

# 2026 Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition

## 11-13 April



The Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Atlantic, the Navy's East Coast Engineering Center, in collaboration with the South Carolina Lowcountry Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association (AFCEA) facilitates a cyber defense competition each spring. The goal is to energize high schools, colleges, and their students to focus on the development of technical skills in the area of networking and cyber security. Pro Day teams use the event for workforce development/training, recruitment and the challenge of competing in the cyber arena



High Schools – Saturday, 11 April  
Universities/Colleges – Sunday, 12 April  
Pro Teams – Monday, 13 April

- High schools qualify through CyberPatriot
- Colleges qualify through the Southeast Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition
- Pro Day: DoD and Corporate teams compete
- Winning students receive scholarship money, prizes, medals and trophies
- All participating students receive: Free T-shirt, challenge coin, lunch, snacks, swag bag
- Scenario will involve operating the Palmetto Cyber Data Center network



- Teams of six have six laptops from which to operate a live network and protect it from hackers
- Teams should include experts in the areas of networking, risk mitigation, databases, firewalls, operating systems, intrusion detection and response, docker containers, etc.
- Teams are scored on keeping services running, performing business tasks and responding to attacks
- Provides an opportunity for competitive workforce development in the Cyber Security profession
- Fosters teamwork and opportunities for leadership and crisis management
- Creates a recruitment opportunity for DoD and its Corporate Partners to see South Carolina's finest STEM students in action



Southeast Regional Collegiate Hack Warz

- Saturday, 11 April 2026
- Location: Trident Technical College
- Up to 3 members per team
- Capture as many flags as possible
- Bring your own devices



PCDC 2026 will be held at:  
**Trident Technical College, building 920**  
**7000 Rivers Ave**  
**North Charleston, SC 29406**

To visit the PCDC website, go to <http://pcdc-sc.com/>.  
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