

WILLAMETTE- SAOF HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMMING CONTEST

Parent organization: Willamette University, Salem and the Software Association of Oregon Foundation

Web address: <http://www.sao.org/programs/tips.asp>

Grade level or ages served: High School (Grades 9 – 12)

Overview (one paragraph): The state-wide competition requires teams to solve challenging programming problems in a limited time. The program encourages teamwork and programming achievement at diverse skill levels, simulating a real world work experience. Teams of up to 4 members (high school students in good standing) use their choice of C++, Pascal, or Java and submit programs to be judged for correctness and style.

Subjects covered: Computer Science/Math puzzle problems.

Size of program: In 2005, 16 teams from around the state competed.

Where offered: Willamette University has hosted this program in late February or early March for the last 15 years. Recently it is offered in conjunction with the spring meeting of the CSTA (Computer Science Teachers Association), so that teachers attend the conference while their students participate in the contest.

Time spent by students: The competition itself lasts five hours; with travel it is at least one day's commitment. Preparation time varies but could be considerable.

Partners/Sponsors: The Software Foundation of Oregon

Materials available on web and/or purchase: From time to time, previous years' problems may be available on the web.

Training for teachers, facilitators, volunteers, leaders: Minimal email and group discussions among the judges, who are university students, leading up to the contest day itself.

Cost structure: No cost to participants; lunch is provided.

Funding: SAOF (Software Association of Oregon Foundation), Willamette University