

**Special Needs:** Reasonable accommodations may be made to allow students with special needs to participate. *Requests for accommodation of special needs must be directed to local or state coordinators in writing at least three weeks in advance of the local or state competition.* This written request should thoroughly explain the student's special need as well as what the desired accommodation would entail. Many accommodations that are employed in a classroom or teaching environment cannot be implemented in the competition setting. Accommodations that are not permissible include, but are not limited to, granting a student extra time during any of the competition rounds or allowing a student to use a calculator for the Sprint or Countdown Rounds. In conjunction with the MATHCOUNTS Foundation, coordinators will review the needs of the student and determine if any accommodations will be made. In making final determinations, the feasibility of accommodating these needs at the National Competition will be taken into consideration.

## Levels of Competition

MATHCOUNTS competitions are organized at four levels: school, chapter (local), state and national. Competitions are written for the 6<sup>th</sup>- through 8<sup>th</sup>-grade audience. The competitions can be quite challenging, particularly for students who have not been coached using MATHCOUNTS materials. All competition materials are prepared by the national office.

The real success of MATHCOUNTS is influenced by the coaching sessions at the school level. This component of the program involves the most students (more than 500,000 annually), comprises the longest period of time and demands the greatest involvement.

**SCHOOL COMPETITION: In January**, after several months of coaching, schools registered for the competition phase of the program should administer the School Competition to all interested students. The School Competition is intended to be an aid to the coach in determining competitors for the chapter (local) competition. *Selection of team and individual competitors is entirely at the discretion of coaches and need not be based solely on School Competition scores.* **The School Competition is sent to the coach of a school, and may be used by the teachers and students only in association with that school's programs and activities. The current year's School Competition questions must remain confidential and may not be used in outside activities, such as tutoring sessions or enrichment programs with students from other schools.** *For additional announcements or edits, please check the Coaches Forum on the MATHCOUNTS Web site before administering the School Competition.*

It is important that the coach look upon coaching sessions during the academic year as opportunities to develop better math skills in all students, not just in those students who will be competing. Therefore, it is suggested that the coach postpone selection of competitors until just prior to the local competitions.

**CHAPTER COMPETITIONS: Held between Feb. 1 and Feb. 24, 2008**, the Chapter Competition consists of the Sprint, Target and Team Rounds. The Countdown Round (official or just for fun) may or may not be included. The chapter and state coordinators determine the date and administration of the local competition in accordance with established national procedures and rules. Winning teams and students will receive recognition. The winning team will advance to the State Competition. Additionally, the two highest-ranking competitors not on the winning team (who may be registered as individuals or as members of a team) will advance to the State Competition. This is a minimum of six advancing Mathletes (assuming the winning team has four members). Additional teams and/or Mathletes also may progress at the discretion of the state coordinator. The policy for progression must be consistent for all chapters within a state.

**STATE COMPETITIONS: Held between March 1 and March 30, 2008**, the State Competition consists of the Sprint, Target and Team Rounds. The Countdown Round (official or just for fun) and the optional Masters Round may or may not be included. The state coordinator determines the date and administration of the State Competition in accordance with established national procedures and rules. Winning teams and students will receive recognition. The four highest-ranked Mathletes and the coach of the winning team from each State Competition will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Competition.

**LOCKHEED MARTIN MATHCOUNTS NATIONAL COMPETITION: Held Friday, May 9, 2008, in Denver**, the National Competition consists of the Sprint, Target, Team, Countdown and Masters Rounds. Expenses of the state team and coach to travel to the National Competition will be paid by MATHCOUNTS. The national program does not make provisions for the attendance of additional students or coaches. All national competitors will receive a plaque and other items in recognition of their achievements. Winning teams and individuals also will receive medals, trophies and college scholarships.