

# Help for New Sponsors

## STARTING UP & GETTING READY TO COMPETE

- Download the sponsor's guide at <http://floridamao.org/PublicPages/Downloads.aspx>. Familiarize yourself with its contents.
- If you are taking over an existing school and do not know how to log into the website, OR if you are sponsoring a new school, OR if you are not sure, then email [floridamao@gmail.com](mailto:floridamao@gmail.com) with the following information:  
*Your name, your school's name, and your school's address*  
You will receive a response email within a week with your login information.
- Login to the site and fill in your school and sponsor information. You can then enroll your students.
- If you are a high school, then your school must join the National Mu Alpha Theta organization. See the national site at <http://www.mualphatheta.org/index.php?chapters/how-to-join> . Note that FAMAT fees are annual, but the national fees are one-time only.
- After all students are enrolled, you can print your registration summary and mail your check. Registration payment must be postmarked by November 1 !
- Join the sponsor forum – <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/floridamao> Discussion as well as important announcements happen there. Feel free to ask questions and you'll get answers!
- Register for competitions early (typically more than 2 weeks ahead of time). Watch the forum for announcements from the competition hosts. The internet-based competitions begin in November normally, and in-person competitions run from January through April.
- Get NCS 19641(or equivalent, but not Scantron brand) bubble-in forms. Link to order is in the Sponsor's Guide.
- Download some practice tests from the Test Bank and get your competitors ready for the season!

## OVERALL

- FAMAT has divided Florida into 5 Regions to minimize driving time/distance for Regional Competitions. All 5 Regional competitions are held simultaneously. Regional competitions are typically 1½ hours or less from your school.
- The first competition is the Fall Interschool test held in November. It will be available to download from [www.floridamao.org](http://www.floridamao.org) under the downloads link.
- The first Individual competition of the season is called the Hiller/Nunn/Dostal Test. It is held in December. All FAMAT students take it on the same day at their school and the sponsor mails-in the NCS bubble-in forms.
- In winter, expect a monthly Regional and State-wide competition. Everyone is invited to attend these competitions which are held at schools. Whereas Regionals are held nearby, Statewide Competitions are held at one location anywhere in Florida.
- In April, the Florida state convention is held at the Doubletree Hotel in Orlando. All FAMAT High Schools are invited to attend.

## **STRONG MATH TEAMS**

- Over 150 Florida schools have math teams competing in various FAMAT competitions across the state.
- Florida has very active and strong competitions.
- Many students practice previous tests that are located in the test bank on the [floridamao.org](http://floridamao.org) site.
- Many schools offer year-long courses that incorporate competition questions throughout.

## **AT THE COMPETITIONS**

- You'll have a lot of fun. Other sponsors are very helpful. Food is provided for sponsors. All sponsors are expected to "work" one round of the competition (proctoring tests or monitoring the team round room.)  
Your students will have a lot of fun. They'll meet lots of other kids that are nice and smart just like them.
- Most schools come in buses.
- You'll go out to lunch at a mall or fast-food restaurant. Maps and directions are usually provided.
- Regional competitions have 20 or more schools competing across 6 divisions (400 to 1000s students). Get there by 8:00 a.m. and expect to leave at about 3:00 p.m.
- Statewide competitions have 30 or more schools competing across 6 divisions (1000 or more students). Get there by 8:00 a.m. and expect to leave at about 3:30 p.m.

## **AFTER A COMPETITION**

- Expect to be challenged by some of the competition questions.
- Results of the competition and the tests and solutions are posted online shortly after the competition. Hosts may provide printed standings to sponsors, by request, and may charge a small fee for this.
- Many times students will access this on the trip home via laptops or smart phones that can read PDF files.