



**Illinois Cyber**  
FOUNDATION

**Presents**

**BSides Peoria 2026**

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# CALL FOR SPONSORS

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## Empowering Cybersecurity

The Illinois Cyber Foundation (ILCF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing cybersecurity through accessible, high-impact education. In an era where digital threats are a primary business risk, the ILCF serves as a critical bridge between emerging talent, seasoned practitioners, and the organizations that rely on them.

## The BSides Peoria Advantage

**BSides Peoria 2026, presented by the Illinois Cyber Foundation, will be held on October 24th at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois.** This annual event provides a crucial platform for cybersecurity professionals and students to engage in learning and present on relevant topics.

BSides Peoria is our premier annual conference, designed to foster professional development and community collaboration. Unlike high-cost national summits, BSides Peoria provides an intimate, focused environment where your organization can engage directly with the people shaping the future of security.

For our sponsors, this represents a unique opportunity to:

- **Connect** with over 300 practitioners, students, and local decision-makers who are actively seeking new tools and methodologies.
- **Gain exclusive access** to a pool of ambitious, technically-proficient individuals in a region often overlooked by traditional recruitment.
- **Align your company** with a mission-driven organization that is directly contributing to the technical resilience of the Illinois business community.

### Who You'll Meet

BSides Peoria attracts a high-density mix of technical talent and leadership. Our attendee profile typically includes:

- Security Engineers & Analysts: The practitioners evaluating and implementing new tools.
- CISOs & IT Directors: Regional decision-makers looking for strategic partners.
- Academic Talent: Top-tier students from Bradley University and surrounding institutions ready for recruitment.
- Independent Researchers: The "innovators" who push the boundaries of current security methodologies.

# Unlocking Opportunities

## 2025 Benchmarks

Last year, BSides Peoria reached a new level of maturity, doubling our engagement metrics and attracting nationally recognized experts. This growth reflects the increasing demand for high-quality cybersecurity discourse in Central Illinois.

- Total Attendance: 300+ Practitioners & Students (a 50% increase from 2024).
- Industry Leadership: Our 2025 Keynote was delivered by Deviant Ollam, a world-renowned security researcher and educator, signaling BSides Peoria as a destination for top-tier thought leadership.
- Proof of Concept: We successfully debuted our first Physical Security Village, creating a hands-on, interactive environment that became the centerpiece of attendee engagement.

## 2025 By the Numbers



**314 Registrations**  
2024: 250 Registrations



**19 Speakers**  
2024: 16 Speakers



**34 Volunteers**  
2024: 20 Volunteers



**12 Sponsors**  
2024: 10 Sponsors

## 2026 Trajectory: Scaling for Impact

We are leveraging last year's success to provide even more value for our partners in 2026. Sponsors are joining an event on a steep upward curve.

### Village Expansion

We are scaling from one village to three or four specialized "Learning Villages" (e.g., Physical Security, Capture the Flag, and Radio Frequency villages), providing sponsors with multiple high-traffic areas for brand activation.

### Keynote Excellence

We are committed to maintaining the high bar set in 2025, with another major industry keynote currently in the works. This nationally recognized speaker will deliver a mid-day talk that bridges technical, leadership, and traditional cybersecurity expertise.

### Attendee Projections

Based on current trends, we are anticipating over 300 attendees for 2026, our largest and most diverse audience to date. Attendees range from students to decision makers, allowing sponsors to take advantage of a diverse field of prospects.

## Sponsorship Packages

BSides Peoria 2026 has **limited capacity** for Silver, Gold, and Platinum sponsors. While we will do everything in our power to accommodate every sponsorship, they will be issued on first-come basis.

	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
<b>SOCIAL MEDIA MENTIONS</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>LOGO ON WEBSITE</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>LOGO ON SHIRT</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>SPONSOR BOOTH</b>		✓	✓	✓
<b>PREFERRED BOOTH PLACEMENT</b>		✓	✓	✓
<b>BANNER DISPLAYED (YOU PROVIDE)</b>			1	Up to 2
<b>5 MINUTES TO ADDRESS CROWD</b>				✓
<b>LOGO ON BADGE</b>				✓

## A la Carte Sponsorships

Sponsorship	Available	Included
<b>T-Shirts</b>	1	Small Logo on lunch table tent; thanks during AM announcements
<b>Named Lunch</b>	1	Large Logo on lunch table tents; Logo during lunch announcements; thanks during lunch
<b>Named After-Party Sponsor</b>	1	Logo on table tents; thanks during kick off; banner in area

## Direct Impact: Beyond the Booth

If a traditional sponsorship package doesn't align with your current goals, we offer flexible donation alternatives. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, every dollar contributed to the Illinois Cyber Foundation (ILCF) goes directly toward:

- **Subsidizing Student Attendance:** Ensuring the next generation can learn regardless of their financial situation.
- **Expanding Technical Villages:** Funding the hardware and equipment required for hands-on labs (Radios, Lockpicking, and Hardware Hacking).
- **Community Education:** Supporting year-round mentorship and training initiatives beyond the annual conference.

All donors are recognized alongside our corporate sponsors as "Community Champions" on our website and in event materials.

## The Difference You Can Make

By partnering with BSides Peoria, you aren't just buying a logo placement; you are fueling a movement. Your support allows us to remain a grassroots, accessible platform that cultivates the technical talent Illinois needs to stay secure.

Together, we are building a more resilient, knowledgeable, and connected cybersecurity community.

## Secure Your Spot for 2026

Sponsorships are limited and issued on a first-come, first-served basis. To secure your presence at BSides Peoria 2026, please reach out to our team at [sponsors@bsidespeoria.com](mailto:sponsors@bsidespeoria.com) or visit our website: <https://bsidespeoria.com>

Thank you for supporting the future of Illinois cybersecurity.



**Nick Schroeder**  
Executive Director



**Cody Kretsinger**  
Executive Director