

Are you looking for a chance to reward and showcase your best math students -- and the chance to share the winning contestant's \$10,000 award with your math department?

The American Mathematical Society (AMS) is again conducting its national contest for high school students, *Who Wants to Be a Mathematician*, with a top prize of \$5,000 for the winning student and \$5,000 for the math department of that student's school. There is no fee to participate.

**When/where:* The 2016 contest will take place Thursday, January 7, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Convention Center in Seattle, Washington. The event is part of the Joint Mathematics Meetings, which will take place January 6-9, 2016.

Qualifying test:* Contestants are chosen based on their scores on qualifying tests. There are two rounds of tests, which will be conducted online (but if you absolutely can't do the test online, we can send you a hard copy) thanks to Maplesoft, the national *Who Wants to Be a Mathematician* technology sponsor. The first round will be Sept. 19 through Oct. 3. There will also be a practice test available so you and your students can become accustomed to the test procedure. **The AMS strongly advises practicing so that you and your students are familiar with the system when it's time to take the round one test.

**Qualifying procedure:* Teachers should email paoffice at ams dot org and let us know that you'd like to participate. Starting Sept. 14 the AMS Public Awareness Office will send you an Excel file with 50 login names and passwords for your students in addition to a teacher/proctor password for you. You may want to whitelist paoffice at ams dot org, just to make sure the original message gets through.

Each student who plans to take the online test must have his or her own password. You don't have to use all 50 logins, but if you need more student names and passwords, just let us know. The test is a timed (15-minute), closed-book, no-calculator (and no other electronic help) test. Past participants in the national *Who Wants to Be a Mathematician* are eligible to compete again.

New bonus this year:* Each school that participates in qualifying will receive a **\$30 gift certificate from the Art of Problem Solving (AoPS), our online community sponsor. The gift certificates are valid towards the purchase of any AoPS published book or an enrollment in any AoPS online class, and expire at the end of the 2015-16 school year.

Deadline:* The first-round testing period ends **Oct. 3. Students who score eight or above on the 10-question first-round test will move on to the second round of testing later in October. The AMS will select 10 contestants from different regions of the U.S. from the second round of testing to compete in the 2016 contest in January in Seattle.

**Contest format:* There will be two semifinal games, each with five of the contestants. The winners of the two semifinals will go "head-to-head" in the finals for the national championship. The champion will win \$5,000 for himself or herself, \$5,000 for your math department, a traveling trophy for you to display at the school until the 2017 contest, a trophy for the school/department to keep, and an individual trophy for the winner to keep. All contestants will win prizes, cash for themselves, and cash for your department (the minimum cash prize is \$500 for the student and \$500 for the department). The AMS will reimburse reasonable travel expenses and room and board for each contestant and a parent/guardian for a maximum of two nights. Contestants and their parent(s)/guardian(s) are welcome to attend other events at the meeting.

**From past participants: "Thanks so much for this amazing opportunity, and our school certainly appreciates the support, too!"*

"Thanks so much for everything! The entire competition was an amazing experience that was unlike anything I've ever been a part of."

**See more about the contest at*

<http://www.ams.org/programs/students/wwtbam/wwtbamnational>.