

2025 Ted Lewis SNAP Math Fair Workshop

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1 Introduction

The SNAP Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to encourage the development of mathematics learning resources at the classroom level with very little retraining of the teaching staff, with very flexible budgets, and by utilizing the energy and natural curiosity of the students themselves.

The main theme of the BIRS workshop was, “What is a SNAP Math Fair and how to organize a Math Fair in your classroom”. This year the presenters mostly consisted of teachers/educators who shared their Math Fair experiences and success stories. One of the biggest benefits of the Ted Lewis SNAP Math Fair Workshop is that teachers who want to put on a Math Fair at their school can learn from the ones who have experience. They can begin to visualize what a SNAP Math Fair would like in their own school.

2 2025 Workshop Highlights

A topic that seemed to come up a few times during the workshop was how the idea of Math Fair benefits not only the eager students looking to be challenged, but all students in the classroom. One presenter in particular shared how impressively his classroom of “twice exceptional” students (students who are both gifted and have one or more learning disabilities such as ADHD, autism, or dyslexia) embraced their Math Fair projects and performed at their fair.

Another presenter shared an observation of how engaged their ELL students were at the University of Alberta SNAP Math Fair. Once their students had learned the rules of the puzzle/game, they could participate fully. It was one of the first times that the teacher had witnessed joy on the faces of these particular students. Teachers often comment on how engaged their students are at the University of Alberta SNAP Math Fair (and Unfair).

Homeschool networks have also embraced the idea of a SNAP Math Fair and have had the children in their network gather together in a park, mall, or similar public centre to present their projects.