

MATHCOUNTS®

Spring Newsletter

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Luke Robitaille Named National Champion at 2017 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition

When he realized he had won the title of 2017 National Champion and the \$20,000 Donald G. Weinert College Scholarship, Luke Robitaille jumped up from his seat at the Countdown Round desk and simply could not hide his excitement.

For the audience—many of whom had watched Luke come in second as a sixth grader the year before—the excitement was infectious. As Luke laughed and bounded off the stage to hug his fellow Mathletes and family, the mood at the Countdown Round was equally exuberant.

Later, when talking to reporters during interviews, Luke's excitement turned to the future. After talking about the final question (he initially thought his answer was wrong), his incredible speed (he did not realize he had answered many questions in 1-2 seconds total), and the moment he felt most nervous (when he was down 2-3 in the final match-up), Luke pondered a new goal that was suddenly within his reach...He said he hoped to win again in 2018 and become the first person ever to become a two-time MATHCOUNTS National Champion.



Above: National Champion Luke Robitaille at the moment he won. Left: Robitaille with Pam Erickson, Chair of the MATHCOUNTS Board of Directors and Vice President of Corporate Citizenship at Raytheon, and Lou DiGioia, MATHCOUNTS Executive Director.

Whether or not he accomplishes the feat that no Mathlete in 34 years of national competitions has been able to manage, Luke already has made MATHCOUNTS history. He won this year after coming in second the previous year—an achievement he shares with only three other National Champions: Po-Ru Loh (1999), Bobby Shen (2009) and Kevin Liu (2015). And Luke is the *first* Mathlete to do this as a sixth and seventh grader.

Luke, a home-schooled seventh grader from Euless, Texas, received \$24,500 in college scholarships—the maximum amount a national competitor can win at the national level. Having a National Champion also win in the Written and Team Competitions is rare; Luke is only the fourth Mathlete in MATHCOUNTS history to sweep the three competitions. After buzzing in, Robitaille took just 0.9 seconds to answer the winning question:

In a barn, 100 chicks sit peacefully in a circle. Suddenly, each chick randomly pecks the chick immediately to its left or right. What is the expected number of un-pecked chicks? (Answer: 25)

Luke was one of 224 Mathletes from across the nation to compete at the 2017 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition on May 14–15 at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista Hotel in Florida. National competitors represented all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense and State Department.



The 2017 National Competition began with three rounds of written tests on Sunday, May 14, requiring students to work both individually and with their four-person state teams. On Monday, May 15, the 12 students with the highest scores on the Written Competition advanced to the Countdown Round, a thrilling contest with one-on-one match-ups. Countdown Round participants have a maximum of just

45 seconds to answer each question.

From left: Countdown Round competitors Kevin Li (back), William Wang (front), Andrew Cai (front), Jack Albright (back), Geoffrey Wu and Luke Robitaille.

45 seconds to answer each question.



Rankings for the Countdown Round were determined by the students' scores on the previous day's Written Competition. The four individuals with the highest written scores—who received a bye in the first round of the Countdown Round—were Luke Robitaille; Written Competition Runner-Up Geoffrey Wu, an eighth grader from Naperville, Ill.; Andrew Cai, a seventh grader from Sugar Land, Texas; and William Wang, an eighth grader from Princeton, N.J.

The two Countdown Round Semifinalists were William Wang and Jack Albright, a seventh grader from Los Altos, Calif., who entered the Countdown Round as the tenth seed and advanced through three match-ups. The Countdown Round Runner-Up was Andrew Cai, who, like his teammate Luke, was a returning national competitor this year. Andrew was a Countdown Round Quarterfinalist at the 2016 National Competition as a sixth grader.

After winning the title of 2017 National Champion, Luke was featured in [The New York Times](#) and also appeared on [Live! with Kelly and Ryan](#), where he competed against hosts Kelly Ripa and Ryan Seacrest in a math competition.

2017 NATIONAL COMPETITION WINNERS

NATIONAL CHAMPION:

Luke Robitaille, TX

- \$20,000 Donald G. Weinert Scholarship
- Trip to U.S. Space Camp

COUNTDOWN ROUND RUNNER-UP:

Andrew Cai, TX

- \$7,500 Scholarship

COUNTDOWN ROUND SEMIFINALISTS:

William Wang, NJ

Jack Albright, CA

- \$3,000 Scholarship each

WRITTEN COMPETITION

CHAMPION: Luke Robitaille, TX

- \$2,500 Scholarship

1ST PLACE TEAM: Texas

Andrew Cai, Luke Robitaille,
Justin Xiao, Jeremy Zhou

- \$2,000 Scholarship each
- Trip to U.S. Space Camp

WRITTEN COMPETITION

RUNNER-UP: Geoffrey Wu, IL

COUNTDOWN ROUND QUARTERFINALISTS:

Geoffrey Wu, IL
Reagan Choi, MI
Alex Xu, MI
Jeremy Zhou, TX

COUNTDOWN ROUND PARTICIPANTS:

Brian Liu, NJ
Holden Watson, GA
Kevin Li, CA
Andrew Huang, PA

2ND PLACE TEAM: New Jersey

3RD PLACE TEAM: California

Texas Wins Team Competition for Second Year in a Row

The team from Texas won First Place for a second year in a row—and the sixth time in MATHCOUNTS history. Team members Andrew Cai, Luke Robitaille, eighth grader Justin Xiao from Austin and eighth grader Jeremy Zhou from Sugar Land each won a \$2,000 scholarship and a trip to U.S. Space Camp. The Texas coach, Isil Nal, also led the team to a first-place finish at last year's National Competition.



From left: Pam Erickson, Coach Isil Nal, Jeremy Zhou, Justin Xiao, Luke Robitaille, Andrew Cai and Dr. Jagadeesh Pamulapati, Director of the Laboratories Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

The New Jersey Team won Second Place, with team members Kevin Cong, a seventh grader from Basking Ridge; Brian Liu, an eighth grader from Holmdel; William Wang; and Daniel Xia, a seventh-grader from Basking Ridge. The team from California won Third Place, with team members Jack Albright; Andrew Gu, a seventh grader from Ladera Ranch; David Hu, an eighth grader from San Jose; and Kevin Li, an eighth grader from Pleasanton.

MATHCOUNTS Congratulates the 2017 National Competitors

MATHCOUNTS congratulates all 224 national competitors. Advancing to the national level is a remarkable achievement, and every Mathlete who participated this year should be incredibly proud of his or her success. Links to competition results, photographs and the archived ESPN webcast are available at the [MATHCOUNTS website](#). All national competitors are listed below, with the following special recognitions.

*Two-Time National Competitor***

*Three-Time National Competitor****

ALABAMA

Sid Doppalapudi
Jason Han
Gregory Li
Justin Pan

ALASKA

James Annone
Johnny Barnhill
Vladimir Coon
*Luke Millam***

ARIZONA

Vivek Chalasani
Tom George
Agustya Matheth
*Kishore Rajesh***

ARKANSAS

Yashwanth Gokarkonda
Angela Lou
Yash Waikar
*Joshua Yu***

CALIFORNIA

Jack Albright
Andrew Gu
David Hu
Kevin Li

COLORADO

Brandon Dong
*Rahul Thomas***
Anthony Wang
Grace Zhang

CONNECTICUT

Luke Choi
Alex Devorsetz
*Sam Florin***
Ryan Yang

DELAWARE

Jerry Lu
Parth Rustagi
David Yan
Maxwell You

DEPT. OF DEFENSE

Abhishek Bhattacharyya
Keenan Francisco
Louis Geer
*Dylan Keeble***

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

Avani Ahuja
Layla Dawit
Ashley Fujiyama
Sarah Murad

FLORIDA

Jake Frazer
Vismay Sharan
Albert Wang
Jaedon Whyte

GEORGIA

William Shi
*Holden Watson***
Aaron Yu
*Lawrence Zhou***

INDIANA

Rhea Acharya
Lillian He
Jack Liu
Noah Tan

IOWA

Shirlin Kingston
*Ananth Shyamal***
*Divya Shyamal***
*Kevin Yang***

KANSAS

*Alan Abraham***
*Khushi Kohli***
Abi Kothapalli
Chinmay Krishna***

MAINE

Taryn Drolet
*Thor Gabrielsen***
Micah Pietraho
Alain Zhang

MARYLAND

Sean Power
Timothy Qian
Chris Tong
*Daniel Yuan***

MASSACHUSETTS

Richard Chen
*Ben Epstein***
Eric Yang
William Yue

MICHIGAN

*Reagan Choi***
Varun Rajesh
Alex Xu***
Jeffrey Zhang

MINNESOTA

Jack Hlavka
Kevin Yang
Alexis Yi
*David Zhang***

MISSISSIPPI

Kenny Suzuki
Aaron Wan
*Matthew Yin***
Max Zhang

MISSOURI

Jason Ding
Sri Jaladi
Stephen Jiang
Anthony Wang



Lawrence, Holden, Aaron, William and Coach Sema Duzyol

GUAM

*Ji Hong Cha***
*Brian Joseph***
Yuan-Jen Kuo
Andrew Lu

KENTUCKY

Nikhil Akula
Dylan Li
*Lohith Tummala***
Justin Xu

HAWAII

Anna Baker
Darren Do
K.B. Ko
Michael Wong

LOUISIANA

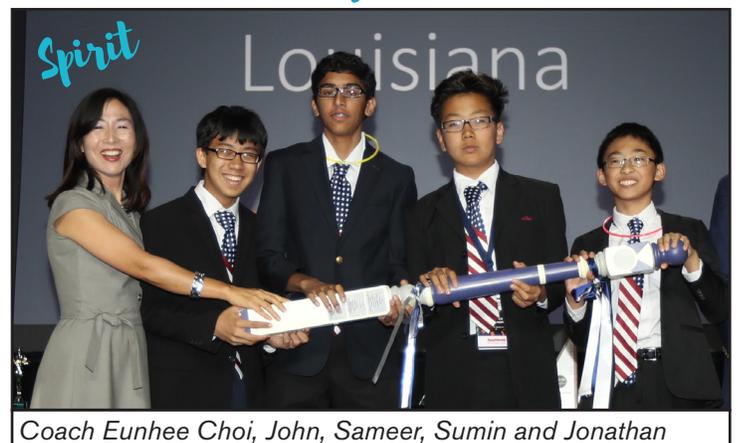
Jonathan Ding
Sumin Kwak
*John Kwon***
Sameer Tirumala

IDAHO

Matthew Barrett
Austin Li
Richie Sheng
Elena Yang

ILLINOIS

Abhinav Goel
Holden Mui
*Geoffrey Wu***
Colin Yao



Coach Eunhee Choi, John, Sameer, Sumin and Jonathan

MONTANA

Joel Demars
Edward Guthrie
Aidan Morgan
Ethan Wynia

NEBRASKA

*Jamie Chen***
Andrzej Korlacki
*Josh Lee***
Kenji Nakagawa

NEVADA

*Derek Chien***
Sam Goodman
Sophie Liu
Spencer Rhodes

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Maxine Park
Anshul Rastogi
Miriam Viazmenski
*Austin Wu***

NEW JERSEY

Kevin Cong
Brian Liu***
*William Wang***
Daniel Xia

NEW MEXICO

*James Camacho***
*Joseph Camacho***
Berkan Dokmeci
Melody Yeh

NEW YORK

Rishabh Das
*David Li***
Maxwell Sun
Rowechen Zhong

NORTH CAROLINA

Dev Chheda
Owen Deen
*Timmy Deng***
Kate Ma

NORTH DAKOTA

Dennis Du
Emily Gao
Dylan Raaum
Nolan Severance

OHIO

Aditya Akula
Lucas Huang
Easton Singer
*Rishi Verma***

OKLAHOMA

*Sean Cheng***
Aiden Ozment
Luke Ozment
Victor Zhu

OREGON

Gopal Goel
Coby Tran
Noah Walsh
*Brian Xu***

PENNSYLVANIA

Alan Chen
Andrew Huang
Daniel Li
Alex Zhang

PUERTO RICO

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Ricky Marrero
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Nico Proskauer Valerio***

RHODE ISLAND

Julian Gross
Jessica Liang
Neil Panth
Eric Tang

SOUTH CAROLINA

Zack Huang
John Li
Samuel Qin
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SOUTH DAKOTA

*Serena An***
Drew Comstock
*Samyok Nepal***
Tristina Ting

STATE DEPARTMENT

Seo-yoon Jung
David Kwon
Ryan Lee
Rei Yatsuhashi

TENNESSEE

Sahil Gaba
Colin Tang
Alex Zhang
George Zhang

TEXAS

*Andrew Cai***
*Luke Robitaille***
Justin Xiao
Jeremy Zhou

UTAH

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Tarun Martheswaran***
Sanjula Pingali
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VERMONT

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Aishwarya Nagpal

VIRGINIA

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Pravi Putalapattu
Austin Shi
Ethan Zhou

WASHINGTON

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Brandon Chen
Daniel Hong
David Lee

WEST VIRGINIA

Jacob Huggins
Andrew Liu
*Peter Luo***
*Sachin Thaker***

WISCONSIN

*Joseph Cai***
William Jin
Tim Li
Ethan Wang

WYOMING

Matthew Cathey
Kephias Olsson
Evan Thomas
Gracie Zhang

**THE NATIONAL MATH CLUB
GRAND PRIZE WINNING CLUB**

*Southwestern Heights Junior
High School*

Audrey Ball Sydnie Underwood
Morgan McDaniel Owen Vajnar



From left: Kodi Verhalen, President of NSPE; Club Leader Kerri Vajnar; club members Sydnie, Morgan, Audrey and Owen; and Matt Larson, President of NCTM.

“The Ladder Challenge” by QUAD SQUAD Wins First Place at 2017 Math Video Challenge Finals



A video about three sisters who get stuck in a video game took top prize at the 2017 Math Video Challenge. The student filmmakers, all seventh graders from the Ron Clark Academy in Georgia, each received a \$1,000 college scholarship. Sydney Dinkins of Atlanta, Kamyah Hugee of Covington, Jalelah Johnson and Keaton Tsepas Bucciero, both of Atlanta, were led by team advisor Junior Bernadin and co-advisor Dr. Valerie Camille Jones.



From left: Kodi Verhalen, Team Advisor Junior Bernadin, Keaton Tsepas Bucciero, Kamyah Hugee, Sydney Dinkins, Jalelah Johnson, Matt Larson and Pam Erickson.

In “[The Ladder Challenge](#),” Keaton decides to trick his three sisters who always sneak into his room by trapping them in a video game. Simone, Sidney and Sierra have to work together to play their way out of the game...and they use their math skills to do it! The video showed two solutions to problem #50 from the 2016-2017 MATHCOUNTS School Handbook:

When leaned against a vertical structure, a straight ladder can be used safely if its top is no more than 4 feet above the base of the structure for every foot that the bottom of the ladder is away from the base. How high can a 22-foot ladder safely reach up a vertical structure? Express your answer as a decimal to the nearest tenth.

QUAD SQUAD was one of four teams selected to advance to the 2017 Math Video Challenge Finals, which took place on Monday, May 15 at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista Hotel in Florida. Sixteen students presented their videos to the 224 Competition Series national competitors at the event, who then voted to determine the winning video. “The Ladder Challenge,” as well as more than 1,000 original student-created math videos, can be viewed at the [Math Video Challenge website](#).

2017 MATH VIDEO CHALLENGE WINNERS

FIRST PLACE:
“The Ladder Challenge”
 by QUAD SQUAD
 Sydney Dinkins, GA
 Kamyah Hugee, GA
 Jalelah Johnson, GA
 Keaton Tsepas Bucciero, GA
 ▪ \$1,000 Scholarship each

FINALIST:
“A Goldfish Fanta-sea”
 by Fintastic Four
 Nicole Augusta, CA
 Riley Blaugrund, CA
 Skylar Higgins, CA
 Sophia Summerell, CA

FINALIST:
“Fighting a Zombie Apocalypse”
 by MATHCOUNTS Army
 Sashank Ganapathiraju, NC
 Pranav Kosuri, NC
 Srijan Oduru, NC
 Havish Shirumalla, NC

FINALIST:
“Math vs. Robbers”
 by Real Cops, Real Math
 Jackie Carter, VA
 Cara Peacock, VA
 Lauren Schenack, VA
 Alyssa Sklar, VA



In “The Ladder Challenge,” three sisters use their math skills to escape a video game in which their brother has trapped them.

Summer Session for Competition Math Course Opens June 5th



MATHCOUNTS, Art of Problem Solving and the University of Oklahoma will offer a summer session of Competition Math for Middle School again this year. This on-line course for coaches features exclusive content and strategies from experts at Art of Problem Solving and MATHCOUNTS, and is led by Dr. Stacey Reeder of the University of Oklahoma.

Hundreds of MATHCOUNTS coaches and math teachers have taken Competition Math since it was created in 2015.

The course is designed to be a resource for both new coaches and returning coaches looking to take their coaching to the next level. This year's summer session will run June 5–August 7, 2017.

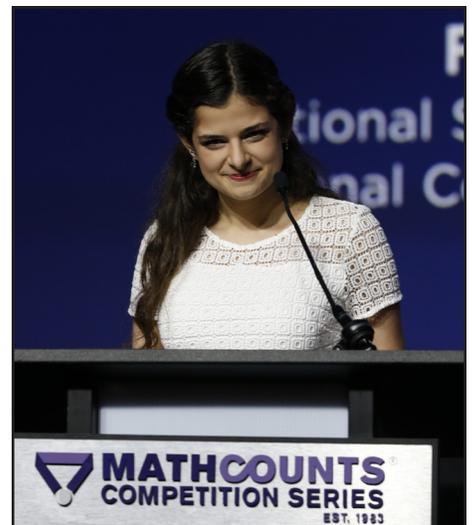
More information is available at mathcounts.ou.edu and enrollment in the course costs \$199. All participants who successfully complete the course this summer will receive one graduate credit from the University of Oklahoma, which can be used in most districts for professional development credit. Educators interested in taking this course should register online by June 5, 2017.

Kaylee de Soto Wins 2017 MATHCOUNTS Alumni Scholarship

Kaylee de Soto of Pinecrest, Fla. won this year's \$3,000 MATHCOUNTS Alumni Scholarship. After her time as a Chapter and State Competitor from 2011–2013, Kaylee led her high school's Mu Alpha Theta club and volunteered as a MATHCOUNTS coach for two schools. She will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall and plans to major in physics and mathematics.

Kaylee described her time as a coach as life-changing and humbling. While reflecting after one of her teams finished in the top-10 at the chapter level, Kaylee said she realized her life "had truly come full circle...I can graduate knowing that my legacy and passions will continue through those students who I had the honor of training and see blossom before my eyes." Kaylee spoke during the Awards Banquet at the National Competition, where she advised Mathletes to keep an open mind about their passions and academic pursuits.

The application for the 2018 MATHCOUNTS Alumni Scholarship will be available in the fall at www.mathcounts.org/scholarship.



2017 FINALISTS

Camille Baker, IL
Sarah Betts, PA
Grace Billig, NE
Pooja Chainani, VI
Emily Coffield, KY
Nisha Devasia, NH
Samantha
Dickmann, IL

Milena Djordjevic-
Kisacanin, TX
Sabrina Epstein, TX
Jackson Hall, MT
Colin Hill, MA
Benjamin Kelm, MD
John Lazur, MN
Vincent Li, NY

Jessie Linder, NM
Nikhil Marda, MN
Simon Marland, NC
Dhruv Methi, MN
Huiwen Miao, NY
Jacob Nelson, MN
Stephen New, CO
Victoria Pan, PA

Ashwin Sah, OR
Sujay Shankar, TX
Varun Srikanth, OR
Claire Staresinic, PA
Siang Tseng, MD
Erica Wang, PA
Andrew Ying, CO

Spotlight on State and Local Donors

We would like to express our gratitude to the outstanding donors at the state and local level whose generosity impacted thousands of students attending chapter and state competitions this year. They helped make the 2016-2017 MATHCOUNTS Competitions Series a success!

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