

# BERKELEY MATH CIRCLE 1998-99

## EXPECTATIONS

Students participating in the Berkeley Math Circle are expected to

**Attend regularly the weekly sessions.** For our purposes, we shall keep track of weekly attendance. Although there is no “maximum number of allowed absences”, we will expect regular attendance by all participants.

**Review covered material at home and do assigned problems on a weekly basis.** There is no homework due in class to be graded. However, the individual work at the home is as important to the process of learning problem solving, as attending the actual lectures is.

**Participate in one of the Student Presentations.** Plan ahead of time which problem you will present at the Circle, and practice your presentation skills.

**Attempt all problems on the Monthly Contests and submit solutions by the due date.** It is very important that you try to solve these problems. Even if you know that you haven’t solved a certain problem, writing down your ideas and work in a legible and logical fashion clarifies both for you and for the graders where you might be having difficulties. It is inevitable that some participants will find some of the problems easier than other participants. But this is what the Circle is all about – to learn more Math and to improve problem solving skills. Thus, “trying” and “participating” are really the key words in the purpose of the Monthly Contest.

**Participate in the Bay Area Mathematical Olympiad.** BAMO is part of the same project as the Berkeley Math Circle. It is a contest for high school students with 5 essay-proof style questions and a 4-hour time limit. The first BAMO will take place on February 23, 1999, and the BAMO award ceremony is scheduled for March 7. For more information, please contact **Paul Zeitz** or **Hugo Rossi**. A brochure with sample problems and more information can be found on the web at <http://www.gunn.palo-alto.ca.us/bamo/>

**Participate in AHSME.** The USA Math Olympiad, USAMO, has two qualifying rounds, AHSME and AIME, which are essentially multiple-choice. The Berkeley Math Circle is concerned more with the kind of thinking required for essay-proof problems, but the AHSME and AIME are necessary to qualify for the USAMO. For more information, please contact **Dr. Walter E. Mientka**, Executive Director, American Mathematics Competitions, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, P.O. Box 81606, Lincoln, NE 68501-1606; tel: (402) 472-2257, e-mail: [walter@amc.unl.edu](mailto:walter@amc.unl.edu).