

10 Things Parents Need to Know About Cyber Competitions

1. **A cyber competition is a mental sport.** Players in cyber competitions are cyber athletes, demonstrating prowess and skills with cyber tools and techniques.
2. **Cyber competitions are fun!** Just like any sport, cyber competitions are enjoyable to the participants. The fun comes with being able to overcome obstacles and solve challenges, as well as learning new skills and being a team player.
3. **Cyber competitions promote positive values and ethics.** Competitions are not about attacking other computers. Competitions are governed by rules to ensure ethical behavior; competitors who violate those rules are dismissed.
4. **Cyber competitions aren't just "Hacking for Experts".** Competitions exist at every skill level and take many different forms, including quiz bowls, policy competitions, capture the flag, and others.
5. **Cyber competitions encourage players to study and learn.** Of course, in any competition, players want to win! In this mental sporting event, technical skills are needed. Players will be motivated to study code, networks, malware, and more.
6. **They're co-ed.** Women are increasingly joining fields in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and are making an impact. At the 2016 National Collegiate Defense Competition, four out of ten team members of the Brigham Young University team were women.
7. **Competitions foster team-building skills.** They teach participants all the great things physical sports have to offer like leadership, the social skills to communicate with others, and collaboration, an essential in today's technology and cyber workforce.
8. **Competitions don't require special computing equipment at home.** Many online competitions only require a modern browser and access to the internet. Schools and clubs that have competition teams provide the necessary gear.
9. **Competitions can help kids understand the potential of a career in the cybersecurity field.** By some estimates, 1.5 million cybersecurity jobs need to be filled by 2020. Competitions can help students understand what interests them in this new and exciting field with tremendous growth and income potential.
10. **Bridging The Gap.** Cyber competitions are a great way to bridge the gap between education, professional skills, and career opportunities. The competitions benefit the industry as a whole as they link employers to potential candidate and players learn great skills. Cyber competitions are becoming a leading platform for recruiters and employers to find qualified candidates.