

Canada/USA Mathcamp (www.mathcamp.org), established in 1993, is a highly selective, 5-week long residential summer program for talented high-school students who want to study advanced mathematics.



Nuts and Bolts

Participants: 120 students, ages 13–19, eligible through the summer before college.

Geographic draw: Worldwide; about 83% U.S., 7% Canada, 10% international students.

Gender balance: Average over the last five years: 40% girls, 5% non-binary, 55% boys.

2025 program: Our 2025 program took place from Jun 29 to Aug 3 at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon.

Admissions and Financial Aid

Admissions process: The primary piece of our application is a rigorous, untimed, open-resource exam that often asks students to learn new material. We also seek inputs from guidance counselors and references. Some applicants are self-taught; others are already taking university courses. Regardless of their resources, we endeavor to identify a wide range of outstanding students for whom Mathcamp will be transformative.

Statistics: In the last three years 8% or below of new applicants were offered admission, with yields between 90 and 98% (in 2025, 66 out of 67 enrolled).

Returning students: We reserve up to 55 places each year for returning alumni. Many students return year after year and call Mathcamp their home. In the most recent five-year period, 62% of our students came for multiple summers.

Financial Aid: We fully meet the demonstrated need of every student, both new and returning. We award full scholarships as well as travel grants. **Admission is need-blind.**

Program Activities

Math: From 9am to 5pm, the academic day is filled with classes, talks, and office hours. We offer 100+ courses each summer, covering material typically only encountered in college or grad school. Topics range from fundamental subjects (e.g. linear algebra and group theory) to active areas of research (e.g. cluster algebras and algebraic geometry), with a new set of courses each summer. Students may choose to work on mentored projects, which include directed readings, research, and applications.

Individualized curricula: A defining feature of Mathcamp is that each student designs their own schedule (with guidance from an academic advisor). A student might fill their schedule with classes on one topic or choose an assortment from different fields each week. The ever-changing course offerings can challenge students who return for many years.

Staff: A group of highly dedicated graduate students serve as "mentors" in a combined teaching/camp counseling role, alongside a handful of faculty members. These instructors are selected for their passion for mathematics and teaching, and (like the students) often return from year to year. In this immersive environment, they interact with students in many contexts: classes, office hours, meals, field trips, and informal activities.

Camp life: Students live in college dorms and have free access to the campus. They are responsible for their own schedules. Evenings and weekends are filled with opportunities for creativity and community-building: singing, board games, cooking, hiking, crafting, working on math, or simply relaxing, with many activities organized by the students themselves.

Questions? Contact Maya Saran, Program Manager, at maya@mathcamp.org.