THE 2020-2021 HONDO CYBER OWLS



Front Row: Mariah Persyn, Ashlyn Persyn, Ruby Joyner, Katelynne Pumphrey, Samari Escobedo

Back Row: Frank Hall, Logan Estes, David Counselman Jr. , Melisa Joyner

A NEED FOR CYBERSECURITY PROFESSIONALS

Since becoming a CyberPatriot coach, I have often been asked if there is a huge demand for cyber professionals, especially in the rural areas. I always answer in the affirmative. Yes, there is a huge demand for cyber professionals in every state whether you live in the city or the country. Cybersecurity is something that is becoming increasingly more important in business, government, farming, energy, and infrastructure. The State of Texas learned this valuable lesson last summer when 25 municipalities were attacked with ransomware, effectively paralyzing them for weeks and making it impossible to access data or conduct business.

One of my favorite ways to illustrate the need for cyber professionals is sharing the Cybersecurity Supply/Demand Heat Map from Cyber Seek.

This interactive map provides the details on:

- TOTAL CYBERSECURITY JOB OPENINGS
- SUPPLY OF CYBERSECURITY WORKERS
- GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION
- TOP CYBERSECURITY JOB TITLES

Have a look at the map to see the need for cyber professionals by state. Here is the link to the map:

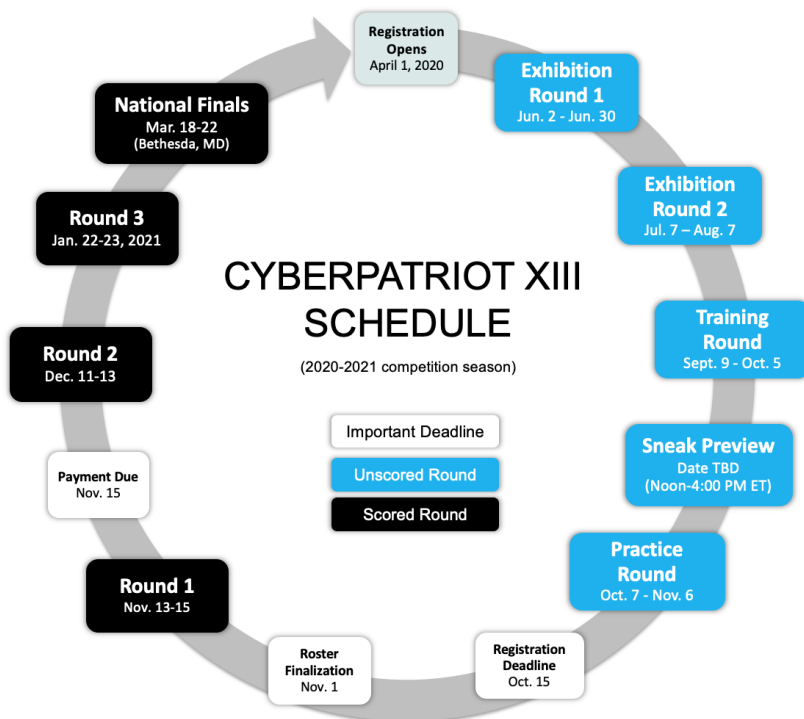
<https://www.cyberseek.org/heatmap.html>

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CYBERPATRIOT XII COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will only be three competition rounds and the national finals. The Cyber Owls will compete on November 15, December 13, and January 23. Parents, please be aware that competition days and times for each round are subject to change. I will notify the team via e-mail and post information on our team Facebook page.



ROUND	DATES	DESCRIPTION
Round 1 (All teams participate)	November 13-15, 2020 Image download instructions and links are sent to Coaches at <u>5 PM ET</u> , on or before the Monday prior to the competition round. The StartEx email with the password to the images is sent to teams at <u>9 AM ET</u> the Friday of the competition round.	All teams may compete. Tests basic of cybersecurity skills.
Round 2 (All teams participate)	December 11-13, 2020 Image download instructions and links are sent to Coaches at <u>5 PM Eastern</u> , on or before the Monday prior to the competition round. The StartEx email with the password to the images is sent to teams at <u>9 AM Eastern</u> the Friday of the competition round.	
Round 3 (All teams participate)	January 22-23, 2021 (Two Days only) Image download instructions and links are sent to Coaches at <u>5 PM Eastern</u> , on or before the Monday prior to the competition round. The StartEx email with the password to the images is sent to teams at <u>9 AM Eastern</u> the Friday of the competition round.	
National Finals Competition (held in Bethesda, MD)	March 18-22, 2021	National Finalist teams compete for National Championship in their respective divisions.

HONDO CYBER OWLS CYBERPATRIOT TEAM

WE MONITOR NETWORKS BY SOARING THROUGH CYBERSPACE HUNTING FOR PREY. WE USE OUR TALONS AS A DETERRENT TO PROTECT OUR DATA. USING ADVANCED DETECTION TECHNIQUES, WE SPREAD OUR WINGS AND LAUNCH PRECISE COUNTER MEASURES TO DEFEND OUR NETWORKS AGAINST CYBER ENEMIES. WE FIND, CAPTURE, AND ANNIHILATE ALL CYBER THREATS. WE ARE THE CYBER OWLS!

HONDO CYBER OWLS CYBERPATRIOT TEAM

[HTTPS://
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
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ANGELA M. HALL—
CHIEF EDITOR OF THE
CYBER TALON



ABOUT THE HONDO CYBERPATRIOT TEAM



The Vision

The vision of the Hondo Cyber Owls CyberPatriot program is to promote cyber awareness, computer security practices, and cyber ethics. All of these are essential attributes for creating a secure network infrastructure, teaching the students how to detect threats, and how to defend against cyber-attacks in a safe virtual environment.

The skills and knowledge the students will gain from participating in this program will give them an advantage to obtain information technology certifications, scholarships in computer related fields of study, and ultimately provide an opportunity to start a great career in information technology and cyber security.

The Mission

The mission of the Hondo Cyber Owls CyberPatriot program is the proper instruction and implementation of information technology principals and cyber security practices. All students will be taught how to use various operating systems, interconnecting network devices, and how to secure the entire infrastructure. The students will also be taught how to properly use tools and methodologies to assess and troubleshoot problems that range from inoperable workstations to misconfigured networking equipment. These are the skills that will be necessary to compete in the CyberPatriot competitions and will enable us to advance to each round and ultimately to the national finals.