



# USA MATHEMATICAL TALENT SEARCH

The USA Mathematical Talent Search (USAMTS) is a free mathematics competition open to all United States middle and high schools students.

As opposed to most mathematics competitions, the USAMTS allows students a full month to work out their solutions. Carefully written justifications are required for each problem. The problems range in difficulty from being within the reach of most high school students to challenging the best students in the nation. Students may use any materials – books, calculators, and computers – but all the work must be their own. The USAMTS is run on the honor system – it is an individual competition, whose competitive role is very secondary. (Although we do give prizes)

Student solutions to the USAMTS problems are graded by mathematicians and comments are returned to the students. Our goal is to help all students:

- Develop problem solving skills
- Improve their technical writing abilities
- Mature mathematically

We wish to foster not only insight, ingenuity and creativity, but also the virtue of perseverance, which is equally essential in scientific endeavors.

The USAMTS is one of the ways to enter the process of selecting the USA mathematical Olympiad team, which participants in the International Mathematical Olympiad. The USAMTS score necessary to qualify for the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) is set by the American mathematics Competitions (which run AIME) and varies from year to year. Students who score well on the USAMTS are invited to take the AIME, the second step in the process of selecting the USA Mathematical Olympiad Team.

With permission, USAMTS participant's names and addresses are provided to colleges, universities, and employers for recruitment purposes.

*The USAMTS is a program for the Art of Problem Solving Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit company.  
The USAMTS is primarily sponsored by the National Security Agency and other sponsors.*

**[www.usamts.org](http://www.usamts.org)**

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **How do I sign up for the USAMTS?**

Before the contest begins: Be sure that you are eligible to participate. Register on the USAMTS website [www.usamts.org](http://www.usamts.org), and read the rules.

### **Who is eligible to enter the USAMTS?**

Participants in the USA Mathematical Talent Search must be citizens or residents of the United States. (Sorry, we cannot make any exceptions to this rule. Students in the USAMTS must not have completed high school. Middle school students are permitted to participate.

Students who wish to participate must register on the USAMTS website and provide an email address to which USAMTS correspondence may be sent. (If you have registered in a past year, you do not need to register again.

### **Are there any prizes?**

Participants in the USAMTS are eligible for various prizes, such as books and software.

### **Can I join after the first round?**

Yes! Simply follow the ordinary registration instructions.

### **Why is the National Security Agency (NSA) sponsoring the USAMTS?**

NSA is one of the largest employers of mathematicians in the United States and perhaps the world. Mathematics is important for NSA's mission. NSA wants to encourage bright high school students to continue studying mathematics. The USAMTS comes with no strings attached. And you might find the benefits-working challenging problems and getting your name mentioned to colleges, universities and potential employers- to be worth the effort.

You can reach the USAMTS staff by any of the following methods:

Email: [usamts@usamts.org](mailto:usamts@usamts.org)

Mail: USAMTS, PO Box 4499, New York, NY 10163

Email is the best method to contact the USAMTS Staff.

