



Rules and Community Guidelines for Virtual Mathcamp 2021

Mathcamp's Rules

Rule 0: Follow the external rules of, e.g., your city, state, and country.

This year, since everyone is living at home, Rule 0 also includes the rules of your own household.

Rule 1: Be excellent to each other.

Be mindful of the effects of your actions on others. If there is something you can do to make Mathcamp a better experience for someone (or everyone) else, do it! Avoid anything that might cause another person harm or discomfort. If in doubt, ask.

Rule 2: Don't do stupid stuff.

Stay safe, keep others safe, and use all program supplies in a safe manner.

Rule 3: No fire (except under staff supervision) -- SUSPENDED FOR 2021

When Mathcamp is a residential program, the usual application of this rule is in the kitchen: the dorm stove and oven are definitely fire, and the microwave is almost fire, so cooking requires staff supervision. In this exceptional year, the rules of your own household take precedence.

Rule 4: No division by zero (except under staff supervision).

Self-explanatory.

We expect students to follow these rules throughout the program, both within the Mathcamp community and beyond. At the sole discretion of the Mathcamp staff, a student may be removed from the program for violations of these rules or for any other reason.



Some Important Corollaries to Rule 1

Our community is built on a foundation of mutual respect. We are fortunate to have students and staff from many walks of life and we celebrate and embrace this diversity. With these tenets in mind:

Mathcamp will not tolerate harassment, bias incidents, bullying, or other abuse.

There are subtle corollaries to Rule 1 as well. Being excellent to each other is not just about avoiding behavior that everyone agrees is bad. It's important to be aware and respectful of others' boundaries, and to think about other people's perspectives *before* you speak or act. Even without malicious intent, sometimes we can cause harm or discomfort that we don't anticipate or even understand. If you do make a misstep, take the time to really listen, take concerns seriously, and incorporate feedback.

If you observe behavior that makes you uncomfortable, whether directed at others or at you, whether with harmful intent or in the context of joking around, please help us to remedy the situation. You are always empowered at camp to respectfully advocate for yourself or others, and the staff are always here to offer support, either to help you navigate the situation or to intervene with direct action.



Required Activities at Virtual Mathcamp

Mathcamp is designed to be flexible! Almost everything at camp—including classes and activities—is optional, and each student creates their own summer. We have a short list of required activities, each of which is carefully considered and has a specific purpose.

Saturday, July 3rd: Orientation Day Assembly

Every student is required to attend Orientation on the first day of camp, 9am to 3pm MCST. (That's "Mathcamp Standard Time," or [UTC-7](#).) This is the only assembly in the first week of camp; it is our opportunity to share important information about how the program works.

All-Camp Assembly on Monday Mornings (starting in Week 2)

All students and staff gather on Monday mornings 9am–10am MCST for an all-camp assembly. This is our opportunity to communicate key updates for the coming week. Mark these weekly assemblies on your calendar: July 12th, July 19th, July 26th, and August 2nd.

Weekday Log Tables

On each academic day (Monday through Friday, all five weeks), campers complete a "log table," which is a short mathematical reflection that is shared with your Academic Advisor. This will be a very quick and easy daily task! It also serves as a daily headcount.

Weekly Surveys

We will ask students each week to complete a short survey on Saturday. Student feedback is essential for the program! This also serves as the Saturday headcount.

Weekly One-on-One Academic Advising Meetings

At the end of each week, each student will meet one-on-one with your Academic Advisor. The meetings can be short (even 10 minutes is fine, though many students take the opportunity to have a longer conversation with their mentor), and can be arranged to suit your calendar. Advising meetings typically happen on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning.

Saturday, August 7th: Closing Assembly

Every student is required to attend the Closing Assembly on the last day of camp. In addition to the chance to say goodbye, this is our opportunity to communicate with students about closing down access to our summer Virtual Mathcampus and transitioning to Alumni status.



Pre-Arranged Absences

Of course, sometimes things get busy! We understand that our students are juggling many responsibilities, and so there is a system for handling situations when a student cannot complete a required activity at the usual time:

- If you expect to be away from **all camp-related events** for more than a day during the program, or if you unexpectedly need to leave the program early, contact the camp director (Marisa Debowsky, marisa@mathcamp.org) to make arrangements in advance for a planned absence or early departure.
- If you are still at camp, but expect to miss a specific **academic** activity (log tables, weekly advisor meetings), talk to your Academic Advisor in advance to let them know that you'll be away and when you expect to be back. Your advisor will help you adjust your curriculum appropriately as needed.
- If you expect to miss a specific **non-academic** activity (assembly, survey), talk to your Residential Advisor in advance. Your advisor will help you stay current on what you need to know, and get you back in the loop when you return.

It's your responsibility to proactively contact your advisor(s); please don't make us track you down!

If you do miss a required activity without a pre-arranged absence, we will follow up to remind you. If you miss too many required activities, we will get very worried and call your parents to make sure you're okay and still participating in camp.

The golden rule is communication. Your commitment as a Mathcamper is to stay in touch with us: respond when Mathcamp staff contact you via Slack or email; keep the specific required stuff on your calendar; and talk to us if anything comes up.



Mathcamp's Community Guidelines

Mathcamp establishes cultural norms and guidelines for participation in camp, and each system or expectation has a specific purpose. The Mathcamp staff will sometimes tell you to do things, and from the very beginning, during opening day orientation, we will tell you about structures in place at Mathcamp that might sound like rules. These are not immutable, ancient regulations: we don't make random rules for the sake of rules! They are guidelines that help us function together as a community.

For example, instructors may tell students to turn their video on during class so that they can see reactions and have a better understanding of when students are following. At the same time, we trust you to use your judgement: to continue that example, if you need to step off the call for a moment and turn off your audio/video to indicate this, that's perfectly reasonable. (It's akin to excusing yourself from the physical classroom at a residential camp.)

Some of the structures (namely, the specifically-designated Required Activities, above) are required for everybody because we believe they're essential for maintaining communication and for running camp smoothly. Other structures, like your residential advising group, are made available to you as potential sources of support, and you make use of them as much or as little as you like. We want to create an environment in which you can grow and thrive, mathematically and personally, and we hope that you will think of these structures as helpful tools to make your Mathcamp go well.

We are living in difficult times, and camp is not an impermeable bubble. The global pandemic of COVID-19 and other crises introduce uncertainty: you may encounter challenges and obstacles during the summer that you did not expect to face. What's important is that you **communicate with the Mathcamp staff about your needs**. Whether the impact is logistical or personal, whether broad or specific, please talk to us!

These guidelines are designed to help us navigate these five weeks together as a community. If something's not working for you, talk to us! Mathcamp is built to be a flexible container. The Four Rules above are set in stone; everything else is up for discussion. Our one non-negotiable expectation – especially important for Virtual Mathcamp – is that you maintain contact with us: complete the required activities, respond promptly to our communications, and let us know if there is anything going on in your own life that affects your experience or participation in camp.