

# SEASON IV | US CYBER GAMES



# US CYBER GAMES

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



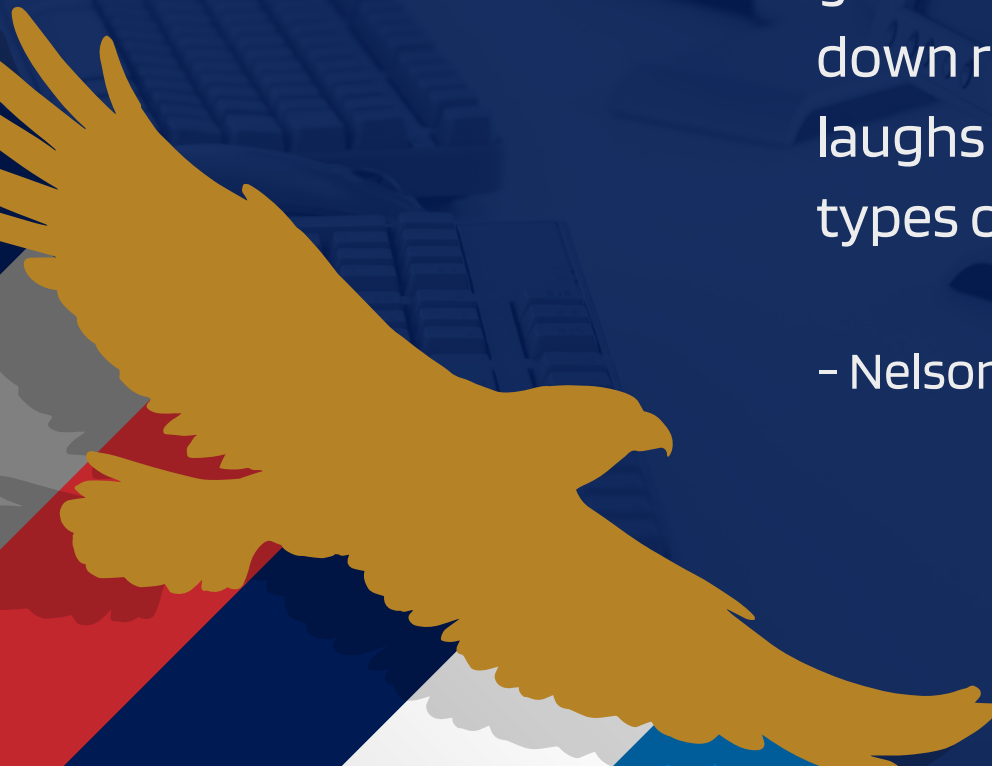
SOAR TO GLORY : ENERGIZE AND DIVERSIFY THE CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE



**"Sport has the power to change the world.**

It has the power to unite in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination."

- Nelson Mandela







## **The US Cyber Games (USCG) was founded by Katzcy®, in cooperation with the NICE program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).**

The mission of the US Cyber Games is to bring talented cybersecurity athletes, coaches, and industry leaders together to build an elite US Cyber Team for global cybersecurity competition. As a program, we are committed to informing and inspiring the broader community on ways to develop tomorrow's cybersecurity workforce.

The growing cybersecurity workforce gap demands a shift in the paradigm around how we look to recruit, train, educate, and prepare well-qualified cybersecurity professionals. Our approach focuses in on the convergence of cybersecurity competitions and games, esports, and athletics.

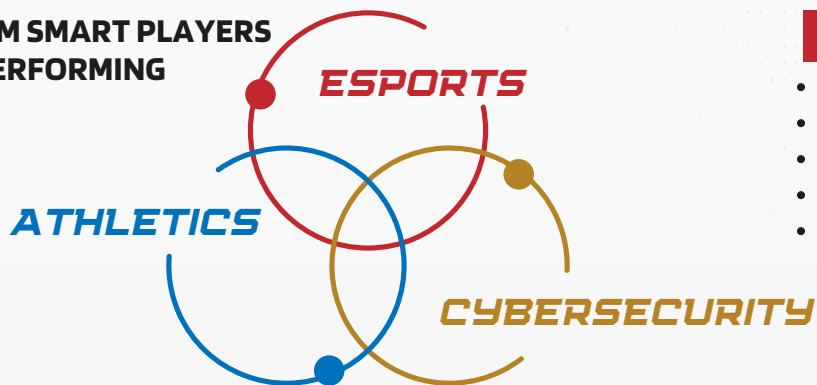
- **Represent** the USA at international cyber competitions
- **Define** a cyber athlete
- **Recruit** and train top cyber talent from diverse backgrounds
- **Demonstrate** how cyber games can utilize the NICE Framework
- **Connect** USCG program participants to careers and mentors
- **Collaborate** globally on cybersecurity competitions, games, and workforce development

This project is supported by NICE, a program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in the U.S. Department of Commerce, under financial assistance award #70NANB22H102.

# DEVELOPING HIGH-PERFORMING CYBER EXPERTS

The US Cyber Games program offers an innovative approach to cybersecurity workforce development that fuses proven best practices from athletics, with the latest in performance training from eSports, to compete in semipro-level cybersecurity competitions that mimic real-world vulnerabilities and cyber attacks. Our cyber athletes leave the program ready to contribute to high-performing cybersecurity teams as malware experts, security operators, intrusion analysts, and much more.

## MOVING FROM SMART PLAYERS TO A HIGH-PERFORMING CYBER TEAM



### ATTRIBUTES

- Cognitive Endurance
- Game Board Awareness
- Speed & Proficiency
- Multi-Skill Range
- Identify, Analyze and Solve

### CORE SKILLS

- Coaching and Mentorship
- Competitive Drive
- Teamwork and Collaboration
- Time Management and Organizational Skills
- Critical Thinking and Creative Problem Solving

### KNOWLEDGE

- Cryptography
- Digital Forensics
- Binary Exploitation
- Reverse Engineering
- Web Security
- Vulnerability Research
- Tool Developing
- Networking/Architecture

## CYBER GAMES ADVANCE SKILLS AND CAREERS

### NICE FRAMEWORK

The NICE Framework is designed to establish a common language that describes cybersecurity work and the knowledge and skills needed to complete that work.

### WORK ROLES AND COMPETENCY AREAS

- Systems Security Analysis
- Digital Forensics
- Vulnerability Analysis
- Incident Response
- Cryptography
- Cyberspace Operations
- Exploitation Analysis
- Network Operations
- Cybersecurity Architecture
- Enterprise Architecture
- Malware Research
- Pen testing
- Technology Program Auditing
- Operating Systems Security

### BENEFITS OF CYBERSECURITY COMPETITIONS

- Attract potential talent to the industry.
- Present authentic circumstances and scenarios that prompt skill development
- Provide opportunities for networking and mentoring
- Encourage ethical practice in a controlled, legal environment
- Grow the knowledge and skills of the existing cybersecurity workforce
- Immersive, team learning





# INCREASING OUTREACH & DIVERSITY EVERY YEAR

The US Cyber Game Program is not only this nation's only Semipro Cybersecurity Esports Team, but we also have garnered global recognition for making cyber an Esport. Each year, we are expanding and improving the program, reaching new talent, and continuing to evolve our training format.



**The US Cyber Game Program has engaged 4,153 players** from 50 states and D.C.



**Over 288 athletes** have been part of our US Cyber Combine in the past 3 years.



**We have the honor of having 58 US Cyber Team members** drafted across 3 seasons; many have participated in nationally recognized cyber programs such as US Cyber Patriot, National Cyber League, CCDC, and many more.



**Over 70 athletes have been part of the Pipeline Program** helping grow year over year our Combine diversity and skills sets. Athletes have demonstrated accelerated learning, captured amazing internships and jobs, and taken first place in globally recognized CTFs.



**We continue to focus on inclusion and diversity.** Our program has benefited greatly from recruiting across the nation and has by far the most diverse national team.

SEASON I 33% People of Color to SEASON III 45% People of Color



**Gender diversity is a global challenge.** In 2024, we are commissioning the first all-women national cyber team and helping collaborate in an international exhibition where we will compete against Team Japan and Team UK women's teams to help inspire more women to enter cyber careers and games.

SEASON I 70% He/Him, 23% She/Her, 7% Prefer Not to Say

SEASON III 70% He/Him, 25% She/Her, 2% Non-Binary, 3% Prefer Not to Say

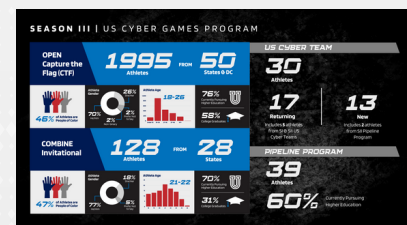
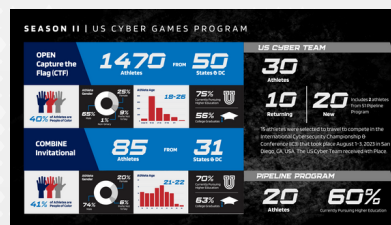
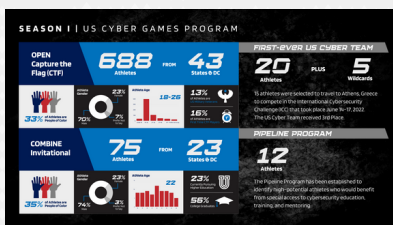


**As a Semipro Esports team, we are recruiting recent students and early career professionals.**

SEASON I, only 23% of Combine Athletes were pursuing higher education.

SEASON III, 70% are working on their bachelor's or master's degrees.

The US Cyber Games & Team fandom continues to flourish due multiple events held throughout the year and games LIVE streamed across the globe. Across all platforms we have **12,000+** cheering our team on and **over 25K** game views.



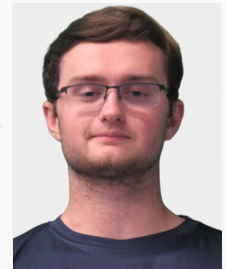
# MAKING AN IMPACT



"I'm so happy I found this community. Studying cyber and previously medicine on my own was great. I was focused, didn't have to worry about others as much just me and my research... But having a community where I'm not shunned for having knowledge or being in the pursuit of knowledge, lifting each other up and supporting others makes me feel so happy and so blessed. I'm thankful I met all of you, and **I look forward to growing together no matter what paths we walk in life.**"

**Isaiah Halsey**, Season II, US Cyber Games Pipeline Program Athlete

"Meeting and interacting with the various countries at the competition was enlightening. Learning about their culture and socializing in general, but more importantly, fun. Everyone was extremely talented and respectful, but also competitive. **Overall, it was an amazing experience competing internationally. I learned a lot in cybersecurity and met and befriended many talented cybersecurity experts from across the world.**"



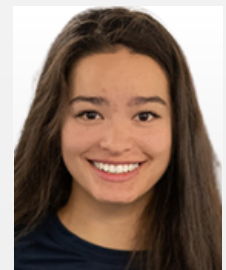
**Matthew McKeever**, Season II and III, US Cyber Team



"I heard about the US Cyber Team and their US Cyber Combine program during my senior year of high school through my friend Chris. After many monster-caffeine-prodigy fueled nights **I worked my way onto the Pipeline Program and then the Season III team.**"

**Dylan Knoff**, Season II Pipeline Program Athlete and member of the Season III, US Cyber Team

"Although players under 18 were not allowed on the Season I team, I was still invited to the Season I Combine and allowed to participate as a trainee. I was thrilled to be invited and I had an absolute blast learning a ton and meeting a lot of incredibly talented CTF players! The coaches awarded me a Rising Star award at the end and I was also privileged enough to be invited to the Accelerated Training Program (now Pipeline Program). I trained with the team during Season II and got to play with "Team Africa & The World" for the CTF day at IC3 and help with the conference. **I've grown in so many ways since the beginning and am so excited to have made the US Cyber Team for the second time for Season III, and I'm looking forward to the team being stronger than ever before!**"



**Gwendolyn Vongkasemsiri**, Season I Pipeline Program Athlete and member of the Season II and III, US Cyber Team







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