

Coach's Tips for the WSMC High School Mathematics Contest

Often potential coaches tell me that they just couldn't get a team together or they couldn't get interest up for the Project Question. Here is a list of suggestions/tips for you to consider during your recruitment and your preparation for the contest.

1. Share with the students the benefits of participating. These benefits include:
 - Challenging themselves
 - Earning recognition (plaques, ribbons, medals, pins, and valuable prizes)
 - Building up their résumés and portfolios for scholarships and admissions
 - Practicing for the WASL as the contest questions are in a format resembling the WASL
 - Meeting other students from the state that also enjoy the power of mathematics
 - Pitting your skills and abilities against others and against a common standard
 - Getting to know older and younger classmen in your own school as well as those from around the state
 - A fun way to work with you
2. Check out the website for practice problems
3. Start talking about it early so that they are ready and psyched
4. Get your registration in early, post it around the school and put it in bulletins
5. Just read the Project Question to math classes and ask if anyone is interested in the topic (often they will get others they want to work with interested)
6. Submit requisitions and registrations right away
7. Work on team problem solving strategies:
 - Read problems and restate them in your own words to the fellow team members
 - Decide what the problem(s) is/are asking to be done
 - Brain storm possible strategies to solve the problem and prioritize them by likeliness to solve the problem
 - Identify a team game plan: like dividing work among team members making uses of the individual talents in the team
 - Apply the chosen strategies and make sure that you have answered the question(s) and all done all of the parts of the question

Before filling in the registration form, make a few copies as it is likely that you will have changes. You may want to enter names and fill in the school information before you make the copies but it is advisable to assign team after you make copies. Also, it is helpful to have a completed copy for registration and one for you at the regional contest.

We hope these tips are helpful. If you have questions, comments, tips, problems, suggestions for problems, or any other thoughts, please contact Jim Miller.

Additional Information for Coaches

Requirements and Benchmarks for Qualifying for State

Projects: Top three teams in each region will qualify for state. If there are fewer than 3 projects in a region, projects from other regions will be invited to fill those spots.

Team Problem: The first place varsity team in the division, the top 10% of the varsity teams from the region by division, and those varsity teams that meet or exceed the benchmark score. The benchmark score for the division I schools is 20 and for division II schools is 18.

Topical Team: The first place team in the division, the top 10% of the teams from the region by division, and those teams that meet or exceed the benchmark score. The benchmark score for the division I schools is 110 and for division II schools is 100.

Topical Individual: The first place individual, the top 10% of the individuals from the region, those individuals that meet or exceed the benchmark score of 90, and those individuals that are recognized as Distinguished in their region.

Knowdown: Top three individuals from each region. If one of the top three from the region is not able to go to state, then the regional director may substitute the next highest player.

Note Additional Invitees: If there is additional room at state the State Chairman has the prerogative of inviting additional individual students and teams to state.

Awards Not Received in the Case of Ties in the Topical or for Other Reasons.

If you did not get the awards that are due to your team, please email the state director (Jim Miller at millerion@cleelum.com). By doing so, there will be a double check system in place to insure you receive your awards.

You must confirm your team's participation at State with the State Coordinator through e-mail or phone. If you have qualifying teams and/or individuals that can't make it, we would like to be able to invite others as replacements. Please email the State Coordinator at least **10 days** prior to the State Contest.

State will be at Eisenhower High School in Yakima on April 21, 2007. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM.	<u>Schedule:</u> 8:30 Registration 9:30 Orientation 9:50 Team Problem 11:00 Topical Problems 12:20 Projects ~1:30 Knowdown ~2:30 Awards and Coach's packets
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Watch the website for additional information on the website.

Note: There are additional opportunities for participation at state in the Ad Hoc Topical Teams and the newly organized Ad Hoc Team Problem.

If you have any questions or comments please send them to:

Jim Miller
201 Elk Haven Road
Cle Elum, WA 98922
509-649-4911
millerion@cleelum.com