

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
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**Contact: Anne Brooks Pfister**  
w) 510.642.0448 & [annepf@msri.org](mailto:annepf@msri.org)

## **JULIA ROBINSON MATH FESTIVAL COMES TO SFSU**

**Students who like math will challenge themselves by working on fun problems**

**WHAT:** At the **Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival**, up to 300 students in grades 6-12 will test their brainpower and enjoy a hands-on learning experience covering a wide variety of math topics. Students will circulate among activity tables where teachers, professors, graduate students, and others will engage the youths as they test their math skills on puzzles, games, and problems. Students will be rewarded for their creativity and persistence with raffle tickets for prizes such as books and games. Previous festivals have been wildly popular with students who attended and their parents! The last hour of the event will have an interactive mathematical session with Dr. Karl Schaffer of Math Dance (<http://www.mathdance.org/>) and De Anza college. Dr. Schaffer has performed this unique combination of math and dance all over the world.

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 1, from 8:45 am to 1:00 pm.

**WHERE:** On the **San Francisco State University campus** in the gym (for a map, see <http://www.sfsu.edu/~sfsuemap/southeast.htm>)

**HOW:** \$10 fee per student *or* free, by requesting a fee waiver. For additional information, the public can call MSRI at 510.642.0143 or send a message to [jrmf@msri.org](mailto:jrmf@msri.org).

**WEBPAGE:** For online registration, please go to <http://tinyurl.com/SFSUJRMF>.

**WHY:** To celebrate and share the joys and wonders of math with kids. The math festival is named in honor of [Julia Robinson](#) (1919–1985), who made significant contributions to the solution of Hilbert’s Tenth Problem, from Hilbert’s famous list of the most important mathematical problems for the twentieth century. Julia Robinson was a mathematics professor at UC Berkeley and, among her many accolades, she was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 1983.

**DETAILS:** The [Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival](#), a program of the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI), was founded by Nancy Blachman at MSRI in 2007. The festivals began in the Bay Area and have been held throughout California—Google Headquarters in Mountain View, Pixar Animation Studios in Emeryville, UCLA, and UC Berkeley—and now the program has expanded across the country with recent festivals having taken place in Texas and North Carolina. The Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival is a unique opportunity to share the wonder of math with students.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Anne Pfister, 510.642.0448 & cell) 510.688.8376, [annepf@msri.org](mailto:annepf@msri.org)

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**About MSRI:** The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI, <http://www.msri.org>), in Berkeley, California, is one of the world’s preeminent centers for research in the mathematical sciences and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding as an independent institute in 1982. Approximately 2,000 mathematicians visit the MSRI each year, and the Institute hosts about 85 leading researchers at any given time for stays of up to one academic year. The Institute has been funded primarily by the National Science Foundation with additional support from other government agencies, private foundations, corporations, individual donors, and over 80 academic institutions. MSRI is involved in K-12 math education through its annual “Critical Issues in Mathematics Education” conferences for educators, math circles, Julia Robinson Math Festivals, the National Association for Math Circles (NAMC) and its website (<http://www.mathcircles.org>), and Olympiad math competitions; in undergraduate education through its MSRI-UP program; and in public education through its “Conversations” series of public events.