

THE QUILT



NATIONAL

**HIGH SCHOOL CYBER CHALLENGE**

merit

# Summary

According to ISC2, there will be 1.8 million unfilled cyber jobs in US by 2022.<sup>1</sup> 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. Step 1 is simply exposure to the industry.

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





## Our Goal

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.

# Summary

- Merit has run the competition for the past three years in MI, now we are expanding nationally
- We've seen exponential growth in participation – last year, more than 650 students participated
- Unique to this event: the event covers all costs to schools students, hands-on virtual city to test skills learned
- Winners receive vouchers for cybersecurity certifications which qualify for entry level jobs





## 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 (\$35,000 needed per state) in sponsorship funding must be secured within The Quilt.

# Competition Rounds

## Round Zero

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

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

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 (1 team from each state, plus 5 wildcard teams) from Round One will participate in Round Two.



# Participating States

Missouri

Illinois

West Virginia

Maryland

Oklahoma

**State recruiting is still in process!**

**For more information:**

[events@merit.edu](mailto:events@merit.edu)

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# Competition Timeline

Opt in Deadline

Opt in Q&A Webinar **November, 2019**

Sponsorship Kick-off **January, 2019**

Quilt Workshop – Action Plan **February 6-7, 2019**

Sponsorship Recruiting Continues **March – June, 2019**

Press Workshop **July, 2019**

Team Registration Opens **August, 2019**

ROUND 1 **October, 2019**

ROUND 2 **November, 2019**

Certifications

## Merit provides:

Training, resources and onboarding material

Sponsorship and student recruiting materials

Event registration, and website

Communication with school teams

Hosting of Rounds 0,1,2

National press release for pre-competition and winners

Onboarding session for schools, 90-day action plan, flyer template, HTML email template, social media templates

Sponsorship recruiting assistance

\$35,000 per state needed

States can send potential sponsors to Merit for follow up

Social media support

Lessons learned from State competitions

## State responsibilities:

Team/school recruiting

Regional advertising

Onsite Round 2 event – inviting local dignitaries

Sponsorship recruiting collaboration