



First Announcement

New US math team to send young Americans to China

Greetings from the San Diego Math Circle,

My name is David Brown; I am the director of SDMC. For clarity, in respect to the following I am acting as an advisor; SDMC and I are lending support to the project described, but we are not sponsors or principals.

This message is directed to math circle directors and other leaders involved with young people engaged in high-level US math competitions. I wish to bring to your attention – *and in one aspect solicit your response to* – an independent project that will compose a new US math team that will, for the first time, send US students to the Hua Luo Geng Golden Cup Invitational Math Competition, held this year in Macau, China, August 14-18.

The Chinese rules limit participants in the Hua Cup to grades 1-7; two members of the final four-member team are to come from the 7th grade and two from grades 1-6. The team that will be assembled thus roughly resembles a MathCounts all-star team in character.

The organization managing the selection and fielding of the US Hua Cup team is Math Talent Quest (MTQ). MTQ is a single-purpose organization not affiliated with any business, government, educational institution, nor even a math circle such as SDMC. MTQ has negotiated with the Hua Cup board of directors to admit the US team and has obtained financial sponsorship covering all the off-shore costs the team will require such as trans-Pacific air travel, room and board while in China, and other competition-related costs. Further sponsorship is being sought, but at present any domestic costs (such as travel to a west coast travel hub) appear likely to be the responsibility of the team participants and their families.

Math Talent Quest aims to make the selection process as straightforward and as open as possible, using internet-based processes to manage registration, the transmission of information such as screening exam contents, results, training activities, and team communications. The entire MTQ selection process is free; there are no registration, materials, shipping, or processing fees. The whole of the selection

process will be managed through the MTQ website: www.mathtalentquest.org . The preliminary screening exam is set for April 17.

That said, we do have a specific request of you as a math leader in your region. For two specific purposes, we solicit your input – your nominations, if you will – of national caliber students in grades 1-8 with whom you are acquainted. (Note that though the rules of the Hua Cup exclude 8th graders, the US process will include and honor 8th graders as part of the national team, though they will not travel to China.) Please bear in mind that since the national team is quite small, nominations of more than a couple of your very best will dilute the usefulness of your input.

Why nominate? There are two reasons: 1) The selection process being employed by Math Talent Quest is new; it will be helpful as a quality control check to see how your nominees fare in the selection process. 2) Since the MTQ selection process is new, it is possible that unforeseen complications may impair its effectiveness; in that case your nominations may provide independent perspective that may contribute materially to the final selection of the US team.

To nominate a student, please provide:

Student's name (please include variations that may affect auditing of competition records)

Current grade / Date of birth

Student's current school (please include sufficient address or contact information for uniqueness)

Student's citizenship / residency status

Parent names and contact information

A resume of national-level competition results, including, e.g., AMCs, MathCounts, MOEMS, etc.

Any remarks you feel may be relevant.

Registrations for the April 17 screening exam are already being made from random locations around the country, but you can help assure that the screening process reaches the right students by using your own local means to let your students know about Math Talent Quest.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

David W. Brown

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