

*Spurring Collaboration in K12 Cybersecurity Education*

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## Call for Proposals Criteria and Information

*PLEASE READ ALL OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS INFORMATION AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL*

The Call for Proposal submissions opens on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, and will close on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 11:59 pm PST. All submissions will receive an accept\* or decline email by mid-July.

***\*NOTE: All accepted presenters, except pre-recorded session presenters who are not attending the event, are required to register for the conference and pay the discounted registration fee of \$285 plus travel, hotel, and ground transportation. Zoom/remote presenters are not permitted at in-person sessions. Please submit a proposal for an in-person session ONLY if you have the approval to attend the conference in person on December 9-10, 2024 in San Antonio, Texas.***

The 2024 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference program committee is seeking timely, topical, and thought-provoking presentations.

Proposals should support and incorporate the overarching presentation theme “**Spurring Collaboration in K12 Cybersecurity Education.**”

### **To complete the proposal you will need:**

- Full name, email address, job title, affiliation, city, state, and country of each presenter to be submitted
- Headshot photo file of each presenter to be submitted
- Biography of 150 words or less for each presenter to be submitted
- Title of 100 characters or less for proposed session
- Description of 300 words or less for proposed session

### **We seek content that:**

- Supports one or more of the [National K12 Cybersecurity Education Roadmap](#) components.
- Supports the [NICE Strategic Plan Goals](#), “Promote the Discovery of Cybersecurity Careers and Multiple Pathways” and “Transform Learning to Build and Sustain a Diverse and Skilled Workforce” and emphasizes K12 educator’s vital role in advancing digital literacy, computational literacy, and digital resilience.
- Increases technical knowledge and skills needed to prepare K12 students for future careers in the cybersecurity workforce and other STEM-related areas, emphasizing hands-on activities.
- Explores proven learning systems, models, practices, and strategies in formal and informal learning environments, both virtual and face-to-face.

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- Promotes participation of underserved groups in cybersecurity activities and educational programs to support diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.
- Encourages audience participation and engagement to add to the conversation around providing solutions to help increase workforce readiness.

We encourage proposals from a diverse array of organizations and individuals with different perspectives, including K12 educators, students, school counselors, higher education faculty, employers and practitioners, non-profits, curriculum providers, research centers, and training and certification providers.

Proposals should align with one of the five conference tracks.

## **CONFERENCE TRACKS**

**1. Increasing Cybersecurity Career Awareness** - This track will focus on *growing and sustaining youth and public engagement in promoting cybersecurity career awareness and exploration strategies*. Proposals that emphasize activities to include a national cybersecurity career awareness campaign targeting educators, students, parents, administrators, and counselors are particularly encouraged. Proposals that describe the impact of co-curricular experiences (e.g., competitions, camps, clubs, boy/girl scouts, etc.) for youth that excite them about careers in cybersecurity and introduce them to the corresponding career pathways will be given priority. Proposals showing promising practices to increase the appeal of the cybersecurity profession to a diverse audience are highly encouraged.

**2. Engaging Students Where Disciplines Converge** - This track will include presentations and sessions that describe stellar cybersecurity education resources that support youth in obtaining cybersecurity credentials using evidence-based practices and assessments that can be emulated by other stakeholders. A focus on the infusion of cybersecurity concepts into classroom instruction that aligns with the NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Framework is appropriate for this track. Proposals helping to build computational literacy and sharing ways to engage students where *disciplines converge* using cybersecurity as an interwoven and complex pursuit that blends disciplines and industry sectors and makes STEM and cybersecurity learning meaningful and inspiring are highly encouraged.

**3. Stimulating Innovative Cybersecurity Educational Approaches** - This track will explore proven pedagogical practices and innovative and evidence-based instructional strategies to accelerate learning and skills development. Successful strategies that increase teacher preparation, professional development, support, and recognition efforts within existing and proposed cybersecurity educator programs or other mechanisms are encouraged.

**4. Promoting Cybersecurity Career Pathways** - This track will include presentations and sessions that describe successful models to increase the number of youth pursuing a cybersecurity or cybersecurity-related degree, certificate, or career. Examples of state or locally-recognized

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cybersecurity *career* pathways for high school students that improve upon state Career Technical Education (CTE) and Programs of Study (POS) are highly encouraged. Special emphasis is placed on initiatives that are readily transferable and easily adaptable supporting a nationally recognized cybersecurity *academic* pathway for elementary, middle, and secondary school students. Program proposals that show how to increase the number of schools that are providing dual enrollment, early college programs, and other creative alternate efforts that challenge students academically and provide opportunities to reduce the time and cost of obtaining a college degree will be given priority.

**5. Promoting Cyber Awareness** - This track will focus on the knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed to understand, use, and safely interact with technology, media, and digital resources. Proposals that highlight effective resources, practices, and achievements of programs to help both educators and students be responsible, ethical, and resilient digital citizens will be given priority. This track will explore proven pedagogical practices and innovative and evidence-based instructional strategies to accelerate learning and skills development. Successful strategies that increase teacher preparation, professional development, support, and recognition efforts within existing and proposed cybersecurity educator programs or other mechanisms are encouraged.

### **Session Formats:**

#### **Live In-Person Session Options:**

Presenters of Live In-Person Sessions are required to attend and participate in the Conference in San Antonio, Texas. No Zoom/remote speakers are allowed during the live conference. If you want to submit a virtual presentation please see the “Virtual Pre-recorded Options” section below.

- **Concurrent Session** - 40 minutes (30 minutes lecture + 10 minutes audience Q&A) Interactive lecture-style format. 2 presenters maximum
- **Concurrent Panel Session** - 40 minutes (30 minutes lecture + 10 minutes audience Q&A) Moderator and 2-4 panelists
- **Pre-Conference Workshop Session** (90 minutes) - Interactive session focused on learning, collaboration, demos, etc. It can have multiple presenters. (NOTE: All presenters must register, attend, and participate in the full Conference)

*PLEASE NOTE: There will be no recordings of live breakout sessions, panels, or pre-conference workshops. Recordings of more than 60 seconds of live sessions by speakers, audience members, or other parties are not permitted.*

#### **Virtual Pre-Recorded Option:**

Presenters of Pre-Recorded sessions are not required to attend the live event.

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- **Pre-Recorded, On-Demand Lecture Session** - 40-minute lecture-style session recorded using the presenters's video software, submitted two weeks before the event, and made available to attendees for three months after the event via the conference online platform, Whova.

*PLEASE NOTE: Pre-recorded, on-demand videos must be created exclusively for the NICE K12 Conference using the official NICE K12 Zoom background or with an official NICE K12 logo displayed on the screen of the recording.*

### Proposal review criteria:

NICE strives to offer a balanced, informative, and thought-provoking conference that best fits within the National K12 Cybersecurity Education Implementation Plan. The conference proposal selection committee includes experienced, diverse academic STEM and cybersecurity educators/professionals. In evaluating conference proposals, reviewers will be asked to consider both the technical aspects of the proposal and how the presentation/session will contribute to transforming K12 cybersecurity education.

### **The following elements will be considered in the review of conference proposals:**

- The potential for the proposed session/presentation is to contribute to and advance the knowledge base and understanding of K12 cybersecurity education reform.
- The extent to which the session/presentation offers creative, novel, and transformative mechanisms for enhancing K12 cybersecurity learning, particularly for historically underrepresented students.
- The potential for high impact and ease of adaptability among communities of practice.
- Encourages audience participation and engagement to add to the conversation around providing solutions to help increase workforce readiness.
- Addresses components of the **National K12 Cybersecurity Education Roadmap**.
- Addresses the **NICE Strategic Plan Goals**, “Promote the Discovery of Cybersecurity Careers and Multiple Pathways” and “Transform Learning to Build and Sustain a Diverse and Skilled Workforce” or emphasizes K12 educator’s vital role in advancing digital literacy, computational literacy, and digital resilience.
- Incorporates the overarching presentation theme “**Spurring Collaboration in K12 Cybersecurity Education.**”

The NICE K12 Conference values the diversity of thought, background, gender, orientation, ethnicity, nationality, and experience—let your unique perspective and expertise shine in what you submit. Well-thought-out, complete, unique submissions with clear and specific details will improve your chances of being selected.

**Key Presentation outcomes:**

- **Enhance educators' knowledge.** Our goal is to increase both the technical and pedagogical knowledge of K12 educators as they support students preparing for the STEM and cybersecurity workforce.
- **Help develop workforce readiness skills.** Explore ways to encourage and empower educators and students to increase STEM and cybersecurity workforce readiness.
- **Advance digital age learning.** Delve into systems, models, practices, and strategies for creating meaningful digital-age learning experiences, both virtual and face-to-face.
- **Addresses the NICE Strategic Plan Goals, NICE K12 Roadmap components, and conference theme.** Proposals support NICE Strategic Plan Goals and NICE K12 Roadmap components.
- **Incorporate technical content.** Our conference covers technical content appropriate for all levels of expertise, elementary, middle, and high school levels, from beginner to advanced.
- **Encourage audience participation.** Think beyond the lecture and devise new ways to engage your audience. Our session formats include interactive concurrent sessions, workshops, panels, poster presentations, and more.
- **Inspire integrative cross-disciplinary STEM approaches.** Describe innovative approaches for enhancing interdisciplinary STEM learning in encouraging students to pursue cybersecurity careers.

Submit Proposals at <https://www.k12cybersecurityconference.org/call-for-proposals>

## **NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference**

### **Call for Proposals - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

#### **When does the NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference Call for Proposals open? When are submissions due?**

The Call for Proposals opens on **Tuesday, April 9, 2024**, and closes on **Tuesday, June 11, 2024**, at 11:59 PM Pacific Time. There will be no extensions. Submissions received after the closing date will not be reviewed.

#### **What is needed to complete a proposal form?**

##### **To complete the proposal you will need:**

- Full name, email address, job title, affiliation, city, state, and country of each presenter to be submitted
- Headshot photo file of each presenter to be submitted
- Biography of 150 words or less for each presenter to be submitted
- Title of 100 characters or less for the proposed session
- Description of 300 words or less for the proposed session

#### **Do presenters get free admission to the Conference?**

**NO.**

All accepted presenters, except pre-recorded session presenters who are not attending the event, are required to register for the conference and pay the discounted registration fee of \$285, plus travel, hotel, and ground transportation. Zoom/remote presenters are not permitted at in-person sessions. Please submit a proposal for an in-person session ONLY if you know/have approval to attend the conference in person on December 9-10, 2024 in San Antonio, Texas.

#### **When will I find out if my proposal has been accepted?**

If your proposal is accepted, you will be sent an acceptance email from the conference host, [ikeepSAFE.org](http://ikeepSAFE.org), in mid-July. *NOTE: To accept the opportunity to present, you must be able to pay all registration fees, travel, and housing expenses.* If your proposal is declined you will receive an email in mid-July.

#### **How many presentation slots are available?**

We anticipate approximately 35 live concurrent sessions and 20 pre-recorded, on-demand sessions within the 5 tracks, and 8 pre-conference workshops.

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**Can I have a co-presenter?**

Yes, there is room on the submission form to add a co-presenter. If you will have more than one co-presenter you will need to add the name, email, photo, and bio of each presenter to the submission form. Breakout Sessions should have no more than 3 presenters. Breakout Session Panels should have no more than 5 presenters. ONLY THOSE WHO WILL PRESENT WITH YOU SHOULD BE LISTED.

**Can I present remotely at the live event via a presentation platform such as Zoom?**

**NO.**

The 2024 Conference is an in-person event. If you are chosen to present in an in-person concurrent session, panel, or pre-conference workshop, you will be expected to attend and present at the Conference in person, in San Antonio, Texas. If you cannot attend the event in person, please choose the Pre-Recorded On-Demand session option in the submissions form.

**How are sessions selected?\***

The volunteer Planning Committee, which is composed of more than 25 cybersecurity professionals, technology experts, researchers, government employees, and educators, reviews all submissions. Selections are made based on the quality of submissions and the balance of topics desired to be covered.

**Can I get a recording of my session?**

**NO.**

Recordings of live in-person concurrent sessions, workshops, and panels will NOT be made available to speakers or their organizations. Attendees may record no more than 60 seconds of a live session for personal use in sharing on social media.

**How do I increase my odds of getting selected?**

The 2024 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference planning committee is seeking timely, topical, and thought-provoking presentations. Planning committee members are asked to consider both the technical aspects of the proposal and how the presentation/session will contribute to transforming K12 cybersecurity education.

The NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference strives to offer a balanced, informative, and thought-provoking conference that best fits within the [National K12 Cybersecurity Education Roadmap](#). The conference proposal selection committee includes experienced, diverse academic STEM and cybersecurity educators/professionals. In evaluating conference proposals, reviewers are asked to consider both the technical aspects of the proposal and how the presentation/session will contribute to transforming K12 cybersecurity education.

The NICE K12 Conference values the diversity of thought, background, gender, orientation, ethnicity, nationality, and experience—let your unique perspective and expertise shine in what you submit. Well-thought-out, complete, unique submissions with clear and specific details will improve your chances of being selected.

\*See <https://www.k12cybersecurityconference.org/call-for-proposals> for more details about the selection process and the types of content being sought.

**What are the main reasons proposals are not selected?**

1. *Incomplete and/or non-detailed submission, exceeding the word count, and/or unprofessional submission.* All required fields need to be completed. The session title should be clear, concise, and related to the topic you plan on sharing. The presentation description should share the intended learning outcomes for attendees. The description should be enticing, yet free of acronyms, lingo, and jargon. **Submissions should be free of grammatical and spelling errors.** We highly recommend completing a draft in Word or similar, then using spelling, grammar, and word count tools to edit before cutting and pasting into the online submission form.
2. *Vendor pitch.* Sales-oriented proposals will not be selected. Those wishing for a forum to demonstrate proprietary tools or solicit business are welcome to participate as an exhibitor during the conference. Vendors are welcome and should visit our [sponsor page](#) for more information.
3. *Multiple submissions.* With limited sessions, no more than 1 or 2 presentations will likely be selected from the same organization.
4. *Déjà vu.* We are looking for “new ideas” “unique” or “innovative” topics that have not been presented before. Proposals that have been presented prior or appear on programs for conferences that precede the 2024 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference will not be selected.
5. *Final tip.* Proposals should align with the 2024 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference theme and fit within at least one of the conference tracks. Those that do not meet these requirements will not be selected.

**Submit Proposals at <https://www.k12cybersecurityconference.org/call-for-proposals>**

**Who can I contact if I have problems submitting my proposal or have not received notification of my acceptance status by August?**

The friendly NICE K12 Conference staff are happy to assist you by email at [K12cybercon@ikeepSAFE.org](mailto:K12cybercon@ikeepSAFE.org)

**NOTE: All presenters are required to register for the conference and pay the appropriate registration fee, travel, and hotel expenses.**