WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT’S CUP?

Established in 2019, the President’s Cup Cybersecurity Competition is a national cyber competition aiming to identify, challenge, and reward the best cybersecurity talent in the federal workforce. Entering its third year, the annual competition consists of Individual and Team challenges focusing on areas across the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Cybersecurity Workforce Framework (NICE Framework). Competitors will face an array of challenges that require an extensive skill set to complete.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any federal executive department or agency employee can participate, including uniformed service members. Participants can compete as an Individual, on a Team of up to five members, or both. All team members must belong to the same department or agency. Learn more today at cisa.gov/presidentscup.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Registration for President’s Cup 2021 opens on Monday, August 30th and closes on Monday, September 20th, for Teams and Monday, October 4th, for Individuals. To register for President’s Cup 2021, visit cisa.gov/presidentscup.

COMPETITION FORMAT

The competition will have three rounds – two Qualifying Rounds and Finals. The Qualifying Rounds will be held online, allowing participation from anywhere. If conditions allow, the final round will be held at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) facility in Arlington, Virginia.
COMPETITION FORMAT - CONTINUED

TEAMS COMPETITION

The 2021 President’s Cup Team Competition will consist of tasks drawn from the following eight in-demand NICE Framework work roles:

- Cyber Defense Incident Responder
- Cyber Defense Forensics Analyst
- Cyber Defense Infrastructure Support Specialist
- Cyber Defense Analyst
- Exploitation Analyst
- Vulnerability Assessment Analyst
- Software Developer
- Threat/Warning Analyst

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

There are two tracks available within the Individuals competition. Individuals can choose to participate in one or both tracks based on their interest.

Track A - NICE Work Roles

- PRIMARY: Cyber Defense Incident Responder
- PRIMARY: Cyber Defense Forensics Analyst
- SECONDARY: Cyber Defense Infrastructure Support Specialist
- SECONDARY: Cyber Defense Analyst

Track B - NICE Work Roles

- PRIMARY: Exploitation Analyst
- PRIMARY: Vulnerability Assessment Analyst
- SECONDARY: Software Developer
- SECONDARY: Threat/Warning Analyst

QUALIFYING ROUNDS

Competitors will face a range of NICE Framework-focused challenges requiring hands-on skills across cybersecurity disciplines. Qualifying Rounds will be held online, allowing participation from anywhere. Qualifying Round 1 is open to all participants, those who succeed will be invited to compete in Qualifying Round 2. The top five teams and ten individuals from each track of Qualifying Round 2 will compete in the Finals.

FINALS

If conditions allow, the final round will be held at the CISA facility in Arlington, Virginia. CISA prioritizes our participants’ safety and will monitor the COVID-19 situation leading up to Finals. Finals will be very different from the qualifying rounds, for both teams and individuals. We encourage competitors to come ready to work across a wide range of skillsets and for teams to be prepared to use teamwork and collaboration skills to win.

The last day of the Teams Finals will be livestreamed to the public. The previous years’ Finals are on CISA’s YouTube page.

2021 COMPETITION TIMELINE

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CONTACT

To ask a question, report a problem, or provide other feedback on the President’s Cup Cybersecurity Competition, contact us at: prescup-support@sei.cmu.edu or call (412) 268-3054.

Visit cisa.gov/presidentscup for more information.