NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL CYBER CHALLENGE
CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

According to ISC2, there will be 1.8 million unfilled cyber jobs in US by 2022.[1] It is critical to generate students' interest in security and technology careers to address the widening gap in our talent pool between qualified individuals and the demand for those skills.

R&E's are viewed as an integral part of states' education ecosystems and are leaders in innovation. Next generation cyber security talent is essential for the future for R&E's, educational organizations and state workforce development. With networks of colleagues, in addition to robust networks of networks, R&E's are well-positioned to coordinate and deliver an event that encourages cyber security talent development in students.

The National High School Cyber Challenge is a multi-round competition that tests students' skills in networking, programming and operating system security. This competition is developed by Merit Network and the Michigan Cyber Range. Every round of the competition is offered at no cost to schools or students, who compete in teams of 1-3.

COMPETITION TIMELINE:

ROUND ZERO   APRIL - JULY, 2019

An online resource that can be utilized by parents, instructors and administrators as cybersecurity warm-ups, supplements to curriculum, and more. Round Zero is an unscored challenge, and is open to unlimited participants.

ROUND ONE   OCTOBER, 2019

A four-day online challenge that will focus on networks, programming, operating systems and hacking skills. This round is open to 10-30 teams from each participating state.

ROUND TWO   NOVEMBER, 2019

The National Championship features a virtual exercise designed to test teams' skills with an intensive, timed series of cybersecurity challenges. The top 10 highest scoring teams from Round One will participate in Round Two.

Cybersecurity Bootcamp courses and examination vouchers will be awarded to the students of the winning team. These certifications will qualify the students for entry level jobs in the industry.

STATE PARTICIPATION

Merit will provide each participating organization with a marketing and recruiting toolkit, sponsorship materials and an online registration page. Merit will also run and facilitate each round of the competition. Participating organizations are required to register a minimum of 10 teams. It is our aim to garner participation from 5 states within The Quilt. In order to run this event, $175,000 total in sponsorship funding must be secured within The Quilt.

EVENT DEADLINES

The registration deadline for state participation is November 1, 2018.

Sponsorship for the event must be secured by March 1, 2019.

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For 50 years, Merit Network has been a trusted, Michigan-based nonprofit organization that provides shared IT resources, professional development courses and cybersecurity solutions for education, government, libraries and other nonprofits.

[1]2017 Global Information Security Workforce Study. (2017).[PDF file]. Retrieved from https://iamcybersafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/N-America-GISWS-Report.pdf

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