



Hunting Hackers

Students become the threat-hunting team, follow safe digital clues, solve a fictional incident, and see how resilience, service, and curiosity can become a cybersecurity career.

20-60 minute formats	Age adapted	Interactive	Careers and resilience
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A story students can see themselves in

Douglas's path included homelessness, construction work, U.S. Air Force service during the Iraq War, technical support, digital forensics, cyber threat intelligence, principal threat hunting, critical-infrastructure defense, and founding DarkWater Associates. The message is simple: where students begin does not determine where they must finish, and technical ability matters most when guided by character and service.

What students do

Build the team

Students take roles and learn what hunters, analysts, investigators, engineers, writers, and leaders contribute.

Reveal the clues

A suspicious login, message, process, domain, or behavior appears in a safe, fictional scenario.

Make decisions

The room chooses: normal, suspicious, investigate, contain, preserve, communicate, or escalate.

Map the future

Students connect technology, writing, math, art, law, leadership, and service to cyber careers.

Safe by design

No real incidents, confidential systems, employer data, client information, live exploitation, unsafe demonstrations, or collection of student information.



AGE TRACKS

One program, adapted to the room.

Examples, vocabulary, scenario pressure, career depth, and audience participation change by developmental level and event objective.

Elementary

Cyber Detectives: safe online choices, simple clues, teamwork, and a short mystery students solve together.

Middle school

Suspicious or Normal?: messages, identity clues, social engineering, AI deception, and career connections.

High school

Protecting Critical Infrastructure: a fictional high-stakes incident, ethics, threat-hunting decisions, pathways, and first steps.

College and CTE

From Alert to Decision: hunting workflow, evidence handling, communication under pressure, role options, and entry strategies.

Event formats

- + 20 minutes: career snapshot, resilience message, and student questions
- + 30-45 minutes: interactive fictional incident and career map
- + 60 minutes: full investigation, resilience story, careers, and action plan
- + Career Day, assembly, classroom, cyber club, CTE, college, chapel, and youth-program adaptations
- + Christian-school versions can emphasize stewardship, perseverance, integrity, and service

Audience outcomes

Career visibility

Students see the range of technical and nontechnical roles that make cybersecurity work.

Responsible skill

Students connect curiosity and technical ability to ethics, evidence, communication, and service.



DARKWATER
— ASSOCIATES —

SPEAKER BACKGROUND

Douglas Peters

A practitioner with a real career path and a program built for student participation.

Douglas is a U.S. Air Force Iraq War veteran, founder of DarkWater Associates, licensed North Carolina private investigator, and principal-level cyber threat hunter. His professional cybersecurity career began in 2013, and his principal threat-hunting work began in 2017.

His background spans threat intelligence, digital forensics, incident response, malware analysis, OSINT, evidence preservation, Fortune 100, energy, nuclear-generation, and critical-infrastructure environments. His technical curiosity began in childhood, but the program distinguishes that early interest from formal professional experience.

Planning and safeguards

- + School confirms grade level, event purpose, duration, supervision, and appropriate content
- + All technical material is fictional, age appropriate, and designed for education rather than imitation
- + No student is asked to disclose a personal incident, password, account, device, or private information
- + Photography, recording, participant materials, travel, and reuse rights are agreed in writing
- + Government and employer references describe background only and do not imply sponsorship or endorsement

Invite Douglas to speak

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