

When Are Winners Announced?

TMTA hosts an annual meeting in September each year, which includes a Friday night banquet to announce and recognize the state's top ten winners in each contest. The program booklet distributed at the banquet contains not only the statewide top ten winners, but also the top ten students in each region (East, Middle, and West). Students scoring in the statewide top ten, along with their teachers, are notified approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the banquet so that they can make arrangements to attend. The program booklet is sent electronically to TMTA members and is posted on the TMTA website after the annual meeting.

Why Does It Take So Long to Announce Winners?

The TMTA High School Math Contest is conducted and managed by hundreds of volunteers across the state. All contest sites are managed by higher education faculty and staff who donate their time to conduct the contest. Once the tests have been administered, these faculty and staff must verify the results from their individual contest sites prior to sending the results to the regional coordinators.

The three regional coordinators then must verify results from the contest sites, choose the top ten winners from their regions, and hand-grade each of the top ten regional papers from each test (a minimum of 60 papers; more when there are tied scores). The regional coordinators then send the top ten papers from each test to the state coordinator.

The state coordinator then repeats the process by choosing the top ten winners for the state in each test, hand-grading these papers again to ensure accuracy, and verifying the eligibility of the winning students.

The statewide top ten list and student information is then sent to the awards chair, who then verifies each student's home address, teacher, and school address so that students and teachers can be notified of the student's placement in the top ten. The awards chair then gets certificates and plaques made for the awards banquet and invites students, their parents, and their teachers to attend.

While this process is time-consuming, especially since it is conducted by volunteers, it is the best way to ensure accuracy and fairness to all our student contestants. In most years, this process is not completed until late July or early August due to other, non-contest related demands on our volunteers. By then, it is time to invite the students and teachers to the Awards Banquet in September.

This only describes what happens AFTER the contest. This does not describe the months of planning prior to the contest, including making arrangements for the contest exams to be written and verified, contacting schools and teachers, collecting registration forms, and making local and statewide arrangements to administer the contest. Our volunteers spend countless hours organizing and running the contest and verifying the results. TMTA would like to express its gratitude to these volunteers for their efforts on our behalf and their commitment to our students across the state.