

Mathcamp 2019: Personal Recommendations

Name of student: _____

Name of recommender: _____

Deadline: March 15

To the recommender:

The above-named student is applying to Canada/USA Mathcamp (<http://www.mathcamp.org>), an intensive summer program that introduces mathematically talented high school students to the beauty and variety of advanced mathematics.

Mathcamp receives hundreds of applications from all over the world, and our admission process is extremely selective. We are looking for students who are not only good at math, but who will thrive in the atmosphere of freedom and responsibility that characterizes Mathcamp, and who will make a positive contribution to the camp community. We appreciate your help in evaluating this student's application.

Evaluations are most valuable to us when they include specific anecdotes or stories. For instance, instead of saying that a student "is a leader," cite an example that highlights the student's maturity and initiative. Here are some points to address in your letter:

- What is the context of your relationship with the applicant? (If you do not know the applicant well and are only able to write a brief summary, it's fine to say so.)
- Describe the applicant's maturity and level of independence.
- How does the applicant interact socially with peers? With adults?
- What happens when the applicant meets a stumbling block?
- How does the applicant deal with being the best at something? Not the best?
- What will you remember most about this person?
- Do you feel that an intensive academic and social experience like Mathcamp is suitable for the applicant?
- Are there any unusual circumstances in the applicant's background of which we should be aware?

If you also happen to know the applicant in a mathematical context, we would, of course, welcome your input on their mathematical ability. However, please bear in mind that we have many other sources of information about mathematical potential. The primary purpose of the *personal* recommendation letter is to give us a sense of the applicant as a person with whom we may be spending five weeks this summer and as a potential member of our summer community. We appreciate your candid and comprehensive evaluation.

How To Submit Your Letter:

We prefer that you submit your letter online if possible. (We are not fussy about official letterhead or handwritten signatures; we're much more interested in getting your letter directly into the applicant's file, ideally in a text format that we can search.) In order to submit your letter online, please provide your **email address** to the applicant, and they will send you a recommendation request in the Mathcamp application system.

Please feel free to email us at techsupport@mathcamp.org if you have any trouble with the process. (If you do not have access to email, you may call us at (888) 371-4159.)

In order for the student's application to be given full consideration, your recommendation must be received by the March 15 deadline.

Thank you, once again, for your help in this process! Your letter is an important part of the Mathcamp application and we look forward to reading it.

The Mathcamp 2019 Admissions Committee