

Ideas for New $\mu\alpha\theta$ Sponsors

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First Year Mu Alpha Theta Sponsor

1. Follow the Mission Statement of Mu Alpha Theta Closely

Try to find activities that address one or more mission goals for the organization. The Mission Statement clearly shows what your club is all about.

2. Set Up a Clear a Point Value System for $\mu\alpha\theta$ Members

Our members have to collect points throughout the year in order to maintain their membership and receive their graduation cord. Various activities are offered that gives them plenty of opportunities to earn points, such as fundraising, tutoring, participating in math contests, bringing sponsors and/or speakers aboard, helping with school – wide or club-wide activities, etc.

3. Have Several Organizational Meetings with Your Club Officers

It's better to have more officers during the first year, over and above the usual 4-5 positions. A good group of enthusiastic, self-motivated, hard-working officers full of energy and ideas makes a big difference for you and the club. Instead of always telling them what to do, ask for their input, let them decide and organize events with your guidance.

4. Invite Speakers to Your (Monthly) Meetings

Some speakers could be college professors who share some interesting and fascinating results of mathematics, often from their own research. These talks are exciting, interesting, entertaining, and last, but not least, highly educational. Whether it's about common logical fallacies or the unbelievable art of origami, or various ways a pizza can be cut – those topics are eye-opening experiences to our students and raise their awareness of, and appreciation for mathematics. Other invited speakers could come from various professions that involve mathematics. They share their work experiences and discuss with students where and how mathematics is used in their job. Actuarial science, engineering, forensics and crime lab analysis are just a few examples that use mathematics and will be of interest to students. These meetings are organized for $\mu\alpha\theta$ members, but we open them up to faculty, staff, and the general student population as well.

5. Participate in Math Contests

Depending on the members' mathematical knowledge and talents, start participating in various math contests. Log 1 is a free contest administered at school site, sponsored by Mu Alpha Theta. Math League is a six month long contest administered at school site, at reasonable cost. Both contests are good starting points, can be administered and graded easily; each session is only 30 minutes long and is scheduled right after school. Have some practice sessions to prepare for the contests.

There are many other math contests students can participate in, individual and team contests alike; some of them are free, others have registration fees; some are administered on your home turf, others require travel and possible overnight stay; some are nation-wide, others are local contests organized by high schools or universities. Your student population, their enthusiasm, preparedness, your administration's support, and the club finances are just some of the factors that will determine which ones are suitable for your club.

6. Organize School –wide celebration of Pi Day on March 14 + Fundraising for Local Elem. Math Club

Start the day with competition among homerooms – Each homeroom receives an envelope with some Pi related questions that can be opened at the signal. Questions can be about the history of Pi or Pi related application problems. The first 3 classes with correct answers win pies.

During lunch shift organize “Pie Your Teacher” (good fundraiser activity) and “Get Your Free Slice of Pie” (good problem solving opportunity for any student). Names of teachers who volunteer are placed on jars. Members collect donations from students, faculty for a week before March 14th during lunch shifts. The first two teachers collecting the most money are “pied” by the 3rd and 4th place winners. Encourage your faculty to participate; it's great fun for teachers and students alike! 😊 Our club matched the money raised and presented it to a local elementary school's math club at their school assembly.

Students receive a free slice of pie if they solve a Pi related math problem. Members give grade level appropriate problems to participating students; students show their answers to members, get hand-stamps, and receive a slice of pie.

Finish the celebration with Pie Digits Recital contest that starts at 1:59 pm 😊 Students recite from memory as many digits of Pi as they can; winners receive certificate and reward.

7. Fundraising for Your Club

In all cases, contact your principal and ask for permission to do the fundraiser for your club.

Have at least one major fundraising during the school year for your club that will provide a good financial basis for the operation of your club and possible future travel expenses. Choose a fundraiser that is easy to do and sells quickly with a high profit margin.

World's Finest Chocolate (50% profit) is always a huge success – everybody loves chocolate; students are selling on campus, and usually not door to door. Check for a local representative in your area, so you can avoid shipping costs.

Flower bulbs (50%) – good profit (do some research, talk to the company to clarify shipping cost, delivery time, etc.; see what flowers are suitable for your region)

Smaller fundraisers: selling popcorn, pickle, cookies, etc. at school; selling pizza cards (or any other fast food or restaurant cards)

Sell t-shirts for Pi Day (ask your principal if students can wear them on 3/14 if you have a uniform policy)

8. Tutoring

Members are encouraged to help other students by tutoring them in math at local schools (K-12) under the supervision of teachers. Members take care of their tutoring logs (documenting date, time and length of each session with the signature and phone number of a supervising teacher).

Register at Study Buddy (through Mu Alpha Theta) online tutoring that gives flexibility to your members with their busy schedules.

9. Build Relationships with Local Elementary and Middle Schools

Encourage middle schools to start Ch Alpha Mu. Visit math clubs with your members to promote math among elementary and middle schools students.

10. Look for Local Businesses That Support Your Club

Find some businesses that can support your club by either monetary or items donations. Local businesses are more willing to donate than big corporations. In return, acknowledge their support on your web-site, newspaper article, etc.

11. Make Your Mu Alpha Theta Club Visible at Your School

Volunteer for various school-wide activities no matter whether it's big or small, such as cleaning the stadium after a football game, providing snacks, breakfast or lunch for teachers during Teacher Appreciation week, writing Thank You notes to teachers at the end of semesters, etc.

12. Make Your Mu Alpha Theta Induction Ceremony a Well-Organized, Well-Attended, and Nice Formal Event

Ask students to wear semi-formal clothes, invite parents and faculty, including your administration. It will give your club a great start: everybody will see how seriously you and your club officers take this new, prestigious club at your school, and you'll get more support for your club from all parties involved.

13. Finish the School Year with an End-Of-Year Celebration Meeting

Recognize your officers, outstanding math contest participants, and graduating Seniors. Show a slide show during the meeting that goes through the whole year – it reminds students of their accomplishments, reminiscing about the good and challenging times with laughter.

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