

Information Systems Security Association (ISSA) Boise chapter and Civil Air Patrol Boise Composite Squadron senior member Randy Deshazer has been mentoring a youth program called CyberPatriot. [CyberPatriot](#) is a nationwide youth STEM program sponsored by the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) and includes a competitive learning challenge focused on Cyber Security. Randy has been a mentor for the Boise Bees CyberPatriot Civil Air Patrol team since 2017.

One of Randy's first year students, Spencer McConnell, has stuck with the cybersecurity field and is now a mentor for the CyberPatriot team himself and a Major in the Civil Air Patrol Boise Composite Squadron. Spencer is also employed as a Cyber Security Analyst and looking to further his career in the field.

In 2022, Spencer was the inaugural awardee for the Boise ISSA Michael Stanton USAF Cyber Scholarship.



*Spencer only one looking at the camera :-)*

This year, the Boise Bees CyberPatriot Civil Air Patrol team finished in the top two for their division. They were invited to the national competition held in Bethesda, Maryland.

The Boise Bees came in fourth in the general competition against thirteen in their division. The division held over 1500 teams nationally when the competition season started.

While they were just short of receiving medals and trophies, this was a significant accomplishment! Their first trip to the national finals, they were one of only two teams competing at this level for the first time.

*Photo courtesy of Civil Air Patrol Boise Composite Squadron*



*Spencer 3rd from left, Randy to his right*