



# MATHCOUNTS®

## Kentucky MATHCOUNTS scholarships awarded

All across the country, the impacts of COVID-19 are affecting every facet of normal life and schedules. This unfortunately included the 2020 Kentucky State MATHCOUNTS competition.

On February 15th, 2020, over 850 middle school students from more than 100 schools across the Commonwealth competed in the chapter competitions, which were held in 13 regional locations. The 13 first place individual finishers at these chapter competitions have already brought home a four-year tuition scholarship to the University of Kentucky and a four-year \$1,000 scholarship to Western Kentucky University, and a \$500 cash scholarship from the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers.

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### First place chapter winners

- Brody Kilburn (Ashland Chapter)
- Aneesh Sharma (Big Sandy Chapter)
- Joseph Vulakh (Bluegrass Chapter)
- Benjamin Carey (Capital Chapter)
- Andrew Pham (Cumberland Falls Chapter)
- David Daniel (Green River Chapter)
- Owen Graham Cody (Kentucky Lake Chapter)
- Mikalsh Mullins (Kentucky River Chapter)
- Amy Chen (Louisville Chapter)
- Daniel Berry (Mammoth Cave Chapter)
- Jordan Stull (My Old Kentucky Home Chapter)
- Grayson Rohmiller (Northern Kentucky Chapter)
- Sayed Damaa (Pine Mountain Chapter)

These individuals, as well as many others, would have advanced to the State Competition that was to be held on March 21st at Western Kentucky University. With the unfortunate circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National MATHCOUNTS organization had to make the difficult decision to cancel all State competitions

and the 2020 National Competition. However, the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville recognized the dedication and commitment of our talented Kentucky mathletes and chose to honor their scholarship commitments despite the State Competition being canceled. We greatly appreciate the Universities and their willingness to award these prestigious scholarships. After guidance from National MATHCOUNTS, Kentucky MATHCOUNTS used the chapter competition scores to assess the top 10 highest ranking students in order to award the scholarships. The score ranking procedure included the combination of the Sprint and Target rounds to create one final total score and assess who were the top finishers; adhering to the nationally recognized rules for tie breakers.

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### 2020 Kentucky state individual winners

- Joseph Vulakh (Tates Creek Middle School – Lexington)
- Amy Chen (Meyzeek Middle School – Louisville)
- Ishani Tarkar (Meyzeek Middle School – Louisville)
- Jonah Hubert (Winburn Middle School – Lexington)
- Gopalaniruddh Tadinada (Meyzeek Middle School)
- Justin Wong (Winburn Middle School – Lexington)
- Varsha Venkataraman (Meyzeek Middle School – Louisville)
- Ben Carey (Saint Leo Middle School – Versailles)
- Victoria Fu (Meyzeek Middle School – Louisville)
- Laura Tong (Winburn Middle School – Lexington)

The top four ranking Mathletes receive a 4-year, full tuition scholarship to their choice of the University of Kentucky or the University of Louisville. Those ranking 5th through 10th place receive a 4-year, \$1,500 tuition scholarship to either school. MATHCOUNTS was founded in 1983 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, CNA







Insurance Company, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and is celebrating its 37th year. It is estimated that over 250,000 students nationally and 9,000 students in the Commonwealth of Kentucky will be exposed to MATHCOUNTS through the classroom, home study, or private coaching experiences.

MATHCOUNTS represents the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers' (NSPE-KY) on-going commitment to encourage 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to gain leadership skills, problem solving techniques, and a general understanding for solving problems in real world situations while using their love for math. Engineers hope to impress such skills to students as essential to their future academic and professional careers. Students compete individually and as teams in written and fast-paced, oral, and often awe-inspiring matches designed to stimulate their exposure to a wide range of mathematics.

NSPE-KY, headquartered in Frankfort, Kentucky, sponsors the MATHCOUNTS program through its non-profit, education-based corporation, the Kentucky Engineering Foundation, Inc. The program is operated and administered by volunteers from the engineering community with financial support by many companies, individuals, and organizations.

The Kentucky MATHCOUNTS program would not be possible without our supporters. Among those supporters are the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, and Western Kentucky University, which provide the scholarships. Other financial supporters include: American Council of Engineering Companies of Kentucky, Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers, Kentuckiana Post of the Society of American Military Engineers, Stantec Consulting Services, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc., Kentucky Geotechnical Engineering Group, Integrated Engineering and Louisville Community Foundation for the Zoeller Company.

Kentucky's MATHCOUNTS program is one of the most successful in the United States with several Top Ten success stories, including having the 1995 National Champion and placing 9th overall in 2000 and 2007. The program succeeds by making math achievement as challenging, exciting, and important as a school sport. "Mathletes" prepare all year to compete individually and in teams and their performance is impressive.

View the MATHCOUNTS website at [www.kentuckymathcounts.org](http://www.kentuckymathcounts.org) or [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org).



**My involvement with MATHCOUNTS has been nothing short of a tremendous experience. I have been very fortunate to have experienced it at each level, from the Chapter competition to the National competition. It is very evident that at each level, MATHCOUNTS continues to put kids first. They continue to provide more ways to include students of all levels, backgrounds, and interests. It shows in the competition series, the math club, and the video challenge. Every person I have met and worked with in the MATHCOUNTS organization shares the same values and passion for engaging all students in the world of Math.**

— Matthew Cramton,  
Meyzeek Middle School





