

MATH ENCOUNTERS



DRIVEN *by* GEOMETRY

how to **RANDOMLY DIVIDE** *a cake*
(or a state)—**AND** *why it* **MATTERS**

Speaker: Wes Pegden

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Special introduction by **Joel Spencer**,
Silver Professor Emeritus, NYU Courant
Institute School of Mathematics,
Computing, and Data Science

Afternoon Presentation

4:00 pm ET (New York)

Evening Presentation

7:00 pm ET (New York)

National Museum of Mathematics

635 Sixth Avenue

New York, NY

We know how to divide a cake fairly: one person cuts, the other chooses. But what if we want the division to be truly random? What does “random” even mean when slicing a geometric object, and can mathematics guarantee it? Join mathematician Wes Pegden to explore how geometry and probability turn this simple question into a deep and surprisingly subtle problem — one with open mathematical challenges and real-world impact in political redistricting.

Register now at mathencounters.org to reserve your place!

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*A public presentation series celebrating
the spectacular world of mathematics*

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