

Scout:



Designed to Crunch

This module is designed to help you explore how math affects your life each day.

1. Choose A or B or C or D and complete ALL the requirements.		
A. Watch about three hours total of math-related shows or documentaries that involve scientific models and modeling, physics, sports equipment design, bridge building, or cryptography. Then do the following:		
(1) Make a list of at least five questions or ideas from the show(s) you watched.		
(2) Discuss two of the questions or ideas with your counselor.		
B. Research (about three hours total) several websites that discuss and explain cryptography or the discoveries of people who worked extensively with cryptography. Then do the following:		
(1) List and record the URLs of the websites you visited and major topics covered on the websites you visited. (You may use the copy and paste function if you include your sources.)		
(2) Discuss with your counselor how cryptography is used in the military and in everyday life and how a cryptographer uses mathematics.		
C. Read at least three articles (about three hours total) about physics, math, modeling, or cryptography. You may wish to read about how technology and engineering are changing sports equipment, how and why triangles are used in construction, bridge building, engineering, climate and/or weather models, how banks keep information secure, or about the stock market. Then do the following:		
(1) Make a list of at least two questions or ideas from each article.		
(2) Discuss two of the questions or ideas with your counselor.		
D. Do a combination of reading, watching, and researching (about three hours total). Then do the following:		
(1) Make a list of at least two questions or ideas from each article, website, or show.		
(2) Discuss two of the questions or ideas with your counselor.		
Date		Completed A, B, C or D
2. Complete ONE merit badge from the following list. (Choose one that you have not already used toward another Nova award.) After completion, discuss with your counselor how the merit badge you earned uses mathematics. (American Business, Chess, Computers, Drafting, Entrepreneurship, Orienteering, Personal Management, Radio, Surveying, Weather)		
Date		Merit Badge
3. Choose TWO from A or B or C or D or E and complete ALL the requirements for the two you choose. (Write down your data and calculations to support your explanation to your counselor. You may use a spreadsheet. Do not use someone else's data or calculations.)		
A. Calculate your horsepower when you run up a flight of stairs.		
(1) How does your horsepower compare to the power of a horse?		
(2) How does your horsepower compare to the horsepower of your favorite car		
Share your calculations with your counselor, and discuss what you learned about horsepower.		
B. Attend at least two track, cross country, or swim meets.		
(1) For each meet, time at least three racers. (Time the same racers at each meet.)		
(2) Calculate the average speed of the racers you timed. (Make sure you record your data and calculations.)		
(3) Compare the average speeds of your racers to each other, to the official time, and to their times at the two meets you attended.		
Share your calculations with your counselor, and discuss your conclusions about the racers' strengths and weaknesses.		
C. Attend a soccer, baseball, softball, or basketball game. Then choose two players. Keep track of their efforts during the game. (Make sure you record your data and calculations.) Calculate their statistics using the following as examples:		
(1) Soccer - Goals, assists, corner kicks, keeper saves, fouls, offsides.		
(2) Baseball or softball - Batting average, runs batted in, fielding statistics, pitching statistics.		

(3) Basketball - Points, baskets attempted, rebounds, steals, turnovers, and blocked shots.		
Share your calculations with your counselor, and discuss your conclusions about the players' strengths and weaknesses.		
D. Attend a football game or watch one on TV. Keep track of the efforts of your favorite team during the game. (Make sure you record your data and calculations.) Then calculate your team's statistics using the following as examples:		
(1) Kicks/punts		
(a) Kickoff - Kick return yards		
(b) Punt - Number, yards		
(c) Field goals - Attempted, percent completed, yards		
(d) Extra points - Attempted, percent completed		
(2) Offense		
(a) Number of first downs		
(b) Forward passes - Attempted, percent completed, total length of passes, longest pass, number and length of passes caught by each receiver, yardage gained by each receiver after catching a pass		
(c) Running plays - Number, yards gained or lost for each run, longest run from scrimmage line, total yards gained or lost, and number of touchdowns		
(3) Defense - Number of quarterback sacks, interceptions, turnovers, and.		
Share your calculations with your counselor, and discuss your conclusions about your team's strengths and weaknesses.		
E. How starry are your nights? Participate in a star count to find out. This may be done alone but is more fun with a group. Afterward, share and discuss your results with your counselor.		
(1) Visit NASA's Student Observation Network website at http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/son/energy/starcount/ for instructions on performing a star count.		
(2) Do a star count on five clear nights at the same time each night.		
(3) Report your results on NASA's Student Observation Network website and see how your data compares to others.		
Date		Completed Two from A, B, C, D or E
4. Do ALL of the following:		
A. Investigate your calculator and explore the different functions.		
B. Discuss the functions, abilities, and limitations of your calculator with your counselor. Talk about how these affect what you can and cannot do with a calculator. (See your counselor for some ideas to consider.)		
Date		
5. Discuss with your counselor how math affects your everyday life.		
Date		