

December 9, 2019

Good afternoon,

North Carolina girls in grades 9-12 have an exciting opportunity to test their cybersecurity skills and compete for cash and prizes through Girls Go CyberStart and we're asking you to get your students involved.

Girls Go CyberStart is a free and fun online program where students solve digital challenges and participate in online games. The competition gives girls in grades 9-12 the opportunity to discover if they have an interest in cybersecurity or computer science and explore potential future careers. Last year, more than 10,000 girls across the country participated in Girls Go CyberStart including more than 600 North Carolina students. North Carolina participants and their teachers took home a total of \$8,550 in cash prizes and scholarships.

On Wednesday, November 27, Governor Roy Cooper issued a [press release](#) encouraging North Carolina high school girls to join this innovative cybersecurity competition. Please help us spread the word about the program and consider signing up as an advisor, which is someone who forms a club, or club, and serves as a point of contact for your school's participants.

To get started, all a school needs to do is identify an advisor and register the club beginning today. Students and advisors need no prior experience to participate, only a computer, reliable internet connection, and Chrome or Firefox. Advisors are supported through various materials provided by Girls Go CyberStart.

This is the third year North Carolina has participated in the competition and feedback has been very positive:

"In my high school, there are rarely any opportunities like this where someone like me who knows nothing about cybersecurity can one, learn about it, and two, love everything about it from the difficult puzzles to the unique challenges." – Student, Girls Go CyberStart 2018

"This program excited our students and got them engaged in computer science and data security. Girls Go CyberStart makes those concepts approachable to the average high school student, then coaches them into more complex work. This game helped us identify talented young women in our school with an interest in computer science that might otherwise have been missed." –Will Herring, teacher and Girls Go CyberStart advisor at Union Pines High School

The program also provides an opportunity for boys to explore cybersecurity. Schools that have five girls who qualify for Stage 2 of Girls Go CyberStart will earn additional non-competition licenses for boys or other girls in their school to participate.

How you help get your school involved

Please [sign up as an advisor](#) and share the attached materials with students and other teachers at your school.

The attached materials include an information sheet, a flyer, and other general information for your review. You also can visit <https://www.girlsgocyberstart.org/> for additional information. For North Carolina-specific information, please visit www.nc.gov/girlsgocyberstart.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Girls Go CyberStart and the opportunities it offers students. I hope we can count on your support for Girls Go CyberStart 2020.

Thank you,

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