

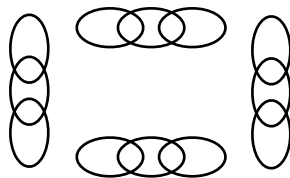
SPECIAL OPS DECEMBER CHALLENGE

This month's challenges are all Math Olympiad problems! Math Olympiad problems are designed to be challenging and make you think. You must use problem solving strategies to arrive at the answer. Sometimes more than one strategy might work, but some may be more efficient and flexible than others. Consider these problem solving strategies as you attack the problem:

- Draw a picture or diagram
- Make an organized list
- Make a table
- Solve a simpler, related problem first
- Find a pattern
- Experiment and be creative
- Work backwards

You must bring in the correct solution and identify which strategy (or strategies) you used to earn your blue Mastery Credit. Good luck!

You have 4 pieces of chain with 3 links apiece. You want to connect them all into one continuous chain. A jeweler will charge you \$2 to open a link and \$3 to close a link. How can you have the four pieces joined to form a continuous chain for only \$15?



Problem solving strategy: _____