



## Intentionally Increasing Diversity & Inclusion in Maryland's Cybersecurity Industry Through Interactive Education, Inspiration & Connections for Middle & High School Students in the Greater Baltimore Area

The Youth Conference of Network Defenders (Y-CND) provides an interactive environment to inform and inspire middle and high school students about cybersecurity and the career opportunities presented by the cybersecurity industry. Y-CND provides an open forum for cybersecurity professionals, providers and educators to connect with diverse youth from various socioeconomic backgrounds to share their experiences, be recognized as role models, form mentorship relationships, attract participants to their education and training programs and identify recruits for future job opportunities.

### Y-CND Attendees:

- The 2023 Conference will focus on middle and high school students from underserved and underrepresented communities and groups in Baltimore city and surrounding areas with an interest in cybersecurity or who may never have been exposed to cybersecurity and the viable career opportunities available through the industry
- Parents/guardians of the above-mentioned youth
- Educators who currently support the above-mentioned youth and parents
- Educators & trainers who wish to engage with the above-mentioned youth as potential future students for their programs
- Cybersecurity professionals who wish to serve as role models and mentors
- Vendors and partners who wish to engage with the above-mentioned audiences for product and/or services sales or workforce recruitment

### Y-CND Activities:

- Interactive Exhibits & Gaming Gallery
- Education & Inspiration Workshops & Sessions including Flash Talks & Youth Presentations
- Career Exploration Center
- Capture the Flag Competition
- Selfie Station
- Relaxation Station (for parents/guardians/speakers/sponsors)
- Breakfast, Lunch, Closing Ice Cream Social



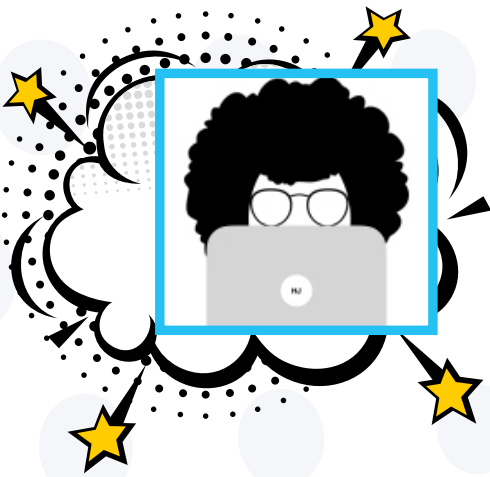
Presented By



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Details and registration here: <https://ycnd.defenderacademy.io/>  
tickets Sponsorships ranging from \$250 to \$20,000 available.



## ABOUT THE Y-CND FOUNDER & HOST

Joy Huggins was a foster child born into a life of service. From Girl Scout to veteran, to community volunteer, she has dedicated her time and talents to her local community. In the spirit of sharing her knowledge and introducing youth who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to discover how “cool” cybersecurity is like she did, she founded Network Defender Academy to teach middle and high school students the fundamentals of cybersecurity. She is also the founder of Hack Joyously, a confidence coaching program for women and minorities that encourages a resilient and confident cyber superstar.

Joy created the Youth Conference of Network Defenders as a way of bringing students and their influencers – parents and educators – together to meet, engage with and learn from cybersecurity professionals in a safe, casual and fun environment.

Joy lives in Baltimore, Maryland where she works as a senior level civilian for the Department of Defense. Joy is passionate about educating the next generation of cybersecurity professionals to help close the workforce gap. She believes that new approaches to fundamental skills development can create a more dynamic, credentialed and diverse security workforce for the future.



You can read more about Joy's experience in "Reinventing Cybersecurity" by Jasmine Henry

## ABOUT WOMENS SOCIETY OF CYBERJUTSU

The Women's Society of Cyberjutsu (WSC), a national 501(c)3 non-profit, is dedicated to raising awareness of cybersecurity career opportunities and advancement for women in the field, closing the gender gap and the overall workforce gap in information security roles. Founded in 2012, WSC is focused on empowering women to succeed in the cybersecurity industry. WSC's mission is to advance women in cybersecurity careers by providing programs and partnerships that promote hands-on training, networking, education, mentoring, resource-sharing and other professional opportunities.



**Have Questions Or Ready To Commit To A Sponsorship?**

Contact Event Liaison Stacey Smith, Smith Consulting & Events,  
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