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Taking Down Hackers: Oak Valley Middle School Teams Win National Cyber Competition

The Poway Unified School District is pleased to announce that two Oak Valley Middle School teams took the top two spots at the 10th Annual CyberPatriot National Finals Competition, which took place April 16-18 in Baltimore, Maryland. CyberAegis Cancer Minor took first place and CyberAegis Scorpio took second. This makes Oak Valley repeat CyberPatriot national champions, with the school's [CyberFalcon Millenium 360 team](#) winning nationals in 2016.

CyberPatriot is part of the National Youth Cyber Education Program, started by the Air Force Association to inspire students toward careers in cybersecurity and other STEM fields. Throughout the school year, 5,584 teams competed across the country at regional CyberPatriot events to qualify for nationals. 28 of the nation's top high school and middle school teams then went head to head in the finals, defending networks, servers, and mobile devices from attacks.

Both teams are under the direction of Coach Paul Johnson, a Northrop Grumman Senior Systems Engineer: "Not only do students learn about cybersecurity and compete in various competitions, but throughout this program they also gain new opportunities and real-life skills such as leadership, grit, determination, collaboration, team spirit, and teamwork." Casey Currigan, Principal of Oak Valley Middle School in 4S Ranch adds, "Coach Johnson has created a powerhouse program and I could not be more proud both of these teams and of all of the students in the program. I am truly blessed to be principal at a school where these opportunities are available and we have such amazing students"

Students Gautam Gupta, Kevin Hu (Captain), Bryant Jin, Jonathan Lin, Jeffery Sheng and Devam Shrivastava are on the CyberAegis Cancer Minor team. Students Michael Chen (Captain), Vihan Jayaraman, Kian Kishimoto, Andrew Pu, Akshay Rohatgi and Tanay Shah are on the CyberAegis Scorpio team. For more information on the CyberAegis program, visit the team's website [here](#).

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