Introduction to the AP Computer Science Reading

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What is it?

- The place where AP exams are graded each summer.

- APCS Reading held in downtown Cincinnati since 2009.

- Usually held first week in June. Next up: June 2-8, 2013.

- Participants read for 7 consecutive days. Two additional days are designated for travel.

- In 2013, you would miss five days of school.

- 140 of your closest CS friends engage in camaraderie, collegiality, and professional development.

How Reading is Organized

↗ Readers: 50% current APCS teachers with at least three years of experience, 50% college CS faculty

↗ First timers: (We <3 acorns!) provided extra support

↗ Tables: typically contain 3 pairs of Readers with 1 table leader

↗ Each FRQ has its own room. Each room has multiple table leaders and four question leaders. Supervising the QLs is an Exam Leader. The big cheese is the Chief Reader (CR).

↗ Readers are assigned to one of the four free-response questions.

↗ HS teachers typically participate for six years as a reader. They either then need to be promoted to leadership or to sit out for a few years in order to let other people enjoy the experience.

Rubrics and Training

Prior to the pre-Reading:

↗ The Chief Reader develops the rubrics and canonical solutions

At the pre-Reading:

↗ Question leaders (QLs) vet the rubrics and develop reader training

↗ Table leaders vet the training

Rubrics and Training Cont'd

Reader training:

↗ Takes almost the whole first day

↗ Be one with the rubric!

↗ Group reading of the training pack

↗ Split packs with table partner

Now on to the Reading:

↗ Table leaders mentor readers

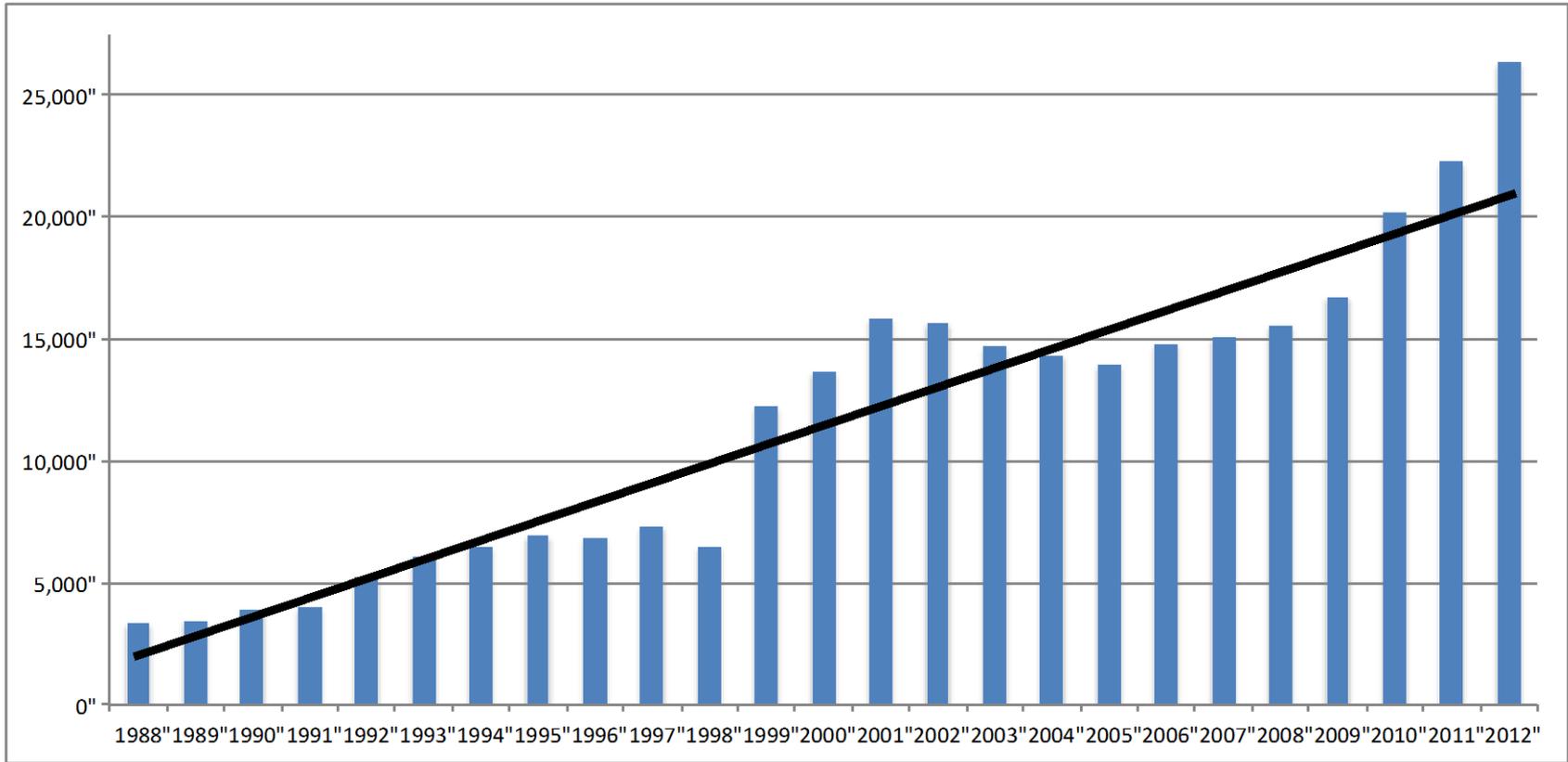↗ Consistency checks designed to support readers

After the Bell Rings

↗ Walking/running groups, golf, museum tours

↗ Designated social lounge at hotel open from 7-11pm

↗ Planned evening events include:
- ↗ Professional Night
- ↗ Toy Night
- ↗ Puzzle Night
- ↗ Reds Game
- ↗ Closing Ceremonies

How Do I Sign Up?

➚ [Applications](#) taken on a rolling basis.

➚ Want to participate in 2013? Apply early (Oct/Nov)!

➚ First-round invitations go out in early January.

➚ Must have taught AP CS for three years (ok to be in third year).

➚ Stipend is about $1600 (before taxes).

➚ All travel, meals, and lodging are covered (bring $$$ for optional Starbucks, Graeters ice cream, and Cubs games).

AP Computer Science A
26,350 Exams

+18% from 2011   **22,250**
+30% from 2010   **20,200**

Let's Practice

↗ Question #3 from the 2012 APCS exam spurred such great conversations at meals and breaks during the AP Reading in Cincinnati that I decided to use it as the example for this session.

↗ Talk through algorithm development.

↗ Consideration of test cases.

↗ Use of variable names.