

November 22, 2005

Dear Math Department Chair:

The 20th High School Math Contest at the University of South Carolina is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, 2006. Your school is cordially invited to participate. Our goal is to stimulate interest in mathematics among high school students and to recognize those who exhibit exceptional talent. At the conclusion of the contest, prizes will be awarded to outstanding individual participants and to winning teams. For the past 14 years, prizes have included scholarships to USC.

The registration for the contest will begin at 9:15 A.M. on January 21st. There is no registration fee, but contestants will have to provide for their own transportation and meals. The contest consists of three parts. There will be a 90-minute written portion beginning at 10:30 A.M. This written exam will determine who wins the scholarships. After lunch, three team members from each school will participate in a ciphering portion which, along with the scores from the written portion, determine which schools win trophies. There will also be a single elimination tournament involving the top sixteen students from the written portion. An awards ceremony beginning at 3:00 P.M. will conclude the day's activities. No calculators are allowed during any portion of our contest.

If your school would like to participate, then please send a quick email to [murphy@math.sc.edu](mailto:murphy@math.sc.edu) or call (803)777-4713. For now, your message need only include your school's name and contact information for the appropriate math teacher. Due to space limitations, I will need to limit the number of schools to 35, so I would encourage you to make this response quickly. The official application and participant list may be sent in later when you are more certain of who your team members will be.

Further details, including exam problems and solutions from previous years, are available at <http://www.math.sc.edu/contest/>. We applaud your efforts on behalf of your students, and we look forward to your participation on January 21st.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Murphy  
Math Contest Organizer

c: Manfred Stoll, Chairman  
Department of Mathematics