

## A DESCRIPTION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS CONTEST

DATE OF CONTEST: TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012

LOCATION OF CONTEST: EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY  
WRIGHT AUDITORIUM

### Enrollment of Schools

Only schools east of I-95 are eligible to participate at the East Carolina University's testing site for the North Carolina State Mathematics contest.

Each school desiring to enter the contest should designate one person (principal or a teacher of mathematics) as official Contest Supervisor. The Contest Supervisor shall be responsible for completing the Official School Enrollment Form and for conducting all necessary correspondence with the Contest Chairman or Secretary at ECU.

The School Enrollment Form is enclosure (2). If your school desires to participate in the contest, the Contest Supervisor for your school should fill out this form and return to the Math Contest secretary:

**Mrs. Gwen Hardin**  
**East Carolina University**  
**Mathematics Department**  
**124 Austin**  
**Greenville, NC 27858**  
**252-328-4111**  
**harding@ecu.edu**

If you have any questions regarding the contest, please contact Mrs. Hardin at her e-mail address or by phone. The form should be mailed early enough to be received by the Math contest secretary before **Monday, January 23, 2012.** **We need this information early so we can get room assignments. Last year we ran out of rooms and had to turn down schools from participating. Please get your information in as soon as possible to secure a spot for your students.**

### Eligibility and Permissible Number of Contestants

There will be four areas in the contest: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and Comprehensive. A student may compete in only one area.

**A student may compete in Algebra I, Geometry or Algebra II if he/she has been enrolled in the course during the present academic year (August 2011 – June 2012). For more information see attached State rules. All students are eligible to compete in the Comprehensive Exam.**

The School Enrollment Form (Enclosure 2) includes a table that indicates the maximum number of contestants each school is allowed to enter for each area of the contest and the minimum number of contestants required to qualify for a school award.

### Selection of Contestants

The method of selection and preparation of contestants is left to each individual school. However, the Contest Supervisor is urged to conduct special examinations for the selection of the contestants who will represent the school at the contest. These exams should be open to all eligible students who wish to compete.

This procedure, as outlined above, greatly increases the stimulating effects sought as one objective of the contest. It also has the advantage of supplying a list of alternates should one or more be needed due to last minute sickness or emergency involving the originally chosen contestants.

### Contestants' Fees

A fee of **\$7.00** will be charged for each contestant who competes in the contest. The entrance fee covers such internal expenses as printing of the examinations, Certificates of Participation, Certificates of Merit, Contest Day Programs, Wright Auditorium fee and purchase of Plaques and Trophies for the school awards.

Payment of the entrance fees must accompany the School Enrollment Form, **DUE Monday, January 23, 2012**. Contest Supervisors are requested to seek payment of fees from general school funds. Should this not be feasible, the Contest Supervisors are asked to collect the fee from each contestant. A check should be forwarded to the contest Secretary when the School Enrollment Form is submitted.

Upon receipt of the School Enrollment Form and the appropriate fees, the contest secretary will send the school's Contest Supervisor a letter acknowledging receipt of the fees, a map of the ECU campus (parking area marked), and further instructions pertaining to the Contest about 2-3 weeks prior to the contest.

### Description of Examinations

The examinations will be constructed to test speed as well as technical competence. The examinations will be keyed as closely as possible to those textbooks presently in use by a majority of schools in the Eastern North Carolina area. However, it will be assumed that the contestants have acquired a familiarity with the body of mathematical topics commonly discussed in a contemporary course of the same area of the contest in which they participated, regardless of the textbooks studied.

For the Comprehensive Area, questions will be included which cut across the bounds of various mathematical disciplines. Self-contained questions that do not fit into any of the usual categories may be included. It is also expected that the self-contained questions involving elementary concepts will not be entirely foreign to the contestant's experience.

Each contestant is to work completely independent of all other contestants. There is to be no collaboration among contestants.

The test for each of the four areas of the contest will consist of problems or questions in which five multiple-choice answers are given. The contestant is to choose the one "best" answer for each. There will be forty questions on each test.

### Testing and Grading Procedure

The contest will be conducted as one continuous test for 80 minutes after the contestants have reached their respective testing area and have been briefed by their respective test proctors.

### **PLEASE NOTE CALCULATOR POLICY:**

<p><b>WE ARE NO LONGER ALLOWING ANY CALCULATORS TO BE USED ON ANY EXAMS GIVEN AT THE EAST CAROLINA MATHEMATICS CONTEST.</b></p>
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If any student should become sick or incapacitated in any way while taking the examination, this student may be excused from the testing room and rendered ineligible. Should the student being excused desire medical attention, he or she will be escorted to the campus infirmary immediately. (For the purposes of computing the mean score of any school, the mean will be computed on the basis of those students completing tests.)

The score made by each contestant will be arrived at solely by counting the number of problems answered correctly.

### Awards

For superior performance, awards shall be presented as follows:

#### 1. Individual Awards.

- a) Certificates of Merit will be given to each student who takes part in the Contest. (The Contest Supervisor from each school will be given these certificates upon registration on Contest Day.)
- b) Plaque for First Place will be presented in each Contest area and a Certificate of Achievement will be awarded to the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth place winners in each area. The Certificate of Achievement will be presented in the afternoon Assembly. At this time the recipients will be announced and given due recognition. Students eligible for the next level of competition will be announced and given entry packets in the afternoon assembly (top 10% in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and the top 8% in Comprehensive).

## 2. School Awards.

- a) Area awards will be given in each of the four areas in the contest. The awards will be determined by computing the mean of the scores made by the contestants who complete their tests. NOTE: To qualify for an area award, a school must enter at least 75% of the Maximum Permissible Number of Contestants for that area (See Enclosure 2).
- b) Overall awards will be given for total school performance. The awards will be determined by computing the mean of the standardized scores made by the contestants who complete their tests. For the competition, a Senior High School must qualify in at least two areas of competition including at least one of Algebra II or Comprehensive and a Middle/Junior High School must enter at least one area.

School competition for the contest will be divided into the following divisions:

4A High Schools  
3A High Schools  
2A High Schools  
1A High Schools  
Middle/Junior High Schools  
Private and/or Parochial Schools

NOTE: Middle/Junior High School Division. A school will participate in the Middle/ Junior High School Division if it does not have an 11th or 12th grade.

Senior High School Division. A school will participate in the Senior High School if it has a 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Presentation of Other Awards

It is hoped that the winners in each area will also be honored at some assembly in their respective schools. The arrangement of such recognition is the responsibility of the Contest Supervisor. It is suggested that the above named assembly be Honors Day or Awards Day or some other special occasion at the winner's school. If the above arrangement is followed, this accomplishes another objective of the contest, that of recognizing those due public recognition.

It is also suggested that the Certificate of Participation be held by the Contest Supervisor and presented to the school's participants when such an assembly is held.

### Publicity

The Contest Committee Chair, in liaison with the News Bureau of East Carolina University, shall be responsible for periodically releasing information of interest to the public relating to the contest. At the local level, it is suggested that at least two news articles be prepared:

1. The first could report the students who have been chosen as contestants to represent their respective school (to be released before Contest Day).
2. The second could report that the school was represented at the contest by certain specified students (to be released after Contest Day).

Those schools having winners in the contest will have a third opportunity to publicize their achievements. Any publicity you generate involving the contest, whether it be pre-publicity or post-publicity, should be brought to the attention of the Contest Chair.

### Incidentals

The responsibility for making arrangements for transportation to the ECU campus on Contest Day lies solely with the respective Contest Supervisors. East Carolina University or any person or persons within its employment cannot reimburse any individual or group of individuals for expenses incurred in traveling to or from the Contest.

Neither can East Carolina University nor any person or persons within its employment assume the responsibility for the safety and well being of the contestants and supervisors while enroute to or from the Contest or while on the ECU Campus. If there is a responsibility for such matters, it lies with the

individual Contest Supervisor.

### Schedule for Contest Day

Specific information will be given for this schedule when the final details are mailed to participating schools (approximately two to three weeks before Contest Day). For your information, we expect to begin testing promptly at 10:00 a.m. in designated test areas on campus.

### Lunch on Contest Day

Each participating school and its contestants will be responsible for lunch on Contest Day. There are several nearby places within walking distance where a student may eat lunch. Some of these are McDonald's, Wendy's, Arbys, Subway and Mikes Deli. On campus the Wright place, Todd Dining Hall, Sweethearts, and Mendenhall Student Center are available. Some schools might want to consider a bag lunch or picnic for their contestants. A vehicle will be provided to transport the bus drivers to and from their buses during the lunch break (11:30 - 1:30).

### Summary

Smoking is not permitted in any of the buildings on the ECU Campus. You must be at least 25 feet away from any buildings while smoking.

It is believed that this description of the contest, in its final form, answers all questions that might arise at this time. However, should you have questions, address your correspondence to the Contest Chair or Mrs. Gwen Hardin and the answers will be provided with minimum delay.

As a final note, please take special precaution in completing the enclosed School Enrollment Form. **PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION.**

The members of the Contest Committee and representatives of ECU look forward to seeing and talking with you on Contest Day,