Cornell University High School Programming Contest 2024
Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who can compete in the Cornell HS Programming Contest?**
  All high school students living or going to school in NY, NJ, CT, or PA are eligible to compete.

- **How long is the contest?**
  The contest itself is three hours long. We serve lunch and provide some training on using the contest platform immediately prior to starting the clock, and there is a speaker and awards ceremony at the conclusion. We typically begin the clock at 12:30 and students are ready to leave us by 4:00pm.

- **How big are the teams permitted to be?**
  Students can only compete in teams of two or three. Students cannot compete alone. If a student doesn't have a team when they register, we will assign them to a team based on their programming ability.

- **What level of programming knowledge is required to compete?**
  Any student who has some programming knowledge in C, C++, Java, or Python will be able to solve some of the problems.

- **What resources can students consult during the competition?**
  Students can consult any static resources. That means, they can bring textbooks or code with them, and can use a search engine to look for static resources. HOWEVER, students cannot "ask" the internet any questions, so the use of sites like GitHub and Stack Overflow is restricted to code already created that they can search. Students cannot use any AI tools during the competition. Likewise, communication is restricted to team members and our Cornell mentors.

- **Can I see problem sets from prior contests?**
  Yes! A set of problems we have used in the past can be found [here](#).

- **Can students compete virtually?**
  The contest is in-person on the Cornell University (Ithaca) Campus and the Cornell Tech (NYC) Campus. We do not have a virtual option.

- **What materials do students need to compete? Does every student need a laptop?**
  Each team will compete with one laptop. No secondary uses can be used: the use of phones and smartwatches is forbidden. Teams may bring an extra laptop as backup, but can only use one laptop per team. We have some loaner laptops available if teams do not have their own laptops. We do not recommend the use of Chromebooks.

- **Can middle school students compete in the Cornell HS Programming Contest?**
  Middle school students are permitted to compete only if we have space available. However, they are not eligible for awards. Only high school students can win the first, second, and third place awards. Winners will receive a trophy, and all students will be emailed a certificate of participation.

- **Is lunch provided?**
  We serve a light lunch before the contest, and a treat when the contest is over.