

Palmetto Roost Training Next Generation of CyberPatriots

The Palmetto Roost, in collaboration with Charleston Southern Cybersecurity (CSU), partnered with employees from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and Dixon Hughes Goodman to offer an all-female, CyberPatriot camp the week of June 8, using the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot curriculum.

CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program created by the Air Force Association to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future. At the core of the program is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, the nation's largest cyber defense competition that puts high school and middle school students in charge of securing virtual networks.



The young women, ages 12-15, learned about overall cybersecurity safety measures and careers, had hands-on instruction securing Windows 10 and Ubuntu operating systems, and were able to compete in a mini-CyberPatriot competition.

Camper Angelina, rising eighth-grader, said, "I loved it! I learned a lot about cybersecurity, and I learned more about my parents' jobs. I also loved taking electronics apart and seeing how they worked."

Dr. Valerie Sessions, Palmetto Roost education chair and affiliate professor of computer science at Charleston Southern University, said, "CSU has degrees in cybersecurity and computer science. Women are underrepresented in this field, and we are working to increase participation by middle and high school girls."

The New York Times recently cited Cybersecurity Ventures' prediction that more than three million cybersecurity jobs will go unfilled globally in 2021. Rich Nelson, president of the Palmetto Roost, is interested in developing new professionals and believes that it is key to the country's technological edge. "The Palmetto Roost and the AOC are focused on developing, promoting, and delivering electronic warfare and cyber warfare tools and professionals who are dedicated to furthering the profession and helping to protect our country and our freedom."