

D Team Homework Policy

The point of D-Team is to *develop* mathematically into a student who can contribute to A/B/C teams in future years. In math, the equivalent of hours spent at the gym is time spent solving hard problems; and while we understand that you're also practicing for state math contests, AP tests, etc., you've already seen that ARML-level problems are significantly harder than most of those. There is little point in going to the contest without the extra training that comes from the D-team problem sets.

What is required?

You are required to work on and hand in every problem set. Students who miss any of the first three problem sets will be dropped from the team, and students who miss either of the last two problem sets will be given preference for spots on the alternate (rather than regular) team if we have extra members at the contest.

You are expected to attempt every problem, and make at least some effort to get help if you get stuck. Good sources for help are: current and former ARML team members, your math team coach, or any of the D-team coaches. **We especially encourage you to use the D-team email group, dteam@chicagoarm.org, to share questions, ideas, and hints about the problems.** (The only thing that is *discouraged* is simply posting an entire solution to a problem.)

Unlike math class, and math team homework (if you've had it before), only about a third of each problem set will directly address material discussed extensively in practice. Other problems will extend ideas you may have already seen, or raise issues that may be unfamiliar but which (because of our limited practice schedule) we don't have much time to discuss formally as a whole group. *You will probably not be able to solve all the problems on your own*, although we certainly encourage you to try them on your own first. You will also not be able to do them in a single one- or two- hour session, so please start working on the problem sets well before they are due. **Also, except as (rarely) noted, calculators are not allowed when solving the problems**, since they are not allowed at ARML.

Are problem sets graded?

Each problem is graded on the following scale:

- 0 = no or almost no attempt made; or correct answer given without work.
- 1 = serious attempt made, but not complete or correct.
- 2 = correct or almost entirely correct (mistake was minor arithmetic, for example)

Notice that we grade solutions, not just answers: part of the contest consists in writing coherent math, and we're as interested as much in how you thought about the problem as in what answer you got.

If the D-team has more than 15 students when we arrive in Iowa, problem set scores will be one of the primary considerations in determining which students will compete with the team and which will be alternates.

What if I miss a practice?

You are still responsible for *submitting* your completed problems promptly and *doing* the problem set for the next practice.

To submit your completed problems, *scan and email* or *US-mail* them to Coach Castillo, postmarked (or faxed) no later than the day after the practice at which they were due:

Email: abel.castillo@sbcglobal.net
US Mail: Evanston Township High School
Attn. Abel Castillo - Math Department
1600 Dodge Ave.
Evanston, IL 60204

To get a copy of the problems for the next practice, check your email from the chicagoarm1, or go to the ARML D webpage at sites.wpcp.org/karafiolp

But I thought this was supposed to be fun!

It is. But it's a lot more fun in Iowa when you're getting problems right—take it from one who's done it the other way—and your best chance of doing that is to learn the math on the problem sets.

Why do the problem sets have to be so hard?

Actually, about half of each set is composed of old ARML problems. So they're hard because that's the way the competition is.

What if I have other questions?

If you have other questions, please email one of the coaches:

Coach Karafiol pjkarafiol@cps.edu
Coach Condie scondie@imsa.edu
Coach Castillo abel.castillo@sbcglobal.net

Thanks!

Coach Karafiol, Coach Condie, Coach Castillo