Five Math Competitions for Colorado Students

2026–27 quick guide for teachers, students, and families

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5 contests • Grades 4–12 • Individual and team options • Local and national pathways

Math competitions can make mathematics feel creative, social, and worth exploring. Students can choose among school-based contests, statewide open-ended challenges, a coached team program, and the national AMC pathway. Use this guide to find a good fit, then confirm details on each official page before registering.

At a glance

Competition	Who and what	2026–27 schedule	Cost and registration
UNC Mathematics Contest *Official page*	Grades 7–12; younger students welcome. Two individual paper-and-pencil rounds with creative problems; no calculators or electronic devices.	First round: late October or early November at participating schools. Final round: February at UNC in Greeley. Exact dates are still to be announced.	Free. Teachers, coaches, or parents join the mailing list by emailing UNCmathcontest@unco.edu.
Soifer Mathematical Olympiad *Official page*	Grades 5–12. Five open-ended problems in four hours; students present essay-style solutions. Calculators are allowed, but internet access is not.	Competition: Friday, October 2, 2026, 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Colorado Springs. Awards and solutions: Friday, October 9, 2:00–5:00 p.m., at UCCS.	Free. Individual registration is open on the official UCCS page.
Colorado Mathematics League *Official page*	Grades 4–12. High school students take six monthly 30-minute contests; grades 4–8 take one annual 30-minute contest through their school.	High school: October 2026–March 2027; register by September 30. Grades 6–8: February; register by December 31. Grades 4–5: April; register by January 31.	$100 for six high-school sets of 30 exams; $45 per set of 30 exams for grades 4–8. Shipping is included.
American Mathematics Competitions (AMC 8, 10, 12) *Official page*	AMC 8: grade 8 and below; AMC 10: grade 10 and below; AMC 12: grade 12 and below. Each is a 25-question multiple-choice contest.	AMC 10/12 A: November 5, 2026; B: November 13. AMC 8: January 21–27, 2027. Early site deadlines: September 30 for AMC 10/12 and October 28 for AMC 8.	Site fee: $55 early, $75 regular, or $115 late. Ten-student license bundles cost $30 for AMC 10/12 and $25 for AMC 8.
MATHCOUNTS Competition Series *Official page*	Grades 6–8. Students prepare with a coach and compete in individual and team rounds, advancing from school to chapter, state, and national levels.	Registration opens Aug. 17, 2026. Chapter competitions: Feb. 1–28, 2027; state competitions: Mar. 1–31; national competition: May 9–10 in Washington, DC.	Schools: $42/student by Nov. 3; $48 by Dec. 15; $53 after. Non-school competitors: registration opens Nov. 5; $75 by Dec. 15, $85 after.

Which experience or resource fits your students?

A statewide, no-calculator challenge: UNC Mathematics Contest

Long-form reasoning and proof writing: Soifer Mathematical Olympiad

Short contests that fit a school calendar: Colorado Mathematics League

A national benchmark and Olympiad pathway: AMC 8, 10, and 12

A coached middle-school team experience: MATHCOUNTS

A low-pressure way to begin: Try one sample problem each week before choosing a contest

Start a free middle-school math club: MATHCOUNTS National Math Club (grades 6–8) offers free games, problem sets, monthly challenges, and club resources. *Official page*

Free online contest-math practice: Brilliant for Educators is free for K–12 teachers and their students, includes Contest Math, and partners with MATHCOUNTS. *Learn more*

A simple way to start: share one sample problem, then use a free resource above to build interest. Many contests require a teacher or approved host, so begin early.

Colorado Math Awards has recognized outstanding Colorado middle school, high school, and college performance in mathematics competitions since 1996. Its annual spring program also celebrates the teachers, coaches, and families who support students.

Official dates and fees can change. Last updated August 19, 2026; verify information on each competition's linked page before registering.