

# USA Computing Olympiad correspondence

[Editor's note: USENIX is a major sponsor of USACO. These are a sampling of the thank-you notes received at USENIX subsequent to the USACO finals.—RK]

Thank you so much for your generous support of the USACO program. My son, Adam, has participated in USACO for two years. He was fortunate to be invited to the training camp both years, and he was chosen for the B-team at last year's IOI. These experiences have been among the most meaningful of his high school career. The program is very well run. The coaching staff has been nothing short of outstanding. USACO has been not only educational but also a lot of fun for Adam. He has always been keenly interested in computer science, but now, as a result of his USACO involvement, he is more excited than ever about studying computer science next year at MIT.

So, once again, thank you for your support of this very important program.

Sincerely,

Nancy, Don, and Adam Rosenfield

I am a sophomore at Barrington High School in Rhode Island, and a finalist at last month's USACO training camp. I would like to thank USENIX for supporting the USACO program, and urge you to continue your sponsorship of this unique and invaluable experience in programming.

The USACO program is challenging, extremely difficult, and intense. It is also very educational and instructive, and is excellent training for future study and careers. I can easily exhaust my course work in CS, but I can never exhaust USACO problems and contests. USACO also gives me a shot at competing internationally, which I could never do with training at my school. I also get a chance to meet talented programmers from all

over the country, and form friendships with some of the best people in the field.

I would like to thank you again for sponsoring this program, and I hope that you continue your commitment to America's young computer scientists by supporting USACO.

Sincerely,

Joe Zimmerman

I would like to thank you for supporting the USA Computing Olympiad. The USACO provides challenging algorithmic problems which have improved my programming skills enormously. My school's computer club has looked for other contests to use, but none are nearly so high in quality and difficulty as the USACO. In fact, my brother (who attended the ACM finals the past two years) says that ACM is easier and less well done than USACO and IOI. Also, the USACO provides online training pages which help newcomers learn algorithms. The training camp was a very valuable experience where I could meet other students as interested in computers as myself. I was fortunate enough to attend the International Olympiad in Informatics last year and look forward to going this year, and the USACO program provides the opportunity to meet international students interested in computers as well.

Sincerely,

Eric Price

My son has just qualified as a USACO team member to IOI in Greece this September. I am so grateful to you for your sponsorship of this wonderful competition and series of contests leading to the team selection. These high-level contests have been pivotal in my son's life. He tends to be shy, and has not been well

understood by most of the rest of the world, who cannot begin to relate to him and his passion for computer programming and problem solving. Through the USACO programs you sponsor, he has met others like him, both peers and adults, and has found a world where he fits in and excels. I know you may think all you are sponsoring is excellence in computing, but for my son you are sponsoring a wonderful life to reach an amazing potential as well. I cannot thank you enough.

Many blessings,

Vicky Kaseorg