

BECOME A MATHCOUNTS COACH!

HOW DOES THE COMPETITION SERIES WORK?

- Schools register in the fall and work with students during the year. Coaches administer the School Competition, usually in January.
- Between 1 and 10 students from each school advance to their local Chapter Competition, which takes place in February.
- Top students from each Chapter Competition advance to their State Competition, which takes place in March.
- Top 4 individual competitors from each State Competition receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Competition, which takes place in May.

What's On the Test at Each Competition?

SPRINT ROUND

- 30 problems to solve in 40 minutes
- no calculators allowed
- focus on speed and accuracy

TARGET ROUND

- 8 problems to solve in 24 minutes (given in four 6-minute pairs)
- calculators used
- focus on problem solving and mathematical reasoning

TEAM ROUND

- 10 problems to solve in 20 minutes
- calculators used
- focus on problem-solving and collaboration

Only the 4 students from a school's registered team take this round officially.

COUNTDOWN ROUND

- maximum of 45 seconds per problem
- no calculators allowed
- focus on speed and accuracy

This round is optional at the school, chapter and state level, and is often conducted unofficially.

THE ROLE OF A COMPETITION COACH

EVERY GOOD COACH SHOULD:

- Schedule and run practices for participating students.
- Help motivate and encourage students.
- Select the 1-10 Mathletes who will represent the school at the Chapter Competition in February.
- Take the students to the Chapter Competition or arrange with a parent or volunteer to get them there.
- Coaches do not need to:
 - Know how to solve every MATHCOUNTS problem. See resources below for why!
 - Spend their own money to be effective. See resources below for why!
 - One of the best things about coaching is getting lots of free materials. Plus, if you're a math teacher, MATHCOUNTS materials make great classroom resources!

Don't worry—we've got tons of free materials to help you do this!

NEW COACH PRACTICE PLANS

These MATHCOUNTS Practice Plans were developed specifically with new coaches in mind to help with competition preparation. They cover a variety of topic areas at an introductory level for students new to MATHCOUNTS. Each plan takes about 45 minutes to 1 hour to complete.

PRACTICE PLANS HAVE FOUR PARTS:

- **Warm-up:** To warm-up, Mathletes will start with a short problem set to practice related skills that will be expanded upon throughout the practice plan.
- **The Problems:** To introduce a common type of MATHCOUNTS competition problem and/or a helpful problem-solving strategy, Mathletes will watch a video which solves and explains the approach to two or three problems.
- **Piece it Together:** Building on the warm-up and the video, Mathletes will combine their prior knowledge and the strategies they learned to solve another set of related problems.
- **Optional Extension:** Each practice plan will have an activity, puzzle or game as an option to end with. The extension will be related to the concept the problems explored and give Mathletes an opportunity to have a little fun and/or be creative with the problem-solving skills!

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
[HTTPS://WWW.MATHCOUNTS.ORG/WELCOME-NEW-COACHES](https://www.mathcounts.org/welcome-new-coaches)