
Math Kangaroo Bulletin



The bulletin of Math Kangaroo in USA, NFP

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www.mathkangaroo.org



Maria Omelanczuk, CEO



KANGOUROU SANS FRONTIERES

Welcome to Math Kangaroo 2017 Season!

Enrollment for our 20th Math Kangaroo competition is in progress until December 15. We can see returning students registered and new educators join us bringing in new participants. The program takes place at after-school educational institutions, at private and public schools, at homeschooling groups, and many other places ran by dedicated individuals. [All of our centers](#) are listed on our web page.



The volunteer commitment of all these groups and individuals representing them is essential to help students master mathematical skills. Math Kangaroo becomes a meaningful player in STEM efforts.

Math Kangaroo is a multiple-choice 75-minute test. The questions have the form of word and/or picture problems. They are prepared by the Association Kangourou sans Frontières - which meets annually to propose questions for the next Math Kangaroo test for students in [74 countries](#).

In March 2016, we had 24,000 participants from grade 1 to the senior class of high school. As every year, they all were awarded with t-shirts, certificates and toys. In May, 4,000 participants were recognized for earning the top 20 results at each level nationally. 1,700 students were awarded for earning the top 3 results at each level in their state. Recognition was accompanied by gifts and prizes.

This annual event utilizes the efforts of many people, including Managers, State Directors, and Developers. They provide places for the competition, distribute items for the MK Day as well as awards, prepare competition packages and develop our [Media Library](#) with plenty of learning material for registered students and hosting schools. The warm [feedback](#) we receive from families and schools is the fuel of our team’s motivation.

Parents are the greatest sponsors of Math Kangaroo in USA. Little by little they connect the organization with corporate giving campaigns. Recently we have joined [smile.amazon.com](#). When you log in there and indicate Math Kangaroo in USA as your charity of choice, 0.5% of your spending will be sent to our budget without extra cost to you. Please consider supporting us with [smile.amazon.com](#) during this holiday season.

Any donation is priceless as no child is refused participation and some families just cannot afford the \$20 participation fee.

Another reason why we ask for donations is that in three years we will be hosting the Association Kangourou sans Frontières meeting in Chicago. About 200 educators from different countries are expected. We are looking for sponsors. Any donation from you would help make this a positive experience for all involved. Please consider donating today and add “KSF-2019” in the note when you declare your amount via our [Donate-for-KSF2019](#) page.

Monetary or verbal, your support is needed and appreciated; we also value your time for reading this bulletin, where one can see scope and impact of Math Kangaroo Competition in USA.

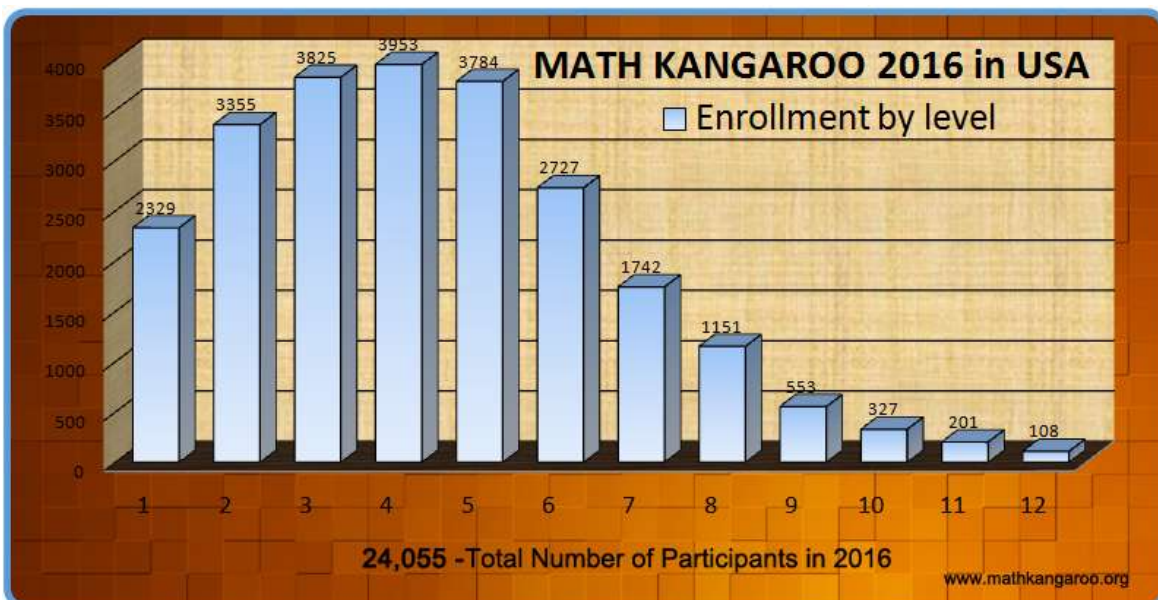
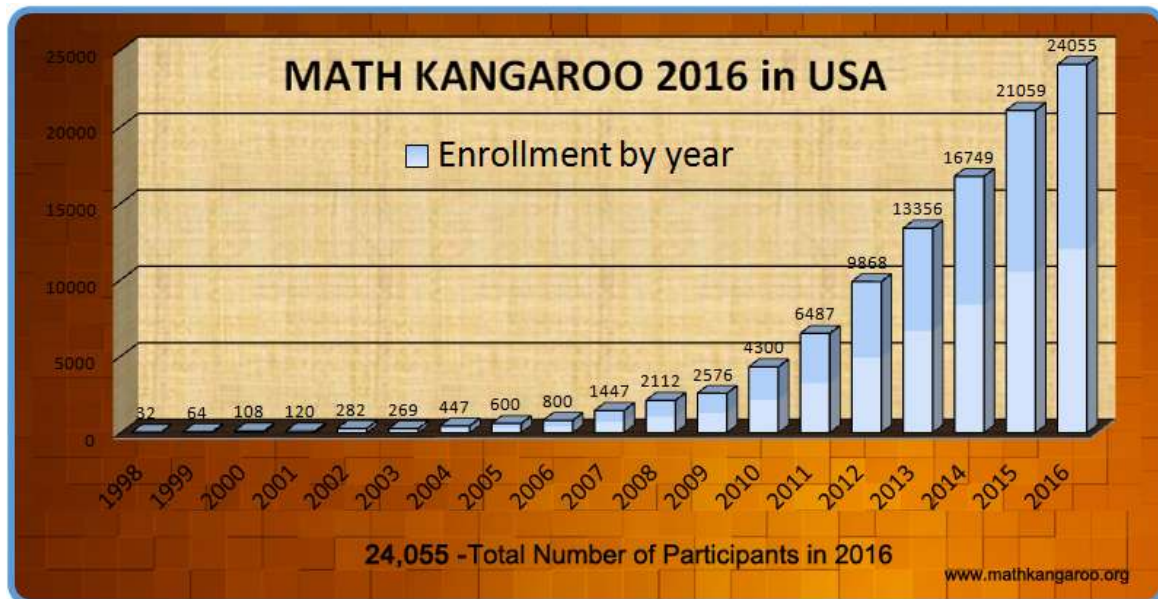
Thank you for backing us!

Sincerely,

Maria Omelanczuk

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Izabela Szpiech, CFO

It's hard to believe Math Kangaroo 2016 is over and next year's enrollment is already in progress. We are looking forward to having a great number of registered students and even more impressive number of winners.

Every year we are used to seeing a growing number of contestants! With steadily improving results, every year we award more and more participants at each level. The list of our champions is long.

Among prizes are gift cards, valuable educational gifts and trophies. This year, five senior level students received a \$1000 college grant for their participation and dedication to MK throughout the years. Ten of our participants took part of the international MK math camp in Zakopane, Poland with all expenses paid. This prize was for their excellent performances and partaking in our competition over many years. **Congratulations to our winners**, in total there were over 24k! Yes! All winners!

MK also awarded every participant with the experience they gained and learning that math is not only about formulas and operations but it can also be fun. For that, everybody received a T-shirt and a very intriguing wooden puzzle in addition to free access to our media library with plenty of learning material and a test booklet.

To us the most important is that every student leaves with deeper knowledge of math and how it may apply to many aspects of everyday life. We are ever thrilled to see that awareness of the importance of mathematics is spreading across the United States! Don't forget to enroll for Math Kangaroo 2017. Seats are taken fast and time is ticking. Dec 15th it is the deadline this year.

Thank you to our sponsors, among them the parents, who contribute the greatest support.

Good luck with MK2017 competition!

Izabela Szpiech



**Magdalena Teodorowicz,
From Development Team**

The following students were awarded with the International Math Kangaroo 2016 Int'l Camp in Zakopane, Poland in August.

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Level	City	State
VINCENT	WENXIN	BIAN	9	CLARKSBURG	MD
BENJAMIN	R	KAN	9	LISLE	IL
CHRISTOPHER	S	LEE	9	WEXFORD	PA
AADITYA	KUMAR	SINGH	9	MCLEAN	VA
WILLIAM	JUNJIE	WANG	9	OVERLAND PARK	KS
ERIC	LEE	WEI	9	SCARSDALE	NY
CONNOR	A	LEHMACHER	10	CLEMSON	SC
VINCENT		PAN	10	LAS VEGAS	NV
MELISSA		MU	10	NAPERVILLE	IL
SANJANA	SIMRAN	RAMRAJVEL	10	NAPERVILLE	IL

The following students were awarded with \$ 1000 grant.

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Level	City	State
EMILY		JIA	12	HOFFMAN ESTATES	IL
ELBERT	J	DU	12	CHICAGO	IL
MICHAEL	K	RUPPRECHT	12	CHICAGO	IL
TIMOTHY	E	GIESEKING	12	SUWANEE	GA
MIKHAIL		BOULGAKOV	12	MOUNTAIN VIEW	CA

MEMORIES from 10-days Math Kangaroo International Math Camp at Zakopane, Poland



I had an amazing time at the Math Kangaroo camp in Zakopane. I met many friends from different countries.

The math was interesting and educational. I learned a lot from the lectures, and the problems were quite engaging. The activities were a lot of fun. We hiked in the beautiful Tatra Mountains, and visited the Wieliczka Salt Mines and Krakow. We played a lot of chess, table tennis, and foosball.

Aside from that, I have so many more fond memories:

playing 10-person bughouse, card games (Kemps, Mau, and Resistance), and Contact, going down the toboggan slide, etc.

Our chaperones, Magda and Irmina, took care of us very well. With their help, the whole trip went very smoothly.

I am very grateful to the organizers of Math Kangaroo, and will always remember this wonderful experience!

Eric Wei from NY, Level 9



The Math Kangaroo Zakopane camp was very fun.

I made a lot of new friends from various countries across the world. I learned a lot about different math techniques, games, and about the different landmarks. We travelled to various locations including a salt mine, a place where you could ride a toboggan, several historic sites as well as the Tatras Mountains. Although the hikes were long and tiring, we were able to see the spectacular views at the peaks.

When we weren't out on an excursion, there was usually

something planned such as several tournaments, "funny mathematics", and barbecues.

In our spare time, we were able to make friends over games of resistance, fish, chess, foosball ("table soccer"), and other various activities.

Magda and Irmina took great care of us, and were always there to help. I made many new friends and memories, and this will be an amazing experience I will always remember.

Thank you!

William Wang from KS, Level 9





I had a lot of fun meeting and interacting with other math students from around the world. I really enjoyed the classes as they exposed me to topics I'd never seen before. I also appreciated the feedback I got on my daily problem solutions as well as my contest solutions. Overall, in the math part of the camp, I enjoyed the problems the most. They were really nice problems that involved a lot of logic, as well as what we learned in class. I also really liked the professors and camp administrators.

On the non-math side, I really enjoyed our morning hikes, trip to Krakow and the trip to the salt mine. On the hikes, I had a lot of fun with the other campers. I also loved that I got to see the amazing scenery in Poland.

In Krakow, I enjoyed the tour and our lunch at an authentic Polish restaurant. I think my favorite trip was to the salt mine. I thought the mine was really cool and enjoyed exploring it.

I also loved the organization of the camp. I liked the rooms, bathrooms and dining hall. I was also very happy that we could go to the supermarket and buy snacks for our rooms. I also loved the free time we got every night. It really gave me the chance to make new friends who were from other countries.

Thank you so much for making my amazing experience in Poland possible!

Aaditya Singh from VA, Level 9





The Zakopane Math Kangaroo camp was a pinnacle experience of my life.

I enjoyed many of the trips such as a visit to a salt mine or an excursion to Krakow. The salt mine featured fascinating history and geology. Hikes through the Tatra Mountains and the conversations along those hikes also proved to be enjoyable.

I made friends from the US and Lithuania. We played 10 player chess and many card games. Also, the math at the lectures was interesting

such as a discussion of the Full Angle Method and Various Pythagorean theorem variations (given other special conditions about the angles).

Magda and Irmina were excellent guides who helped us with our minor problems (such as having insufficient snack food). I learned much in playing card games, foosball strategy, and math. This was an experience that I will remember fondly.

Thank you,

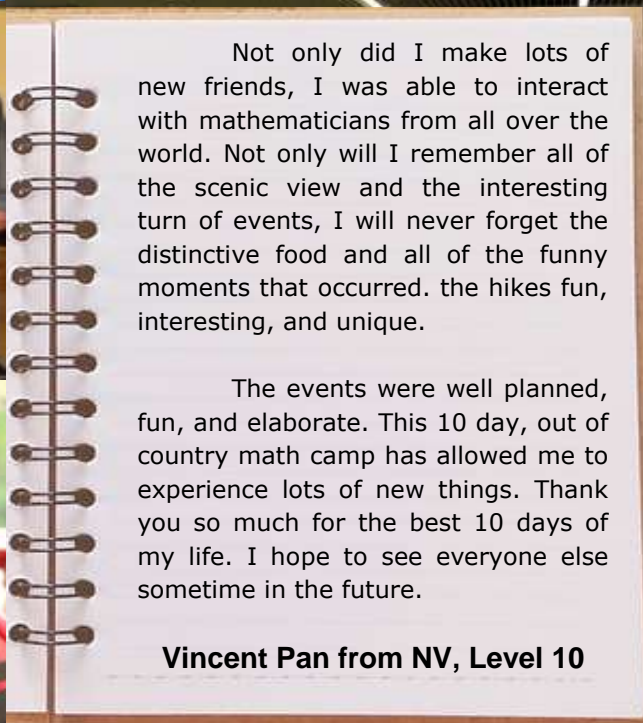
**Connor Lehmacher
from SC, Level 10**





I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Math Kangaroo this year. I met some amazing people from around the world and it was an extremely unique experience compared to the other math camps I've attended. Being able to travel to Poland was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I'm incredibly grateful to have shared it with such special people. The camp hosted a variety of activities from chess to foosball to shopping in downtown Zakopane. I created many unforgettable memories at this camp and I hope I get the chance to see everyone again!

Melissa Mu from IL, Level 10



Not only did I make lots of new friends, I was able to interact with mathematicians from all over the world. Not only will I remember all of the scenic view and the interesting turn of events, I will never forget the distinctive food and all of the funny moments that occurred. the hikes fun, interesting, and unique.

The events were well planned, fun, and elaborate. This 10 day, out of country math camp has allowed me to experience lots of new things. Thank you so much for the best 10 days of my life. I hope to see everyone else sometime in the future.

Vincent Pan from NV, Level 10





The Zakopane camp was an incredible experience. I had such an amazing time in Poland and I feel unbelievably lucky to have been a part of Team USA there.

Not only were the mathematical lectures and competitions with other campers very interesting, but the other activities were of excellent quality as well. I will never forget the experience of viewing the world from the top of the hill Nosal, or inhaling the aromas of Polish delicacies on Gubałówka, or feeling that sense of awe at the history and magnificence of Kraków, or hearing the multitude of echoing voices inside the caves of Kościeliska Valley, or tasting the halite walls in the salt mines of Wieliczka. There were a wide variety of recreational activities, including table tennis, foosball, and chess tournaments, board games, and many, many card games.

Our chaperones took very good care of us and responded reasonably to our every inquiry, no matter how extravagant the requests were.

Even though the camp was overall extremely enjoyable, the relationships I formed with other campers were the most extraordinary aspect of the camp, both with other members of Team USA and from other countries. No other place would have as much memorable interaction as in that quaint hostel in Zakopane.

Given the chance to take the trip again, I would probably make an effort to try a greater diversity of Polish food, but there is no doubt that I would jump at the opportunity to return to this fantastic camp.

Thanks for everything!

Benjamin Kan from IL, Level 9



Reflections about Math Kangaroo Competition



Emily Jia, IL

I've participated in Math Kangaroo every year since third grade; the prizes and problems never fail to impress! I've travelled to Poland for the Kangaroo Camp, built some awesome 3D structures out of paper and wood, and covered my bookcase with various puzzles from the competition. Furthermore, the problems are more puzzle-like than those you'd expect on an AMC, so the test is always interesting to take and practice. Thank you for these experiences—Math Kangaroo has been a blast!

This fall, I'll be moving to Cambridge to attend Harvard as a prospective Math + CS concentrator! My ideal career path is academia, but I'll be keeping an open mind when exploring the countless possibilities of math-related jobs.



Michael Rupprecht, IL

I've participated in Math Kangaroo since I was in 2nd grade. My mom first signed me up, and I enjoyed it. Since then, I've done it every year, and it's fun every time. I think it's a great way to introduce kids, especially young kids, to the type of creative thinking involved in math and problem-solving - it certainly helped me do so.

I'm going to college at Caltech, hoping (as of now) to major in theoretical math.



Mikhail Boulgakov, CA

I have been participating in Math Kangaroo since 2nd grade. It was an amazing experience because Math Kangaroo is the only competition that is suitable for young, elementary school students. Math Kangaroo has inspired my love for math and has greatly influenced my plans for the future.

This fall, I will be off to UC San Diego to pursue a degree in Computer Engineering.

**Elbert Du, IL**

I started participating in Math Kangaroo when I was in 3rd grade, and that year I did not win anything. After that, I participated in Math Kangaroo every year and placed in the top 10, partly due to the desire to get better after realizing how far I had to go when I was unable to win anything in 3rd grade. In 8th grade, I took the 9th grade Math Kangaroo test because I wanted the extra challenge, and I ended up being selected for the Poland math camp. In Poland, I met many other amazing people such as Colin Tang and Daniel Chiu who I have met again at various math contests throughout the year. Math Kangaroo was a lot of fun and a wonderful learning experience for me.

My plans for college are not set in stone yet, but I think I will major in finance, technology, math, or computer science. I will go to a 4-year university, and then find a job (unless I choose to major in math, in which case I will get a PhD before finding a job).

**Timothy Giesekeing, GA**

I have been a Math Kangaroo National Award winner and the Georgia first place winner every year since he began competing as a sixth grader in 2010. I won gold medals in 2014 and 2016 and participated in the 2013 Zakopane International Math Kangaroo Camp. I am a very enthusiastic competitor, participating in many other local and national competitions. I were the 2014 and 2015 winner of the University of Georgia Mathematics Tournament and the 2016 Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics State Tournament and were a two-time USAMO qualifier.

I were the 2016 valedictorian of the Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology. I will be attending the Georgia Institute of Technology in the fall and will be majoring in mathematics.

Next Math Kangaroo Day: Thursday, March 16, 2017
(Guam: Friday, March 17)

Registration takes place on www.mathkangaroo.org
from **September 15 to December 15, 2016** – subject to place availability.
Register early because places fill up quickly.

Schools are welcome to join us until **December 1**. If interested, send e-mail to info@mathkangaroo.org
Plenty of free practice material can be found in [Practice Materials](#) section on our web page.

Math Kangaroo 2017 Poster Contest



Joanna Matthiesen, CIO

In May the winner of the annual National Math Kangaroo Poster Contest was announced. The winning design from the contest has been used to promote the 20th Annual Math Kangaroo Math Competition in March of 2017 that encourages students to build and master their mathematical knowledge. There were 46 posters submitted to the contest. Together there were 38 students and 8 adults participating in this great event. The endeavor of choosing best poster wasn't easy as there were a lot of great entries in this pool. A panel of judges narrowed down the entries, judged them and made their final decision.

The award for Best Poster went to **Aditya Kaliappan**, a senior high school student at the time of the contest. His winning entry did a terrific job of capturing the essence of the Math Kangaroo mission, as well as creating a truly powerful poster and message! He received a certificate of award and \$250.00 Amazon gift card. This is what he says about himself: *My name is Aditya V. Kaliappan, and I am currently pursuing a Computer Science major at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. I am very interested in abstract thinking emphasized by mathematics and computer science. I am a former participant in the Math Kangaroo competitions, and was able to win prizes at the state level. Competitions have always allowed me to improve my critical thinking skills throughout my school years and in college. My poster expresses my hope that students will find greater success in their academic endeavors by learning to read critically and think about mathematics curiously when preparing for and participating in the Math Kangaroo competition.*

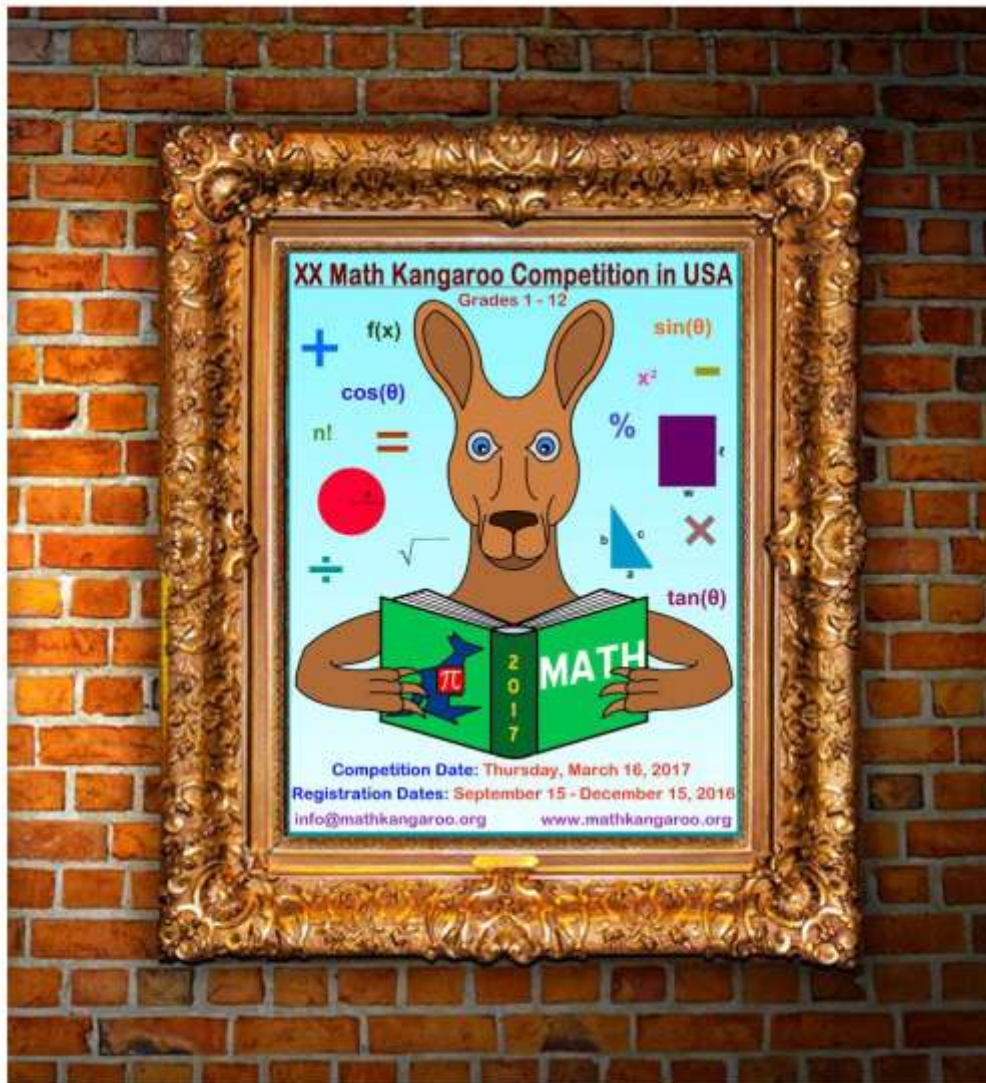


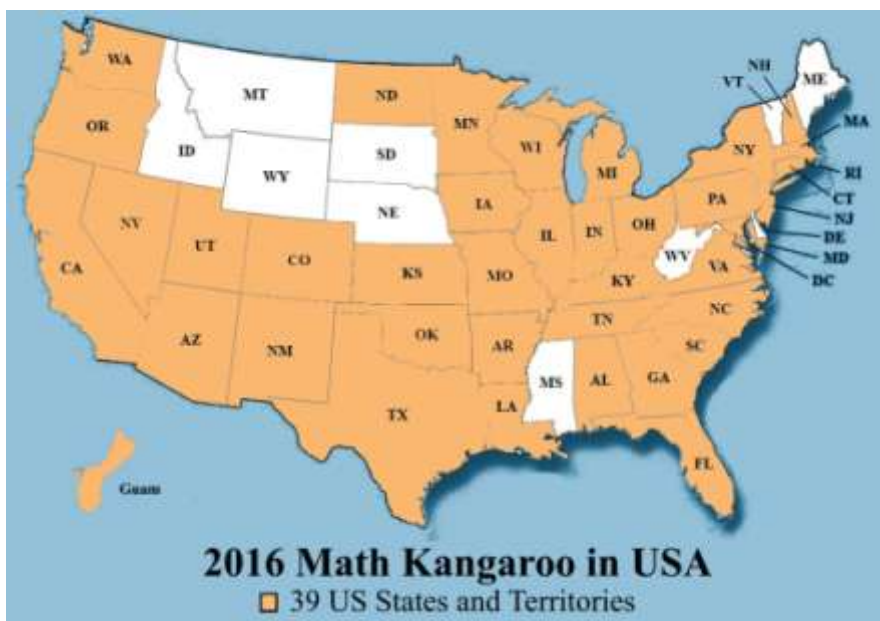
Aditya Kaliappan

I wanted to say thank you to all students and adults that showed the engagement in drawing, painting, coloring by hand (like many of the youngest participants did) as well as electronically. Congratulations to Aditya for his winning entry and a special thank you to the following participants: Faith, Sasirekha, Hunter, Maya, Maria, Lindsay, Jacob, Anna, Melia, Malisa, Aegus, Amita, Ritvik, Phoebe, Lily, Neeraja, Maria, Lila, Monica, Ainhoa, Lucas, Milady, Gabriela, Gillian, Steve, Angela, Branno, Melanie, Jonathan, Liza, Amber, Keona, Jane, Marcus, Santoshi, Pawel, Adarsh, Rae, Michal, Bharathi, Gosia, Viraj, Shuqi, Elizabeth, Lydia. Please see their creative work [here](#).

We invite students and adults to create a poster for the upcoming XXI Math Kangaroo in USA competition. Please read **Math Kangaroo 2018 Poster Contest Information** [here](#)

And here is the winning poster!





We would like to thank our friends and promoters.



Please contact us at info@mathkangaroo.org if you or your organization are interested in supporting our endeavor.

Our address:
 MATH KANGAROO in USA, Nfp
 P.O.BOX 472
 LISLE, IL 60532

Payments only:
 MATH KANGAROO in USA, Nfp
 P.O. BOX 56353
 CHICAGO, IL 60656

www.mathkangaroo.org • info@mathkangaroo.org

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