

1135-A1-3236 **Mark Saul***, marksaul@earthlink.net, and **Nancy Blachman**. *Julia Robinson Mathematics Festivals—An Alternative to Competition*.

A Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival is an after-school mathematical event in which students engage in unusual and deep mathematics in a cooperative environment. Guided by a facilitator, they work in groups of 6-10 on problem sets, activities, or games with mathematical content. The facilitator questions, supports, and guides, but does not teach in the traditional sense. The problems are offered at tables scattered around a large area, such as a gymnasium or cafeteria. Students choose which activities to engage in, and decide for themselves how long they will stay with each problem. The latter, rather than speed or even achievement level, is the measure of success for the program.

Competitions are by now a tradition in American mathematics. But they leave out important communities: minority communities and girls. We are developing a parallel tradition which includes these communities. In the process, we hope to affect the pedagogical styles of teachers involved in our program. (Received September 27, 2017)