

NATIONAL COMPETITION INFORMATION BOOKLET

2014 Raytheon **MATHCOUNTS**[®] National Competition
Orlando, FL ▪ May 8 - 11, 2014

This booklet contains all of the information needed for students, coaches and guests planning to attend the 2014 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition. After reading this booklet, please visit www.mathcounts.org/nationalcompetition and complete the proper online registration forms. **Every individual planning to attend the National Competition must complete an online student, coach, coordinator or guest/guest volunteer registration form.**

It is important to point out that there are three types of attendees for whom this Information Booklet is intended. Before reading the booklet, you should determine to which group you belong. They are as follows:

Competing Students

(also referred to as Students) - These are the 224 Mathletes[®] who were chosen at the State Competitions to represent their state at the National Competition. If this is you, congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment! Each state has four students per team.

Official Team Coaches

(also referred to as Coaches) - This is the group of 56 Coaches selected to lead each of the state teams. Your remarkable leadership earned you this spot on the state team, and we will call upon you to lead your team throughout the weekend. **Each state can have only one official coach** - there are no exceptions to this rule!

Guests

This group consists of everyone else! Whether you are a family member, friend, assistant coach, coordinator, or other enthusiastic supporter of the program, we are happy to have you join us for this event.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Students/ Coaches:

After the State Competition, the state coordinator will take your information from the State Team Info Sheet and work with the MATHCOUNTS National Office to make your travel arrangements. Teams close enough to drive will do so; all other teams will fly to the National Competition. Tickets will be purchased through ATC Travel, and **each student and coach will have an e-ticket sent to him/her with the flight information within one week of the State Competition. If you have not received your e-ticket within one week of your State Competition, please contact your state coordinator.** Teams will arrive on Thursday and return home on Sunday. All flights will arrive and depart from Orlando International Airport (MCO). If flights do not allow a team to arrive by 5:00 PM on Thursday, teams will be allowed to travel on Wednesday, with the cost of Wednesday's hotel and early meals paid by MATHCOUNTS. Please note that if teams approved for early travel opt to arrive before Wednesday, the team will be responsible for any hotel and meal costs incurred before Wednesday. (Early arrival is available for other teams, but they, too, must cover additional hotel and meal costs.) Every effort will be made to make reservations so that the students and coach travel together.

Guests:

Guests are responsible for their own travel arrangements. For your convenience, you may make your airline reservations with ATC Travel, which is booking all team travel. You may call ATC Travel at **(800) 458-9383** Monday through Friday, from **8:30 AM - 7:00 PM EST** or email them at mathcounts@atcmeetings.com. ATC Travel will try to coordinate your travel with the team's travel if space allows.

Important travel notes: Tickets are non-refundable. Changes made after ticketing may result in penalties imposed by the airlines, which will be the responsibility of the traveler. At the airport, please be sure to have your e-ticket confirmation and photo identification available to receive your boarding pass.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Students/ Coaches: Ground transportation to and from your home airport is each individual's responsibility. For teams arriving on Thursday, complimentary airport transfers will be arranged to the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort. Uniformed MATHCOUNTS representatives will greet teams at the baggage claim areas and direct teams to the MATHCOUNTS shuttle. For teams arriving Wednesday or earlier, the team will be responsible for making its own way from the airport to the hotel; however, MATHCOUNTS will reimburse team members for the cost of this travel. On Sunday, MATHCOUNTS will also provide complimentary departure shuttles from the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort to the airport.

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Guests: Space permitting, guests may purchase seats on the shuttles that will transport the teams to and from the hotel. Guests may purchase seats on the shuttle by completing the appropriate section on the online Guest/Guest Volunteer Registration Form.

HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS

The Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort is the headquarters for the 2014 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition. Its address is 1500 Epcot Resorts Blvd., Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830. Telephone: 407-934-4000. All MATHCOUNTS events will be held in the Swan unless otherwise noted.

Students/ Coaches: Reservations will be made for students and coaches on a double occupancy basis, upon receipt of your on-line registration form. Rooms will be assigned according to gender. **Students will be roomed with other students.** Team members may not always be roomed with their teammates. Room and tax for students and coaches will be billed to the master account. Students and coaches are responsible for their incidental personal expenses. An imprint of the coach's credit card is required at check-in to cover incidental expenses of the team.

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Guests: Hotel accommodations are the responsibility of each guest. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Swan for MATHCOUNTS guests at a special rate of \$169 per night plus 12.5% room tax. (*The standard rate for that weekend is \$250 per night.*) Make your reservation directly with the hotel by calling the reservation line at 800-227-1500 or use the online reservation service available on the online registration form at www.mathcounts.org/nationalcompetition. Be sure to identify yourself as part of the MATHCOUNTS room block.

MEALS

Students/ Coaches: Team meals are planned and begin with a buffet dinner at the Swan on Thursday and conclude with breakfast on Sunday. Teams are required to show their badges for entry to the dining areas.

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Guests: Guests who wish to dine with the students and coaches may do so for selected meals and may purchase admission to meals on the Guest/Guest Volunteer Registration Form. Guests will be provided with tickets for the meals they purchase when they check in at the MATHCOUNTS registration desk at the Swan. No guest will be allowed into the dining areas without a ticket.

DISNEY THEME PARKS - FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Students/ Coaches: During the National Competition, teams will be given the chance to visit the Disney theme parks of their choice on Friday and Saturday. Students and coaches will be provided with a complimentary 2-day ticket to Walt Disney World theme parks for use during those times. Students and coaches wishing to visit Disney theme parks before or after the competition will be responsible for purchasing those tickets on their own. In addition to park tickets, students and coaches will receive complimentary Disney meal coupons for use on Saturday. The 2-day tickets will be valid for admission to one of the four Disney theme parks (one park per day) for each day.

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Guests: Parents and family members are welcome to purchase the same 2-day ticket package that students and coaches will receive for Friday and Saturday. These tickets are available at a special Disney Youth Group rate of \$137.39. Guests are also welcome to purchase a Disney meal coupon available at a special Disney Youth Group rate of \$17.50. Tickets and meal coupons are available for purchase at the Disney link provided on the online Guest/Guest Volunteer Registration Form. Please note that the Walt Disney World theme park tickets and meal coupons must be purchased from Disney directly and not through MATHCOUNTS. Purchased tickets and meal coupons can either be mailed to you or picked up on-site at one of the Group Will Call windows at any of the Disney theme parks listed on the Disney link.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sum of All Thrills (Friday, May 9, 7:00 - 10:00 PM) - After a thrilling day of competition, all students and coaches will be given exclusive access to the Sum of All Thrills attraction located at the Innoventions East Pavilion at Epcot. Presented by Raytheon, Sum of All Thrills was unveiled in October, 2009, and is the first ride to be located in the Innoventions Pavilion at Epcot. This event will be closed to the public so MATHCOUNTS participants will have exclusive access to the Sum of All Thrills attraction and all other exhibits within the pavilion.

Interactive and customizable, Sum of All Thrills lets guests of all ages create their own experience by first choosing a ride theme, including a roller coaster, bobsled or jet plane. Using multitouch, object recognition tables, guests use math and engineering-based tools to design and customize their ride by adding corkscrews, inversions or steep hills. Guests will then experience their custom ride from beginning to end on the robotic KUKA RoboSim 4-D simulator, which combines immersive high definition video and stereo sound to provide a complete sensory experience.

Guests may purchase admission to this event. Guest price includes admission to attraction and casual buffet dinner (to be served from 7:00 - 8:30 PM). If you would like to purchase admission to this event, guests may do so on the online Guest/Guest Volunteer Registration Form.

***** Please note: In order to attend this event, guests must purchase a park pass to Epcot. Guests may do so by purchasing the 2-day ticket package available through the Disney link provided on the online Guest/Guest Volunteer Registration Form.**

Transportation to and from Sum of All Thrills will not be provided by MATHCOUNTS. All attendees should plan to use either the complimentary water taxis or Disney shuttle buses, both of which run approximately every 15 -20 minutes to and from Epcot and the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort. Guests may also walk to Epcot from the hotel.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE HOTEL

Students/ Coaches: MATHCOUNTS registration will open at 10:00 AM on Thursday at the Check-in and Registration Desk at the Swan. The registration desk will be open daily and can be reached through the hotel switchboard. The coach should check in at the MATHCOUNTS registration desk (*not* the hotel registration desk). Coaches will receive packets for each team member that contain name badges and other information. Name badges should be put on immediately and worn at all times while inside the hotel.

Room keys for teams also will be distributed at the MATHCOUNTS registration desk after 3:00 PM on Thursday. A hospitality room will be available to teams arriving before 3:00 PM.

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Guests: Guests may check in at the MATHCOUNTS registration desk any time after 10:00 AM to receive their MATHCOUNTS name badge, meal tickets (if purchased), and other information. Guests who have booked rooms at the hotel must check in at the hotel registration desk in order to get their room keys. Check-in time at the hotel is 3:00 PM. Guests who drive to the competition may park on site for \$15.00 plus tax per day.

Important hotel notes: *The costs for luggage handling upon arrival and departure have been prepaid for students and coaches; therefore, cash tips to the bellmen are not necessary. All other guests are asked to tip appropriately.*

EXPENSE POLICY

Students/ Coaches: Airline tickets, hotel room and tax, and all meals will be covered by MATHCOUNTS. All incidental personal charges are the responsibility of the person incurring the expense. Incidental charges include, but are not limited to, telephone, room service, and food and beverage other than meals listed on the schedule of events. Incidental charges must be paid at time of check-out and will be guaranteed with the coach's credit card upon check-in.

Student Spending Money: Parental discretion is recommended. It is safe to assume that the most ordinary purchases tend to be more expensive away from home. This rule of thumb is applicable to the Orlando area. Students will likely need some touring money while visiting the Walt Disney World theme parks and may wish to purchase souvenirs or snacks throughout the weekend.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Students/Coaches: All students must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner while attending the National Competition. **Students are the responsibility of and remain under the direct supervision of their coaches throughout the weekend.** Students must be in the company of adult chaperones at all times.

Group activities during the competition weekend have been carefully planned for the enjoyment and benefit of all students. **Students and coaches are expected to attend all MATHCOUNTS activities.** Illegal substances will not be permitted. Any infraction of this student conduct code could result in dismissal from the National Competition at the individual's expense. Coaches, parents and guardians should stress to students the importance of adhering to the rules.

Dress code: Casual dress is appropriate for all events except the Awards Banquet, where a sport coat and tie or appropriate length dress are suggested (no jeans). The temperature in Florida is warm in the spring. In May, the average high temperature is 87°, and the average low is 65°. Certain indoor venues, however, can sometimes be a bit chilly, so during the competition itself we suggest dressing in layers that can be removed if desired.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do I have to do now to complete my registration?

Students (with the help of their parents/guardians) should complete and submit the Student Registration Form online. Coaches should complete and submit the Coach Registration Form online. Guests should complete and submit the Guest/Guest Volunteer Registration Form online. Students and coaches - remember to send in your pictures for the yearbook! All online registrations can be accessed at www.mathcounts.org/nationalcompetition.

Who should I contact if I have any questions?

For general questions, you should contact your state coordinator. If you have a question regarding registration, please contact the MATHCOUNTS National Competition Registration Office at 866-288-4329 or mathcounts2014@conferencedirect.com.

How can I check to see if my child has arrived on site? Who should I call if I have any questions during the competition?

Parents or guardians who would like to call their children during the competition may do so by calling the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin at 407-934-4000 and ask to be connected to the child's room. If you want to check to see if your child has registered, you may call the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin and ask to be connected to the MATHCOUNTS registration desk. It is also recommended that you get the phone numbers for your child's state coach and state coordinator.

What should I pack?

In addition to the normal items you would bring when travelling, be sure to bring a camera, calling card/cell phone, umbrella, calculator (and extra batteries), prescription medicine (if necessary), money, photo identification, comfortable shoes or sneakers to walk in, and a good luck charm if you have one!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(All events will be held at the Walt Disney World Swan unless otherwise noted. Schedule is subject to change.)

THURSDAY, MAY 8

Morning/Afternoon	Arrivals	2:00 PM	Countdown Round
		3:30 PM	State Teams at Epcot
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	MATHCOUNTS Registration	7:00 - 10:00 pm	Dinner and entertainment at Sum of All Thrills at Epcot
3:00 PM or later	Team room key pick-up		Lights out!
3:00 PM or later	Hotel check-in for guests	Upon return to hotel	
6:00 - 8:00 PM	Buffet dinner for students		
6:00 - 8:00 PM	Coaches meeting and dinner		
8:00 PM	State Team meetings		
10:00 PM	Lights out!		

FRIDAY, MAY 9

7:30 - 8:30 AM	Buffet breakfast
8:45 - 11:15 AM	Written Competition
9:30 - 10:30 AM	Seminar- After MATHCOUNTS: Opportunities for High School Students
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Buffet Lunch

SATURDAY, MAY 10

7:45 - 8:45 AM	Buffet breakfast
9:00 - 10:00 AM	Math Video Challenge Finals
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM	State Teams at Disney Theme Parks
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Awards ceremony and banquet
11:00 PM	Lights out!

SUNDAY, MAY 11

Morning/Afternoon	Departures
6:00 - 8:00 AM	Buffet Breakfast
11:00 AM or earlier	Guest hotel check-out