

Summer Mathematics Programs Consortium

2025 Conference Schedule

Friday, November 14

Hotel check-in begins at 4 pm.

6:00 – 7:30 pm Dinner on your own or in small groups

Meet in the Hotel Lobby at 6pm if you'd like to coordinate dinner plans with fellow participants. See the Local Restaurants page for recommendations!

7:30 – 7:45 pm Welcome from the Conference Organizers (Conf. B)

7:45 – 8:15 pm Presentations from the Pre-Conference Workshop (Conf. B)

Sharing ideas and output from the projects, advancing the strategic goals of the Consortium.

8:30 – 9:30 pm Social reception with dessert (Conf. B)

See Social Gatherings page for details.

Organizers: April Verser (MathPath) & Rick Sommer (SUMaC)

Saturday, November 15

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

8:45 – 9:00 am Check in / Get your badge ("Prefunction" area)

9:00 – 10:00 am Welcome to the Conference! (Salon IV–VI)

- Welcome from the Conference organizers
- Brief introductions of all present, with slides
- Introduction of the Incubator program and the 2024–25 Incubator Cohort

Math in Mosaic – James Taylor & Leanna McClure

Maths Beyond Limits UK – Gabriel Corrigan & Izaak Fairclough

Presenter: Mira Bernstein (Mathcamp), Incubator Committee

- Consortium updates from Steering

Presenter: Dan Zaharopol (BEAM), Steering Committee

- Buddy Program introduction

Presenter: Maya Saran (Mathcamp), Broadening Participation Committee

10:00 – 10:15 am Stretch break and transition time

10:15 am – noon SESSION 1: Long form (double-length session; conflicts with 1a and 1b)

- **Admissions for programs with a high mathematical bar** (Salon IV–VI)

What are the priorities of your admissions process? What's unusual about your admissions process? What aren't you happy with, and what do you want to change? We'll learn about how several selective programs do admissions, and then discuss.

With: Ania Łeń (Maths Beyond Limits), April Verser (MathPath), Jim Fowler (Ross), Maya Saran (Mathcamp), sarah-marie belcastro (MathILy)

10:15 – 11:00 am SESSION 1a: Short form (45m sessions)

- **Affinity Groups** (Conf. B)

Concurrent opportunities for programs of an ilk to connect with one another and discuss what's most salient for each style.

Day Camps With: Andrew Edwards (The Math Movement), Cassidy Lutz (Michigan Math and Science Scholars)

Online Programs With: Po-Shen Loh (LIVE), Simon Rubinstein-Salzedo (Euler Circle), Tina Lal (SUMaC)

Camps with Parents With: Hui Jiang (Epsilon), Kimberly Nugent (Campersand)

- **Building alumni and past-staff community** (Conf. Eight)

A roundtable discussion on how we create enduring communities. Digital platforms, reunions, paths to returning to the summer program – what's most effective for you?

With: Amber Verser (HCSSiM), Julia Rolnick (PROMYS), Lena Yakubovskaya (SigmaCamp), Paige Bright (/mathroots)

- **Strategies for Program Fundraising** (Conf. Seven)

Sharing best practices, finding best-fit foundations and donors, and getting feedback from our funding thought partners.

With: Jean Chin (Carina + Polynera), John Tracey (the Simons Foundation), Marissa Murphy Marcos (Jane Street), Michael Ma (Hudson River Trading))

Facilitator: Doug O'Roark (MC2), Fundraising Committee

- **Coffee + hydration** (Conf. Six)

Continue previous conversations, jump into new conversations, or just have a rest.

11:00 – 11:15 am Stretch break

11:15 – noon SESSION 1b: Short form (45m sessions)

- **Q&A about residential program logistics** (Conf. Eight)

A roundtable discussion on the nuts and bolts. Budget? Site selection? Buses and shuttles? Visas? Who's responsible for each piece? All of this and more.

With: Alyona Nefedova (Mathcamp), Kimberly Nugent (Campersand), Madison Stuart (MathILy)

- **Broadening Participation: Recruitment Practices for Regional Programs** (Conf. B)

An interactive panel hosted by the Broadening Participation Committee: success stories from programs with regional scope that recruit a diverse student body.

With: Cody Patterson (Mathworks), David Fifty (PROMYS Pathways),

Dionissi Aliprantis (The Math Movement), Josephine Ochoa (BEAM)

Facilitator: Graham Rosby (MC2), Broadening Participation Committee

- **Oh no! And here's what we learned** (Conf. Seven)

We've all encountered situations where something went awry. In this session, we will share our stories: what happened, how we handled it, and what we learned from it.

With: Anar Amgalan (SigmaCamp), Anna Harrison (National Math Camps),

Marisa Debowsky (Mathcamp)

- **Coffee + hydration** (Conf. Six)

Continue previous conversations, jump into new conversations, or just have a rest.

12:00 – 1:30 pm	Lunch (Dining Room and outdoor patio) Buddy Program Intro (organized by Maya Saran + David Fifty - BPC)
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1:30 – 3:15 pm	SESSION 2: Long form (double-length session; conflicts with 2a and 2b)
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- **Culture-setting for students in multi-week programs** (Salon IV–VI)

From pre-camp behavior agreements to social media policies to teachable moments during the program: how do you build meaningful relationships during your program? We'll hear presentations from several programs and then discuss.

With: Josephine Ochoa (BEAM), Julie Vega (MathPath), Maxim Gilula (SUMaC), Paul Phillips (HCSSiM)

- **Your hiring process for college and/or grad students** (Conf. B)

What are your central considerations in designing your summer staff roles, and how do you identify the right candidates for those positions? What do you weigh most heavily in interviews, and what kind of demographic balance do you keep in mind for the team? We'll learn about how several programs run their hiring process and then discuss.

With: Dana Paquin (SUMaC), Lora Saarnio (Math in the Mountains), Max Warshauer (Mathworks), Nataliya Yufa (Cambridge Math Circles)

1:30 – 2:15 pm	SESSION 2a: Short form (45m sessions)
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- **Changing dynamics of gender** (Conf. Seven)

A robust conversation about the ongoing evolution of how students, staff, program organizers, and institutions navigate gender dynamics in summer math programs.

With: Amber Verser (HCSSiM), April Verser (MathPath), Rachel Zhang (G2), with a presentation on political climate in the U.S.

- **Building Bridges with Local Communities** (Conf. Eight)

How do you identify communities to connect with, introduce yourself, and build relationships? We'll learn about how several programs build bridges and then discuss.

With: Dave Auckly (Navajo Nations Math Camp), Graham Rosby (MC2), Marlee Burns (National Math Stars), Scott Taylor (Sum Camp)

- **Coffee + hydration** (Conf. Six)

Continue previous conversations, jump into new conversations, or just have a rest.

2:15 – 2:30 pm	Stretch break
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2:30 – 3:15 pm	SESSION 2b: Short form (45m sessions)
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- **College Admissions** (Conf. Seven)

A Q&A session.

With: Chris Peterson (MIT Admissions)

- **Broadening Participation: Recruitment / Admissions Practices to Support Broad Participation for National / Selective Programs** (Conf. Eight)

Many math programs are unique because of the rigorous, high-level mathematics that students experience. To make that environment succeed, it's essential to recruit

exceptionally prepared students who are ready for the work, but the admissions process can present barriers for lower-access students to apply successfully. In this session, we'll present success stories from programs that recruit a diverse student body, along with reflections on how to grow success and remove barriers.

With: Dan Zaharopol (BEAM), Enrico Colón (/mathroots), Reimi Hicks (MITES)

Facilitator: David Fifty (PROMYS Pathways), Broadening Participation Committee

- **Coffee + hydration (Conf. Six)**

Continue previous conversations, jump into new conversations, or just have a rest.

3:20 – 3:30 pm	Group photo! (Stairs on the outdoor terrace; rain location TBD)
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Coffee & mingling break ("Prefunction" indoor area and outdoor terrace)
4:00 – 4:45 pm	Short talk: Rick Clark, Executive Director of Strategic Student Access, GT (Salon IV–VI) <i>Admissions in the Age of AI</i>
4:45 – 5:30 pm	Short talk: Matt Ballard, Professor of Mathematics, USC (Salon IV–VI) <i>The evolving capabilities of AI tools to do mathematics: stories from the frontlines.</i>
5:30 – 5:35 pm	Community note from John Tracey, the Simons Foundation (Salon IV–VI) <i>Infinite Sums: A National Math Initiative.</i>
5:35 – 6:00 pm	Wrap-Up Gathering (Salon IV–VI) A short overview from all the sessions of the day, and a preview of our plans for the evening.
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Dinner on your own or in small groups Meet in Salon IV–VI if you'd like to coordinate dinner plans with fellow participants. See the Local Restaurants page for recommendations!
8:00 – 10:00 pm	Saturday night social gathering (Tech Tavern, first floor) See Social Gatherings page for details. Organizer: Anita Chou (Campersand)

Sunday, November 16

7:00 – 8:45 am	Breakfast ("Prefunction" indoor area and outdoor terrace)
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Be sure to check out of the conference center hotel before 11 am. Luggage storage will be available at the front desk.

8:45 – 9:00 am	Check in / Get your badge ("Prefunction" area)
9:00 – 9:10 am	Welcome back! And orientation to today's activities (Salon IV–VI)
9:15 – 10:15 am	Keynote: Edray Goins, Professor of Mathematics, Pomona (Salon IV–VI) <i>Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Blackboards: An Introspective Look at the "Pomona Research in Mathematics Experience"</i>
10:15 – 10:45 am	Coffee & mingling break ("Prefunction" indoor area and outdoor terrace)

10:45 – 11:45 am SESSION 3 (medium format, 60 minutes each)

- **Q&A with Edray Goins** (Salon IV–VI)
Continuing the conversation from the keynote.
- **BPC: In-Person Coffee Chat: Small Improvements for Big Impacts** (Conf. E)
Organized by the Broadening Participation Committee (BPC). Participants will share small operational, organizational, and programmatic changes and resources that made a large impact on sense of belonging, social-emotional well-being, equity, and/or representation.

Facilitators: Julie Vega (MathPath) & Reimi Hicks (MITES), Broadening Participation Committee

- **Organizational Growth & Transition** (Conf. Eight)
We'll hear from programs that have successfully navigated change of all sorts: growing from pilot to stable program; increasing the number of sites; from university affiliation to independent non-profit; facilitating leadership transitions.

With: Anita Chou (Campersand), Doug O'Roark (MC2), Jim Fowler (Ross)

- **Instructional Design for Younger Students** (Conf. Five)
How does the age group impact your program design? We'll hear from several programs about what has been most important to their philosophy of instructional design, and then discuss.

With: April Verser (MathPath), Dan Zaharopol (BEAM), Danielle Champney (Epsilon), Sarah Trebat-Leder (National Math Camps)

- **Culture-Setting for Staff** (Conf. Seven)
Bite-sized success stories. How do you set expectations? How do you keep your staff happy and prevent burnout? How do you resolve conflicts and build trust? What keeps staff coming back year after year? We'll learn what several programs do, and discuss.

With: Anatoly Zavyalov (SigmaCamp), Dionissi Aliprantis (The Math Movement), Enrico Colón (/mathroots), Marisa Debowsky (Mathcamp)

- **Role of Volunteers vs Paid Staff** (Conf. Six)
Who gets paid, and for what work? How do you cultivate and inspire a community of volunteers? We'll learn about how several programs operate, and then discuss.

With: Andrey Khesin (SigmaCamp), John Berman (Epsilon), Maxim Gilula (SUMaC), Mira Bernstein (Mathcamp)

- **Coffee + hydration** ("Prefunction" area)
Continue previous conversations, jump into new conversations, or just have a rest.

11:50 – 12:15 pm Conclusion (Salon IV–VI)

We'll wrap up by looking back on the morning—and the weekend—before lunch and departures. (And if you're staying for the bonus session, we'll reconvene after lunch.)

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

The Georgia Tech campus bus ("the Stinger") does not run on Sundays, so we recommend either the 10-minute walk to the closest MARTA station (fare: \$2.50, trip time, 35 minutes) or arranging for Lyft/Uber rides (estimated cost: \$30; trip time, 20–30 minutes).