

National STEM Competition Registers Over 13,000 Students

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ABERDEEN, MD. – The U.S. Army’s eCYBERMISSION competition closed student registration with a record 13,219 participants, surpassing the Army’s goal of 13,000 students.

eCYBERMISSION, now in its eighth year, is a free, web-based, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competition for students in grades six through nine. Through the eCYBERMISSION competition, students compete for regional and national awards by using the scientific method to solve a problem in their local communities.

"We are extremely proud of the students who have accepted the challenge and registered for eCYBERMISSION, as it shows that they are interested in studying science, technology, engineering and math," said Michael Lombardi, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) Program Manager for eCYBERMISSION. "The record number of student registrations proves that America’s youth are encouraged to study these important subjects and will hopefully chose careers in these fulfilling fields."

The continued success of eCYBERMISSION and its registered students depends on dedicated Volunteers to support the program and its mission. Volunteers serve a dynamic role in the competition, each contributing his or her knowledge, skills and enthusiasm in a unique way. There are several volunteer roles, including:

- **Virtual Judges** – Individuals with an interest or background in science, technology, engineering, math or education who independently evaluate team Mission Folders online. Registration is open through Feb. 26 and scoring takes place from March 1 through March 29.
- **Ambassadors** – Serve as the face of eCYBERMISSION by promoting the competition and recruiting other Volunteers in their community. Ambassadors must have an active Department of Defense (DoD) security clearance or be willing to go through an FBI background check. Registration is open through June 30.
- **CyberGuides** – Provide online assistance to eCYBERMISSION teams by answering questions and providing guidance through the use of Discussion Forums, Chat Rooms and Instant Messaging. CyberGuides must have an active DoD security clearance. Registration is open through Feb. 1 and CyberGuide’s last day online is Feb. 26.

Created by the U.S. Army in 2002 to emphasize the importance of STEM education, eCYBERMISSION has awarded more than \$6.7 million in U.S. EE Savings Bonds to regional and national winners. The 96 winning teams will be announced in April and the 16 regional first

place teams will be invited to participate in the annual eCYBERMISSION National Judging and Educational Event in June.

About eCYBERMISSION

eCYBERMISSION is a free, web-based, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) competition for students in grades six through nine. Sponsored by the U.S. Army and managed by RDECOM, eCYBERMISSION is designed to share the importance of STEM education with the leaders of tomorrow and encourage them to understand the real-life applications of these subjects. Students compete for state and national awards by working in teams to identify a problem in their community and using scientific inquiry to propose a solution. eCYBERMISSION is an Army Educational Outreach Program (www.usaeop.com).

About RDECOM

RDECOM is the Army's primary source for integrated research, development and engineering capabilities that empower, unburden and protect the Warfighter to enable the dominance of the Army. RDECOM provides the full spectrum of basic research, development, engineering and analysis of Warfighter systems, from concept to capability. RDECOM is headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., with laboratories and research and development centers throughout the country and representatives throughout the world. For more information on RDECOM, visit www.army.mil/rdecom.

For more information, please visit www.ecybermission.com or contact eCYBERMISSION Mission Control at 1-866-GO-CYBER (462-9237) or via e-mail at missioncontrol@ecybermission.com.

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