



BAMO

Bay Area Mathematical Olympiad

27th Annual BAMO Awards

Santa Clara University

March 8, 2026



SIMONS LAUFER
MATHEMATICAL
SCIENCES INSTITUTE

- 2:30 Introduction
- 2:45 **How to Fold Things into Thirds and Other Awkward Fractions: A Lead-In to Artin's Conjecture** (James Tanton, UC Berkeley)
I am continually struck by how seemingly simple, school-level questions can unravel into deep and still-unresolved mathematics. One such question arises from an unexpectedly familiar activity: folding. Is it possible to fold a tie into exactly three equal parts? Into fifths? Into other "awkward" fractions? Let's play with folding and see how deep theory can emerge naturally from the simplest curiosities.
- 3:45 Presentation of awards

About BAMO



- **The Bay Area Mathematical Olympiad (BAMO)** is an annual contest for middle and high school students. The first high school contest was held on February 23, 1999. The 27th annual BAMO took place on February 25, 2026, with over 600 participants from grades 3 to 12, mostly in the Bay Area, but including students from Seattle to San Diego. The BAMO competition tests students' problem-solving skill, stamina, and creativity.
- **BAMO is made possible** by generous gifts from Tom Davis and Ellyn Bush, Peggy and Tom Rike, the support of the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute, and numerous donations from private individuals.
- **BAMO Organizing and Problems Committee:** Austin Shapiro, Proof School; Eugene Veklerov, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Paul Zeitz, University of San Francisco.

About BAMO



- **BAMO Grading Team (CA):** Aathreya Kadambi, Atticus Cull, Bryn Gavigan, Colby Brown, Erica Pan, Eugene Veklerov, Kalina Atanassov, Kenzie Uyesugi, Liliana Mironova, Mátyás Sustik, Mehmet Kaysi, Orlando Munoz, Paul Zeitz, Theodore Alper, Zhanerke Temirgaliyeva.
- **BAMO Grading Team (WA):** Alexander Vaschillo, Chris Juell, Dmitry Vasilevsky, Luba Malkina, Carl de Marcken, Sergey Malkin, Anton Lapounov, Irina Yatsenko.

About BAMO



- We thank:
 - Alon Amit, James Propp, and Austin Shapiro for problem contributions;
 - Proof School for hosting the BAMO problems meeting and CA grading team, and Dmitry Vasilevsky for hosting the WA grading team;
 - Professors Tamsen McGinley, Frank Farris, and Shamil Asgarli of the Santa Clara University mathematics department, and Brian Conrey of the American Institute of Mathematics for generously hosting both a satellite site for the BAMO exam and especially, this awards ceremony;
 - UC Berkeley student Vrajesh Daga for his superb help with data management;
 - Austin Shapiro for help with the annual T-shirt design.

Our speaker

James Tanton (PhD, Princeton 1994, topology) writes books, makes videos, advises on curriculum, consults with teachers, and gives demonstration classes and professional development sessions across the globe. He has taught mathematics both at the university and high-school levels and is absolutely committed to promoting effective and joyful mathematics thinking, learning, and doing at all levels of the education spectrum. James has recently arrived to the San Francisco Bay Area and currently serves as an Associate Coordinator of Public Programs for the UC Berkeley School of Education. He is also the Mathematician-at-Large for the Mathematical Association of America, co-founder of the Global Math Project, and Chief Mathematics Officer for SmartWithIt.



James joins a very distinguished list of speakers, which includes Arthur Benjamin, Melanie Wood, and the great scholars John Conway and Ronald Graham, who both passed away in 2020. See <https://www.bamo.org/archives/speakers/> for more information.