

This is an early preview of the conference program.

Summer Mathematics Programs Consortium

2024 Conference Schedule Part 1: Members & Affiliates

Thursday, September 19

5:00 – 9:00 pm Member + Affiliates Dinner + Social

Hotel check in begins at 4pm. During the evening, stop by to pick up conference materials, and connect or reconnect in an informal gathering. (Organizer: Anita Chou)

Friday, September 20

7:00 – 8:30 am Breakfast ("Prefunction" indoor area and outdoor terrace)

8:45 – 9:00 am Check-in / Get your badge / Take a COVID-19 test ("Prefunction" area)

9:00 – 9:15 am Opening remarks by the Conference Committee (Conf. A)

9:15 – 9:30 am Brief introductions of all present with slides (Conf. A)

9:30 – 10:45 am Committee Reports from 2023–24 (Conf. A)

The committees (501c, DEI, Fundraising, Incubator, Internal Document Repository, Online Hub, Steering) will present about their work from the past year and what's coming next. Learn about the benefits that we all derive from committee work, and what each committee needs from our community to continue their work going forward!

10:45 – 11:00 am Upload-a-thon prep time (Conf. A)

Led by the Internal Document Repository committee. This morning, we will generate a list of documents that people here are specifically looking for. Need a gift policy? What about a feedback form about your website? Bring your program's wishlist for resources!

11:00 – 11:15 am Short stretch break (and head to your session room)

11:15 – 12:15 pm Working Sessions, Part 1

All working sessions are open to all members and affiliates. If you have been / will be putting time into committee work during the 2024–25 academic year, then today is a great opportunity to connect with fellow members of your committee and to brainstorm ideas for our shared work! (Otherwise, choose freely among the topics.)

- **Working group: Developing the DEI vision for the Consortium** (Conf. A)

Led by the DEI committee. It's clear that DEI is important to the consortium and its members, but it's not so clear what that looks like in practice. Guided by responses to the survey sent out earlier this year, we'll workshop a DEI vision statement that

indicates both the consortium's broad diversity goals and how it will support members seeking to improve the inclusivity of their programs. (Facilitator: Serina Hu)

- **Working group: Creating the “interesting stuff” content of the Online Hub** (Conf. E)
Led by the Online Hub committee. We're making a public website in which the core feature will be profiles with nuts-and-bolts info about each Consortium member and affiliate program aimed at prospective students, families, and educators. What other static, rotating, or regularly updated pages would be valuable and keep the site fresh? How can we sustainably create new content while ensuring quality? Let's brainstorm. (Facilitator: Online Hub Committee)
- **Discussion: Admissions and Referrals** (Conf. Six)
We're always striving to make the application processes less cumbersome for students; let's see if we can make incremental progress together. What's our best strategy for setting our application deadline dates? How can we effectively make referrals between our programs, and point those who need more preparation to appropriate resources? (Facilitator: Maya Saran)
- **Building the future: Peer-to-peer support for program leaders** (Conf. Eight)
Outside of the fall Consortium conference, we're mostly siloed in our Committee work. Could the Consortium develop a more active network to support one another in our capacities as individual leaders on a year-round basis? In what ways can we collaborate to foster one another's growth? (Facilitator: April Verser)
*** This "Building the Future" session reports back at 4:30pm.*

12:15 – 1:30 pm Lunch (Conference Dining Room and adjacent outdoor patio)

1:30 – 2:30 pm Working Sessions Part 2

- **Working group: Creating access to DEI training for Consortium programs** (Conf. A)
Led by the DEI committee. From the DEI survey, access to training was one of the most popular requests for support of individual programs' DEI work. Provide input to the DEI committee regarding the topics, structure, and frequency or availability of training sessions or modules relevant to DEI topics. (Facilitator: Enrico Celestino Colón)
- **Discussion: Culture-setting in the context of high-achieving students** (Conf. E)
How do selective-admission summer programs defy the pressure-cooker culture of high-achieving student expectations? (Facilitator: Rick Sommer)
- **Discussion: Hiring for seasonal and year-round staff** (Conf. Six)
Our summer programs have very specific staffing needs. From recruitment of qualified candidates, to testing the waters in a staff member's first summer, to cultivating year-round staff, it's challenging to hire the right people! Let's share about what's worked (and what hasn't) at each stage of the process of hiring staff. (Facilitator: sarah-marie belcastro)
- **Building the future: Cross-program recruiting, publicity, social media** (Conf. Eight)
How we present our ecosystem; messaging about the individual character of each program, and helping students figure out which programs are the right fit; combating

negative internet culture on AoPS; identifying venues for getting our message out (e.g. outreach to teachers, math circles). (Facilitator: Cody Patterson)

**** This "Building the Future" session reports back at 4:30pm.**

2:40 – 3:40 pm Working Sessions Part 3

- **Working group: Your Conference wishlist for the future** (Conf. A)
Led by the Conference committee. As the Consortium grows, how will the Conference evolve? Let's generate ideas about future conference sites, speakers, themes, and more. (Facilitator: Dionissi Aliprantis)
**** This "Working group" session reports back at 4:30pm.**
- **Working group: Revising "The Pitch"** (Conf. E)
Over the past few months the Fundraising Committee has been working on a 'Pitch' document to be used to support our fundraising efforts. This document is meant to help funders see the importance of our work and motivate them to support us. We'll present a full draft of this document, share our thinking, and ask for feedback! (Facilitator: Doug O'Roark)
- **Discussion: Anticipating and Navigating Organizational Change** (Conf. Six)
How to strengthen your organization's institutional knowledge, with an eye towards navigating leadership transitions when it's time. Topics include:
 - *Strengthening institutional memory and working collaboratively. As you develop your program's systems, what's your strategy for building out the manual? How much is written down, and how much is just in your head? Who among your fellow staff / volunteers has access to what information? Even if succession planning isn't currently on the horizon (but especially if it is), can you increase your "[bus number](#)"?*
 - *Cultivating a pipeline of future leaders. What opportunities are there in your program for summer faculty/staff to evince interest in leadership roles?*
 - *Navigating change. When it's time for a leadership transition, what tools / approaches can make this happen smoothly? Especially if your community is really built around a specific ethos, how do you help your students and staff to make peace with change?**(Facilitator: Marisa Debowsky)*
- **Building the future: Consortium resource wishlist** (Conf. Eight)
Running a non-profit organization requires a wide range of resources to operate effectively. By thinking together, we can identify the most valuable shared resources for our Consortium. What resources would most benefit your program? For example, do you need access to specialized professionals like legal counsel for contracts and compliance, risk managers for safety and insurance, financial managers for budgeting, or adolescent psychologists for student well-being? Would HR experts for staff training or IT support for managing technology be valuable? Let's collaborate to determine the components needed to build a comprehensive infrastructure that provides access to the best consultants and resources at shared costs. (Facilitator: Elena Yakubovskaya)
**** This "Building the Future" session reports back at 4:30pm.**

3:40 – 4:00 pm Short Break

4:00 – 4:30 pm **Upload-a-thon Part 2** (Conf. A)

Led by the Internal Document Repository committee. This morning, we generated a list of documents that people here are specifically looking for. Now is your opportunity to meet someone's need! In this session, each program will upload a document to the repository to kick things off. If your program is sending a group of folks, this is a good opportunity for you all to work together. The Internal Document Repository committee will be on hand to answer questions and help you solve problems!

4:30 – 5:30 pm **Circling Back and Consortium Next Steps** (Conf. A)

Reporting back from the "future brainstorming" sessions, and making plans for the next steps of the Consortium. (Facilitator: Li-Mei Lim)

This concludes the portion of the conference that is designed for Members and Affiliates. The rest of the program (below) is open to all participants!

This is an early preview of the conference program.

Summer Mathematics Programs Consortium

2024 Conference Schedule Part 2: All Participants

Friday, September 20

- 5:30 – 8:00 pm** Dinner on your own or in small groups
Hotel check in begins at 4pm. Meet in Conference A at 5:30 if you'd like to coordinate with fellow participants for dinner plans.
- 8:00 – 9:30 pm** Welcome reception with dessert (Conf. A)
(Organizer: Rick Sommer & Barbara Meister)

Saturday, September 21

- 7:00 – 8:45 am** Breakfast ("Prefunction" indoor area and outdoor terrace)
- 8:45 – 9:00 am** Check-in / Get your badge / Take a COVID-19 test ("Prefunction" area)
- 9:00 – 9:05 am** Welcome from the Conference organizers (Salon IV)
- 9:05 – 9:30 am** Brief introductions of all present, with slides (Salon IV)
- 9:30 – 10:00 am** Opening remarks by the Steering Committee (Salon IV)
- 10:00 – 10:45 am** **Committee Presentations** (Salon IV)
Each committee (501(c)(3), Conference, DEI, Fundraising, Incubator, Internal Document Repository, Online Hub) will give a brief summary of their work and plans for the future.
- 10:45 – 11:00 am** Quick stretch break (don't go too far!)
- 11:00 – 11:05** Logistical notes and speaker introduction (*Presenter: Rick Sommer*)
- 11:05 – 12:05 pm** **Plenary Talk: Amy Shelton** (Salon IV)
Exploring Equitable Identification: Alternatives to the Traditional Test
- 12:15 – 1:30 pm** Lunch (Conference Dining Room and adjacent outdoor patio)

1:30 – 2:45 pm **ROUNDTABLES 1** (long format, 75 minutes)

- **Broadening Access - Pipelines for historically marginalized students** (Salon IV)
One of our core goals as a community of math enrichment programs is to develop pipelines for students from historically marginalized communities to access and thrive in our programs. In this roundtable, we'll have a wide-ranging discussion about the key questions: modern methods for talent identification and considerations for recruiting students outside the usual math talent pathways; admissions and support practices in the post-SFFA era; and how to help academically under-prepared but talented students in getting on the pathway of STEM enrichment. (Facilitator: TBD)
- **Leadership in challenging situations** (Salon V)
Learning and growing as an individual leader; building grace and patience into your reactions; and being prepared for unexpected unpleasantness. Putting organizational structures into place to help you weather the inevitable storms and provide support or safety nets for when things get tough. (Facilitator: Amber Verser)
- **Resources and advice for starting new summer math programs** (Salon VI)
Led by the Consortium Incubator Committee. The Consortium's Incubator for new summer math programs is scheduled to launch in February 2025, and the Incubator Committee is in the process of assembling resources and designing the "curriculum" for our first cohort of participants. We are looking for input from the community: In your experience, what are the biggest hurdles to starting a new summer math program? How can the Consortium best support prospective program organizers in overcoming these hurdles? We would love to hear both from long-running summer programs and from those who are just starting out. (Facilitator: Mira Bernstein)
- **Measuring success: how to evaluate our programs' efficacy** (Conf. E)
Intensive academic summer programs can be deeply transformational educational experiences. How do we assess what's working for our students and staff, and track it over time– both for grant application purposes, and for our own evolution and future plans? (Facilitator: Don Laackman)
- **Fostering a positive student environment at your program** (Conf. Eight)
How do you create a collaborative / uplifting / inclusive student culture? How do you combat impostor syndrome and support student and staff mental health? How do you create a sense of academic belonging, and does it vary across demographic groups? What is the role of the "camp" part of math camps, and what principles / structures are underlying the sense of play? (Facilitator: Quinton McArthur)
- **Staying connected with alumni** (Conf. Six)
A discussion of best practices for creating a vibrant alumni community. How do you build a cohesive network? How do you maintain connection? What resources do you provide? (Facilitator: TBD)

2:50 – 3:20 pm **Circling back** (Salon IV)

Representatives from each roundtable will present a summary of their group's discussion, with each representative having one slide of notes to facilitate their presentation.

3:20 – 3:30 pm **Group photo!** (Location W)

3:30 – 4:00 pm Coffee & Mingling Break (Prefunction Area and Outdoor Terrace)

4:00 – 4:45 pm ROUNDTABLES 2 (short format, 45 minutes)

- **Broadening access – DEI success stories from admissions** (Salon IV)
Led by the Consortium DEI committee. Sharing of expertise from programs that have had success in increasing outreach to low-access students, applications and yield from target outreach groups, and retention of underrepresented students. (Facilitator: TBD)
- **Leadership – Creating math spaces in which girls and women thrive** (Salon V)
How to cultivate classrooms and non-academic experiences in which girls are student leaders, and work environments in which women faculty/staff are supported and thriving. (Facilitator: Rachel Zhang)
- **The adventure and discovery of opening new sites** (Salon VI)
Hear from multi-site programs about the lessons learned along the way: a focus on culture, personnel, and the differences between expectation and reality. (Note that discussion of the logistics behind running a summer program is planned for Sunday.) (Facilitator: Tim All)
- **Fundraising Nitty-Gritty** (Conf. E)
Best practices, goal-setting, and top tips. (Facilitator: Max Warshauer)
- **Learn about College Admissions** (Conf. Eight)
A chance to ask all the questions that your students ask you. How important is research, really, to a college application? Who should write rec letters? Are supplemental letters helpful? (Facilitator: Chris Peterson)
- **Curriculum in a Box** (Conf. Six)
In your own program, how do you preserve curriculum ideas from year to year, or pass on knowledge between instructors? How might we share curriculum ideas among our programs? Can we create curriculum materials that would be helpful for others (e.g. for rural math clubs)? Might there be opportunities to share our novel approaches for teaching more broadly, e.g. through publishing or presenting in educational meetings? (Facilitator: Matt DeLong)

4:50 – 5:30 pm Circling back (Salon IV)

Representatives from each roundtable will present a summary of their group's discussion, with each representative having one slide of notes to facilitate their presentation. Before breaking for dinner, some details about the evening activities will be shared.

5:30 – 8:00 pm Dinner on your own or in small groups

Meet in Salon IV if you'd like to coordinate with fellow participants.

8:00 – 9:30 pm Social Gathering with board games (Salon IV)
(Organizers: Daniel Zaharopol, Alyona Nefedova)

Sunday, September 22

7:00 – 8:45 am Breakfast ("Prefunction" indoor area and outdoor terrace)

Check-out from the conference-center hotel before 11am. Luggage storage will be available.

8:45 – 9:00 am Check-in / Get your badge / Take a COVID-19 test ("Prefunction" area)

9:00 – 9:10 am Welcome back! And orientation to today's activities (Salon IV)

9:15 – 10:15 am **PANEL** (Salon IV)

Math enrichment professionals provide insight into the work being done locally here in Atlanta!

10:15 – 10:45 am Coffee & Mingling Break ("Prefunction" indoor area and outdoor terrace)

10:45 – 11:45 am ROUNDTABLES 3 (60 minutes each)

- **Broadening Access – Building truly welcoming spaces** (Salon IV)
Stories and best practices for ensuring that first-time camp attendees, particularly those from low-income and/or minoritized backgrounds, feel welcomed and fully included. (Facilitators: Hui Jiang, Ilana Walder-Biesanz)
- **Leadership – Training staff and fostering positive staff culture** (Salon V)
How do you create a collaborative / uplifting / inclusive staff culture? What principles might we keep in mind when facing the range of program design choices that can influence staff culture? What best practices should we try to incorporate into our staff training? (Facilitator: Don Laackman)
- **Cross-program collaboration – Moving students along pathways** (Salon VI)
From math festivals to math circles to local camps to national camps, what messaging and mentoring can support students in pursuing their passions? How can the Consortium play a role? (Facilitator: Graham Rosby)
- **Cross-program collaboration – DEI buddy system** (Conf. E)
Led by the Consortium DEI Committee. The "buddy system" is meant to help programs pair with one another to collaborate on DEI questions of mutual interest. It is open to all who are interested, including non-members and non-affiliates. At this session we will offer a one-page framework for the collaboration; the session will also be an opportunity for paired programs to have their first conversation. (Programs will be paired via the survey sent shortly before the conference.) (Facilitator: Maya Saran)
- **A crash course in the logistics of running a summer math program** (Conf. Eight)
An overview of all the behind-the-scenes components of operating a summer math program (legal, insurance, negotiating prices with host sites, efficiently sending admit/rejection emails...) for new program leaders. Experienced folks are invited to come offer wisdom – and hopefully learn something new! (Facilitator: Madison Stuart)
- **Supporting a culture of intrinsic rather than extrinsic motivation** (Conf. Six)
How can we as a community address the toxic culture that can stem from extrinsic motivation, such as students doing research to "mark the box for college applications"? Can we leverage the fact that our programs are working with many of the strongest

students to foster a healthy culture based on inherent enjoyment and meaning?
(Facilitator: Elena Yakubovskaya)

11:50 – 12:30 pm Circling back (Salon IV)

Representatives from each roundtable will present a summary of their group's discussion, with each representative having one slide of notes to facilitate their presentation. Before breaking for lunch, some details about the afternoon Committee Open House will be shared.

12:30 – 1:45 pm Lunch (Conference Dining Room and adjacent outdoor patio)

1:45 – 2:30 pm Committee Open House (Salon IV)

The Consortium has several committees, generally known as DEI, 501c3, Online Hub, Internal Document Repository, Incubator, Fundraising, Steering, and Conference Planning. This session will allow you to learn about the work done by each of these committees and how you might help contribute to this work in 2024–2025. The Incubator Committee will present a Q&A session here about a mentoring program for new programs, including discussions on what the mentor relationships could look like and what support mentors will need from the Consortium.

2:30 – 2:45 pm Closing Remarks by the Conference Organizers (Salon IV)

2:45 – 3:00 pm Informal mingling and winding down (Salon IV)