

CISCO AMERICAS CYBER GAMES 2026 – Capture the Flag Challenge Official Rules

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED.

This Contest (the "Contest") registration opens on June 15, 2026 at 12:00 A.M. Pacific Time and ends on June 24, 2026 at 11:59 P.M. Pacific Time, or earlier if 1,500 registrations are reached. The Capture the Flag live competition will be hosted on June 30, 2026 at 5:00PM UTC. Entry into this Contest is acceptance of these Official Rules. This Contest is sponsored by Cisco Systems, Inc., 170 West Tasman Drive, San Jose, CA 95134 USA ("Sponsor" or "Cisco").

1. ELIGIBILITY.

This Contest is available to the first 1,500 student participants ("Participants" or "you") invited from the Capture the Flag challenge who registered and met the criteria and are legal residents in the Americas: covering the fifty United States or the District of Columbia, US Territories (American Samoa, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, US Virgin Islands, US Minor Outlying Islands), Onshore and Offshore Military, Canada, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Bermuda Islands, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Martin, Georgia South and the South Sandwich Islands, Suriname, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uruguay, or Venezuela at the time of registration. This Contest is not open to: (1) employees or internally contracted vendors of Sponsor or its parent/subsidiaries, agents and affiliates; (2) the immediate family members or members of the same household of any such employee or vendor; (3) anyone professionally involved in the development or administration of this Contest; (4) employees or internally contracted vendors of governments and government-affiliated companies or organizations; or (5) any employee whose employer's guidelines or regulations do not allow entry in the Contest or acceptance of the prize(s).

NOTE: Any employee of a federal, regional, or municipal government entity or state owned/controlled entity must verify acceptance of any prize won by a participant does not violate their organization's ethics policy.

2. HOW TO ENTER.

Qualified students must meet the following criteria to enter the competition:

- All student marathon participants who completed the Ethical Hacker course on netacad.com with a minimum of 70 percent during the Cisco CyberGames Americas 2026 marathon will be invited to register for the Cisco CyberGames – Capture the Flag challenge that takes place on June 30, 2026.
- Students will receive their invitations to register on or about June 15, 2026.
- Registration is open from June 15 to June 24, 2026 and is limited to the first 1,500 students to register and meet the criteria. Cisco will notify the qualified 1,500 students via email until June 29, 2026, with the link to the Capture the Flag live competition.
- Register using this registration [form](#). You must provide your first name, last name, and email address, name of academy and instructor from CyberGames Marathon.

Entries must be received during the Contest Period. Sponsor is not responsible for late, lost, delayed, damaged, misdirected, incomplete, void, corrupted, garbled, illegible, and/or unintelligible entries, or for any problems, bugs or malfunctions Participants may encounter when submitting their entry. Only complete valid entries will be accepted. Sponsor will not verify receipt of entries. Participants must provide all information requested to be eligible to win. Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify false entries or entries suspected of being false. Incomplete, unreadable, or unintelligible entries, in the sole discretion of Sponsor, will be disqualified. All entries submitted become the sole property of Sponsor and will not be acknowledged or returned.

JUDGING CRITERIA.

Cisco will host the Capture the Flag challenge live during a head-to-head competition using a Webex session. The Capture the Flag platform, which will be available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, will feature leaderboards that track the number of flags and points earned by each student throughout the 2-hour competition.

The top ten (10) students to complete their missions with the highest score and earliest time will win prizes. All winners will be notified on or about June 30, 2026, at the end of the event.

Students will compete in three (3) different competition categories. Each category is comprised of missions that contain several flags to be captured. Each mission is comprised of several tasks called flags. To capture the flags, the student must complete the task objectives. Once you have captured all flags in the mission, the mission is complete.

The following parameters define how the score is calculated:

There are three (3) missions to complete to earn a total of 970 points during the 2-hour competition for each participating student:

Putting on the Red Hat:

- **Mission 1 – 370 Total Points, 13 Flags, 32 Hints**
 - (2) Flags at 10 points each
 - (5) Flags at 20 points each
 - (1) Flags at 30 points each
 - (3) Flags at 40 points each
 - (2) Flags at 50 points each
 - (32) Hints, two (2) at 0-point each deduction, fifteen (15) at 2-point each deduction, twelve (12) at 5-point each deduction and three (3) at 10-point each deduction

The Pen Tester Mission:

- **Mission 2 – 350 Total Points, 14 Total Flags, 17 Hints**
 - (3) Flags at 10 points each
 - (4) Flags at 20 points each
 - (3) Flags at 30 points each
 - (4) Flags at 40 points each
 - (17) Hints, three (3) at 2-point each deduction, thirteen (13) at 5-point each deduction and one (1) at 10-point each deduction

It's All About Documentation:

- **Mission 3 – 250 Total Points, 10 Total Flags, 27 Hints**
 - (1) Flags at 10 points each
 - (5) Flags at 20 points each
 - (3) Flags at 30 points each
 - (1) Flags at 50 points each
 - (27) Hints, fourteen (14) at 2-point each deduction and thirteen (13) at 5-point each deduction

In the event of a tie, the students that achieved the highest score in quickest time will be awarded the prize.

PRIZES. Subject to the terms of these Official Rules, once confirmed by Sponsor, the Top 10 (ten) winner(s) will receive the following:

Capture the Flag Winners (1-10) Prize Pack:

- The Capture the Flag Winners (Students 1-10) will each receive one (1) prize pack valued at USD \$115.00:
 - Cisco Tote
 - Cisco Small Hip Bag
 - Cisco Hat
 - Cisco Lunch Bag

- Cisco Thermo Mug
- Cisco Journal, Pen, and Sticker
- Certificate of recognition
- Recognition certificate for the student's instructor and academy

Capture the Flag Student Participants:

- The Capture the Flag participating students who complete at least 25% of the challenge will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Limit one (1) prize per Participant. The approximate retail values are subject to change based on current market conditions at the time of prize fulfillment. No substitution, assignment, transfer, or cash redemption of any prize is allowed by Winner. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute a prize with another prize of equal or greater value should the advertised prize become unavailable for any reason. If a potential winner is unable to participate in or accept the prize or any portion of the prize for any reason, Sponsor shall have no further obligation to such potential winner. Neither Sponsor nor any of its prize suppliers will replace any lost or stolen prizes, cards or certificates after being awarded to winners. In no event will Sponsor be responsible for awarding more than the stated number of prizes.

The Sponsor will cover reasonable costs associated with shipping the prize kit to the winner's provided address, as well as any applicable customs fees and duties. However, the Sponsor is not responsible for delays, holds, or confiscations of the prize kit by customs authorities, or for any actions taken by governmental agencies in the recipient's country. The winner is responsible for complying with all applicable laws and regulations regarding the receipt of the prize kit. If the prize cannot be delivered or is held or seized by customs, the Sponsor shall have no further obligation to the winner regarding the prize.

NOTIFICATION OF WINNER(S). Winners will be notified by phone, mail and/or email, at Sponsor's discretion. Sponsor's decision will be final in all matters. Sponsor may also send potential winner(s) a declaration of eligibility / liability / publicity release ("Release"). Unless restricted by law, potential winners receiving such a Release may be required to complete and return it within the time period specified therein. The prize may be forfeited and, in such case, an alternate potential winner may in Sponsor's discretion be selected from among the remaining eligible entries (using the criteria described above), if a potential winner: (i) cannot be reached; (ii) fails to obtain all signatures on the Release and to return the documents in a timely manner as required pursuant to these Official Rules; or (iii) cannot accept or receive the prize for any reason. Prizes will be sent to winner as quickly as feasible following notification (and receipt of any Release and related document, if applicable).

CONTENT AND LICENSE TERMS.

Originality: By participating in this Contest, Participant warrants and represents that his or her entry:

- is original and has been legally created, and that Participant owns all rights to the entry;
- does not infringe the intellectual property, privacy or publicity rights or any other legal or moral rights of any third party;
- has not been entered in any previous contest or won any previous award;
- has not been published or distributed previously in any media; and
- complies in all respects with the requirements set out in these Official Rules.

Third Party Rights. No part of any entry may depict recognizable third party marks, copyrights, brands or other property, unless Participant has obtained all proper licenses. The entry must not contain any elements that would infringe upon any third party's rights (intellectual property or otherwise), and must not include any commercial content that: (1) promotes any product or service, other than one owned or branded by Sponsor, or (2) disparages Sponsor, its affiliates, partners, customers, competitors or any third party in any way. Sponsor's determination as to whether Participant's Submission potentially violates the rights of any third party is final.

Permissions and Releases. Participant acknowledge and agrees that he or she is responsible for obtaining any and all documents, policies and authorizations necessary to submit the entry to Sponsor in connection with this Contest, including but not limited to publicity releases, permits and venue permissions, as may be necessary; and Participant represents and warrants that he or she has done so and can make written copies of such permissions available to Sponsor upon request.

If applicable: Participant represents and warrants that he or she has obtained permission from each person whose name, image, likeness and/or voice ("Likeness") is included in any entry, and that such person(s) has/have granted Participant all necessary rights to use the person's Likeness as described in these rules, and that Participant can make written copies of such permissions available to Sponsor upon request. If the Likeness of a minor is included, such grant of rights must include written permission from the minor's parent or legal guardian authorizing the use of the minor's likeness on behalf of the minor. Participant represents and warrants that he or she has obtained written permission when filming or photographing any part of his or her entry on private property not owned or controlled by Participant, where such permission is required.

Additional Content Limitations. Participant's entry must not include anything in its theme or language that would offend parents whose young children view the entry, and must not include any nudity, sex, explicit activity, violence or drug use, nor any references to same.

License Grant. By submitting any entry in this Contest, Participant irrevocably grants Sponsor and its affiliates, legal representatives, assigns, agents and licensees, the unconditional, irrevocable and perpetual right and permission, royalty-free, to reproduce, encode, store, copy, transmit, publish, post, broadcast, display, publicly perform, adapt, exhibit and/or otherwise use or reuse (without limitation as to when or to the number of times used), for any purpose, the Participant's entry and ideas and materials contained therein, including, but not limited to, any recordings and performances contained therein (in each case, as submitted or as edited/modified in any way by the Sponsor, in its sole discretion), as well as to use Participant's Likeness, and/or statements regarding his/her participation in this Contest (with or without using the Participant's name) in any and all media without limitation as to time or territory, and without additional compensation or approval from the Participant, or any other party. Participant waives all intellectual property rights, privacy/publicity rights or other legal or moral rights that might preclude the Sponsor's use of the Submission, and agrees not to sue or assert any claim against Sponsor for the use of the Submission or Participant's Likeness or statements. The grant of rights under these Official Rules includes all rights of paternity, integrity, disclosure, and withdrawal and any other rights that may be known as or referred to as "moral rights" ("Moral Rights"). If Moral Rights cannot be assigned under applicable law, then to the full extent allowed by law, Participant hereby waives such Moral Rights in favor of Sponsor and consents to any action of Sponsor which would violate such Moral Rights in the absence of such consent.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

The Contest is subject to applicable federal, state and local laws, and these Official Rules.

Each winner will be solely responsible for any local, provincial, country or any other applicable taxes, and any other costs, expenses and fees in connection with the prize. If applicable, the winner(s) may be issued an IRS Form 1099 or other tax documentation for the approximate retail value of any awarded prize.

Participant grants permission to Sponsor and its authorized representatives to use his/her name, address (city and state/province/territory/country), photograph, voice, and/or other likeness for advertising, trade and promotional purposes without further compensation, in all media now known or hereafter discovered, worldwide, and on the InterCyber and world wide web, in perpetuity, without notice, consideration, review or approval.

Following the Contest Period, Sponsor shall not be required to retain records of any Entries.

By participating, Participant hereby: (a) agrees bound by these Official Rules, and the decisions of Sponsor, which shall be final and binding; and (b) waives any right to claim ambiguity in the Contest or these Official Rules, except where prohibited by law. Once submitted, an Entry cannot be deleted or cancelled.

If any prize involves travel, all potential winners are responsible for obtaining all necessary travel documents, including valid passports, visas and travel insurance, and complying with all health or other government regulations.

Participant acknowledges and agrees that Sponsor has neither made, nor is in any manner responsible or liable for, any warranty, representation or guarantee, expressed or implied, in fact or in law, relative to any prize or the Contest. All warranties are hereby disclaimed; and each potential winner will accept the Prize "AS IS." All costs and expenses, including support services, not specifically listed above as part of the prize, are solely the winner's responsibility.

In the event of a dispute as to the source of any Entry, the authorized account holder of the email address used to

enter will be deemed to be the person making the Entry. The authorized "account holder" is the natural person assigned an email address by an InterCyber access provider, online service provider or other organization responsible for assigning email addresses for the domain associated with the submitted address.

Subject to applicable law, Sponsor reserves the right in its discretion, to (a) cancel, terminate, modify or suspend this Contest and these Official Rules, for any reason, at any time and without any liability, and (b) limit or restrict participation in the Contest, upon notice.

All Participants are solely responsible for compliance with any applicable laws, rules and regulations, contractual limitations and/or office or company policies, if any, regarding Participant's participation in trade promotions or acceptance of promotional prizes; and by entering this Contest, Participant confirms that he or she is not in violation of any of the foregoing and has obtained the consent of his or her employer to participate, if applicable. If a Participant is not permitted to accept any received prize, then the Participant may return such prize to Sponsor; and Sponsor will refund the cost of shipment, as appropriate.

Use of any automated entry device or software is prohibited. Creation or use of multiple accounts for registration or participation in the Contest is prohibited. To the extent the Contest uses or requires functionality of any third party website (e.g., social media sites or platforms that enable broad communications, collaboration and/or posting of videos), you understand that the Contest is not sponsored by such third parties, and further agree to follow the policies on such website(s), as applicable. Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify any Participant it finds to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Contest or violating these Official Rules, or otherwise acts in an uncooperative, unsportsmanlike, disruptive, abusive, or threatening manner; and Sponsor reserves the right to cancel the Contest should it suspect fraud or for reasons out of the control of Sponsor. Disputes regarding these Official Rules and/or this Contest will be governed by the internal laws of California. CAUTION: ANY ATTEMPT TO DELIBERATELY DAMAGE OR UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMATE OPERATION OF THE CONTEST MAY BE IN VIOLATION OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAWS AND WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTEST. SHOULD SUCH AN ATTEMPT BE MADE, SPONSOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SEEK REMEDIES AND DAMAGES (INCLUDING ATTORNEY FEES) TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW, INCLUDING CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

Sponsor is not responsible for: (a) lost, late, misdirected, undeliverable, incomplete or indecipherable entries due to system errors or failures, or faulty transmissions or other telecommunications malfunctions and/or entries; (b) technical failures of any kind; (c) failures of any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Contest; (d) unauthorized human and/or mechanical intervention in any part of the submission process or the Contest administration; (e) technical or human error which may occur in the administration of the Contest or the processing of entries; or (f) other factors beyond Sponsor's reasonable control. Sponsor is not responsible for injury or damage to any Participant's or any other person's computer related to or resulting from participating in the Contest or downloading materials from or use of the Site.

If for any reason the Contest is not capable of running as planned by Sponsor, including infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes which, in Sponsor's sole determination, corrupts or affects the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of this Contest, Sponsor reserves the right at its sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Contest. If Contest is cancelled prior to the end of the Contest Period, for the reasons stated above, notice will be posted on the Contest website; and some or all of the prizes may, in Sponsor's sole discretion, be awarded to potential winners to be selected (using the judging criteria described above) from among all the remaining uncorrupted entries received up until the time of modification or cancellation.

Sponsor shall not be liable to any Participant or other person for failure to supply any prize or any part thereof, by reason of the prize becoming, for reasons beyond the reasonable control of Sponsor, unavailable or impracticable to award, or for any force majeure event, technical or equipment failure, terrorist acts, labor dispute, or act/omission of any kind (whether legal or illegal), transportation interruption, civil disturbance, or any other cause similar or dissimilar beyond Sponsor's control.

LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY AND RELEASE. PARTICIPANT AGREES THAT SPONSOR, ITS AFFILIATES, DIVISIONS, SUBSIDIARIES, RESELLERS, DEALERS, DISTRIBUTORS, ADVERTISING/PROMOTION AGENCIES, AND ALL OF THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS,

DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS, REPRESENTATIVES AND AGENTS (“RELEASED PARTIES”) WILL HAVE NO LIABILITY WHATSOEVER FOR, AND WILL BE RELEASED AND HELD HARMLESS BY PARTICIPANT FOR ANY CLAIMS, LIABILITIES, OR CAUSES OF ACTION OF ANY KIND OR NATURE FOR ANY INJURY, LOSS OR DAMAGES OF ANY KIND INCLUDING DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES TO PERSONS, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION DISABILITY OR DEATH. WITHOUT LIMITING THE FOREGOING, EVERYTHING ON THE SITE AND IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONTEST IS PROVIDED “AS IS” WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. SOME JURISDICTIONS MAY NOT ALLOW THE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR EXCLUSION OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES, IN WHICH CASE SUCH LIMITATION OR EXCLUSION SHALL APPLY ONLY TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY THE LAW IN THE RELEVANT JURISDICTION.

PUBLICITY. Participant acknowledges and agrees that Sponsor may use the Contest (including any submission) for publicity, advertising or other marketing purposes, in any media, and may use the name, likeness, and hometown name and/or prize information of potential winners as part of that publicity, without additional compensation to the potential winners.

PRIVACY. All personal information collected by Sponsor will be used for the administration of the Contest and in accordance with Sponsor's privacy policy. Any questions regarding privacy matters should be directed to the address set out below. Please refer to Sponsor's privacy policy located at <http://cisco.com/web/siteassets/legal/privacy.html> for important information regarding the collection, use and disclosure of personal information by Sponsor.

OFFICIAL RULES AND WINNERS' LIST. For a copy of these Official Rules or the names of winners, please send your request to Cyberacad-learnathons@external.cisco.com. The winners list will be available after July 24, 2026.

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