The Junior Mathematical Congress series.

The Junior Mathematical Congress is a biennial series of week-long youth mathematics events in Europe that has been running since 1992. The JMC meetings gather between 40 and 300 students ages 15-18 for a meeting modeled after the large professional mathematics meetings – the ICM, the EMC, and to some extent the JMM – but inviting students who have gone through a process of discovery without requiring research grade originality to present their projects.

This meeting series distinguishes itself on the European scene as being one of very few youth mathematics events that is peer-based: students talking directly to students, rather than top-down with teachers, researchers and other adults talking to the participating students.

I will be describing the congress series, and my experiences – as a two time participant and two time organizer – with both the effort to organize one of these events, and the effect we have perceived on participants in their interest and dedication to mathematics. (Received August 27, 2013)