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Contact: Marianne Smith  
510/655.2247

**MSRI Berkeley Hosts  
Mathematical Circles and Olympiads Meeting**

Competitors, coaches, and teachers convene in Berkeley, CA from December 16-18, 2004 for a conference on Mathematical Circles and Olympiads, hosted by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI). This conference will bring together organizers of Math Circles, competitions and camps throughout the country in order to exchange ideas, present their activities to people interested in starting a circle and to establish a communications network. "These events and contests provide challenges for high school students who are interested in extending their mathematical knowledge and skills well beyond what the high school curriculum offers," explains conference coordinator and MSRI Deputy Director Hugo Rossi. The program will include workshops on math circles and training and prep camps, exposition of available materials, special sessions of the Berkeley and Boston Math Circles and a session on classroom adaptation directed toward teachers. A panel on competition will be moderated by National Book Award Finalist Steve Olson, whose book, *Count Down: Six Kids Vie for Glory at the World's Toughest Math Competition* chronicled the efforts of the members of the 2001 United States International Mathematics Olympiad team while discussing many topics relevant to avid students and educators.

**MSRI is an independent, non-profit organization supported by eighty leading international universities, the private sector, the National Science Foundation, and the National Security Agency. To researchers from the United States and abroad, MSRI serves as a mathematics think-tank. The Institute also sponsors conferences for educators, weekly math circles and competitions for high school students, and public outreach programs with a focus on people in the news, and how they use mathematics in their work.**

*For more information, see*

[http://www.msri.org/calendar/workshops/WorkshopInfo/295/show\\_workshop](http://www.msri.org/calendar/workshops/WorkshopInfo/295/show_workshop)  
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