

The MATHCOUNTS Competition Series in a Nutshell

The **MATHCOUNTS Competition Series** is a national program that provides students the opportunity to compete in live math contests against and alongside their peers. Typically, these competitions are conducted as in-person events, but just for this year, we have decided to conduct all levels except for the National Competition virtually.

HOW WILL IT WORK? The 2020-2021 Competition Series will have 4 levels of *official* competition— chapter, chapter invitational, state and national - and 4 *unofficial* online practice competitions.



Schools register in the fall and work with students during the year. Students will have the opportunity to take **4 online practice competitions beginning in October**. Any number of students from a school can participate in team meetings and practice competitions, which open October 15, November 15, December 15 and January 22. MATHCOUNTS strongly recommends schools participate in these practice competitions. It is important students know how to use the competition platform before competition day. Coaches may opt to use these practice competitions to select their official chapter competitors.

Any student whose school is not participating in the program can register as a non-school competitor (NSC). MATHCOUNTS encourages students to pursue all avenues to participate through their school before registering as NSCs.



Between 1 and 15 individuals from each school participate in the 2021 Chapter Competition, which takes place online February 5 at 1:00pm ET through February 6 at 1:00pm ET. The competition will be conducted through the Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) Contest Platform, and each student will compete solely as an individual; there will be no team competition.

Like school competitors, **NSCs** will take the chapter competition online through the AoPS Contest Platform February 5-6, and will compete as individuals.



The top scoring student from each school and the top 20% of individuals from each chapter advance to the 2021 Chapter Invitational, taking place online February 25 at 7:00pm ET. Every competitor advancing to this level will be required to take the competition on the AoPS Contest Platform at the same time. Each student will compete solely as an individual; there will be no team competition.

NSCs can only advance to the invitational by scoring in the top 20% of their chapter. Like school competitors, NSCs must take the 2021 Chapter Invitational on February 25 at 7:00pm ET on the AoPS Contest Platform.



The top 5 students from each chapter and the 10 next highest scoring students in the state (based on their scores on the Sprint and Target Rounds) advance to the 2021 State Competition, taking place online March 25 at 7:00pm ET.

Every competitor advancing to this level will be required to take the competition on the AoPS Contest Platform at the same time. Each student will compete solely as an individual; there will be no team competition. Additional state level advancement details will be announced prior to the Chapter Invitational.

Advancement to the State Competition will be the same for both school competitors and **NSCs**. *NSCs must take the 2021 State Competition on March 25 at 7:00pm ET on the AoPS Contest Platform.*



The top individuals from each state receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the **2021 Raytheon Technologies MATHCOUNTS National Competition**, which takes place **May 8-11 in Washington, DC**. Up to 224 students will be invited to compete for individual and team awards. As of August 2020, this is planned as an in-person event, but subject to change, if necessary.

Advancement to the national competition will be the same for both school competitors and NSCs. An NSC's state will be determined by school location.

WHAT DOES THE TEST LOOK LIKE? The MATHCOUNTS competition typically consists of 4 rounds—**Sprint, Target, Team and Countdown Rounds**. Altogether the rounds take about 3 hours to complete. **However, Team and Countdown Rounds will not be conducted officially in the 2020-2021 Competition Series until the national level.** Here's what each round looks like.



Sprint Round

40 minutes
30 problems total
no calculators used
focus on speed and accuracy



Target Round

Approx. 30 minutes
8 problems total
calculators used
focus on problem-solving and mathematical reasoning

The problems are given to students in 4 pairs. Students have 6 minutes to complete each pair.



Team Round

20 minutes
10 problems total
calculators used focus on problem-solving and collaboration

National level only for 2020-2021. The online practice competitions will have team rounds.



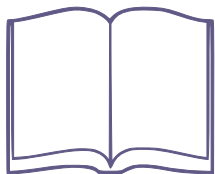
Countdown Round

Maximum of 45 seconds per problem
no calculators used
focus on speed and accuracy

National level only for 2020-2021.

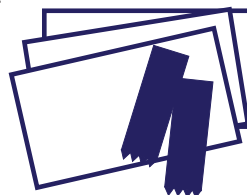
Resources Provided to Competition Schools

WHAT RESOURCES DO SCHOOLS RECEIVE? Every registered coach receives in the mail what we call the **School Competition Kit**. This kit includes the following materials.



2020-2021 MATHCOUNTS School Handbook

The most important resource included in the School Competition Kit. Includes 200 problems.



Student Recognition Ribbons and Certificates

15 participation certificates (1 for NSCs) and 2 ribbons for each school (1 for NSCs)

The following online resources are also available to registered coaches:

- **Access to the 2020-2021 Practice Competitions**
- **Last Year's Chapter + State Competitions:** Released by mid-April 2020
- **MATHCOUNTS Problem of the Week:** Multi-part problem released each Monday

WHAT'S IN THE HANDBOOK? There are 3 types of problems to prepare students for each of the rounds:

Warm-Ups

- 11 Warm-Ups in handbook
- 10 questions per Warm-Up
- No calculators used



Prepare students for the Sprint and Countdown Rounds.

Workouts

- 6 Workouts in handbook
- 10 questions per Workout
- Calculators used



Prepare students for the Target and Team Rounds.

Stretches

- 3 Stretches in handbook
- Number of questions and use of
- Calculators vary by Stretch



Each Stretch covers a specific math topic that could be covered in any round.