MATH KANGAROO ANNUAL
STUDENT IMPACT & HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

2025

VOLUME XVI, ISSUE 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Math Kangaroo USA since 1998

WWW.MATHKANGAROO.ORG

THE LARGEST MATH COMPETITION IN THE WORLD FOR K-12 STUDENTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Joanna Matthiesen,
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Parents and Math Kangaroo Educators,

As we prepare for **the 29th annual Math Kangaroo** competition this March, I would like to personally thank you for being part of our growing Math Kangaroo community. Year after year, this program thrives because of students' curiosity, families' encouragement, and educators' commitment to fostering joyful and meaningful mathematical thinking.

To continue improving the Math Kangaroo experience, we would greatly value your perspective. **What motivates students to participate? What excites them most? How do families and educators best support their mathematical journey?** Your insights will help us strengthen our programs, communication, and resources for years to come.

We'd like to invite you to complete a brief, voluntary, and anonymous survey that will directly inform future Math Kangaroo initiatives. Please save a screenshot of your confirmation number. It will be entered into a drawing for a Math Kangaroo plushy, a special item reserved this year for only the top 10 students.

SURVEY LINK

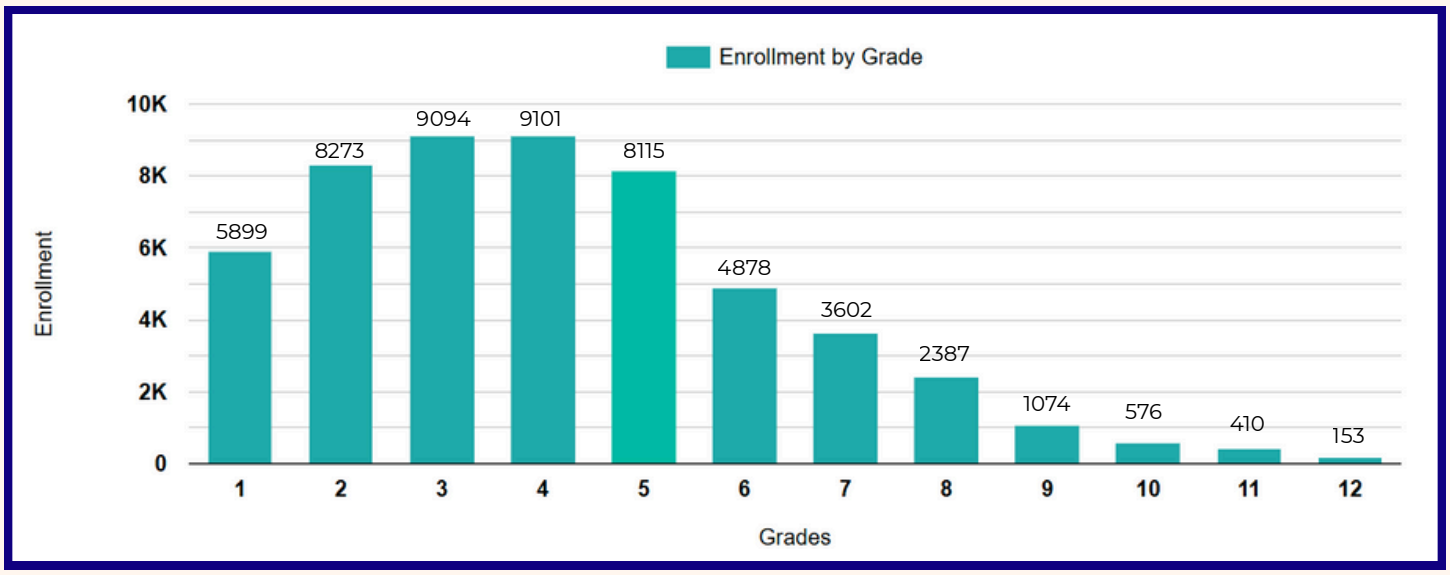
Thank you for helping us continue our mission to inspire a love of mathematics in students of all ages. Your voice makes a meaningful difference. If you'd like to share your experience or suggestions beyond the survey, please contact me at info@mathkangaroo.org. I would be happy to hear from you.

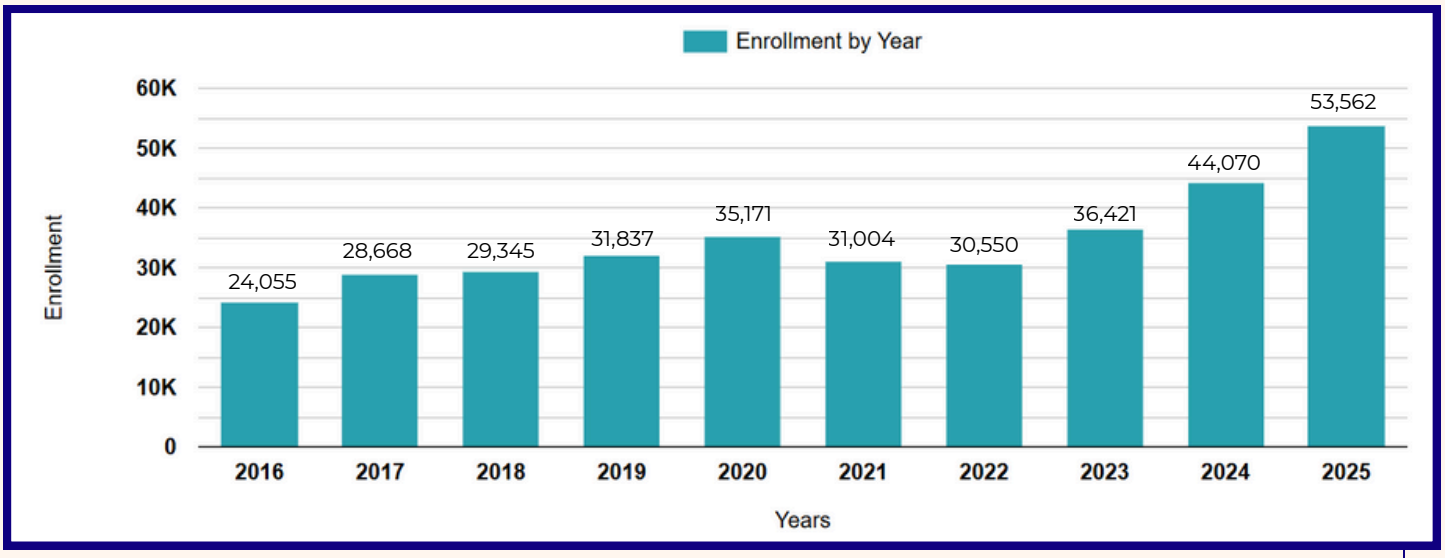
With appreciation,

Joanna Matthiesen
CEO, Math Kangaroo USA

STATISTICS

In 2025, the Math Kangaroo competition in the United States registered **53,562** participants nationwide. The competition was held at **1,080** centers across all 50 states and U.S. territories, reflecting the program's broad national reach and continued growth.
Additional statistical details are available on **our website**.





Izabela Szpiech,
Chief Financial Officer

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Each Math Kangaroo season brings a deep sense of accomplishment as students grow in confidence, curiosity, and mathematical skill. This impact is made possible by the remarkable dedication of volunteers who connect students across the country with the global Math Kangaroo community.

On behalf of the entire team, heartfelt thanks go to all who believe in the mission and support it financially. Private donors make it possible to extend opportunities to children from families facing financial hardship, removing barriers so that access to learning is shaped by potential rather than circumstance.ct when matched by employers.

This generosity also enables the recognition of excellence through a wide range of awards for top- performing students, including scholarships, cash prizes, and fully funded math camps in Poland and at Wolfram - experiences that offer exceptional international and academic enrichment.

Special recognition is due to Think Academy for its generous donations over two consecutive years, which allowed nearly 1,000 students from Title I schools to participate at no cost.

Appreciation is also extended to center leaders, schools, and partner organizations whose continued collaboration keeps the program thriving.

The team looks forward to another rewarding school year and an inspiring Math Kangaroo season ahead.

Samvel Sahakyan
New York State Director

A NEW CHAPTER IN COLLABORATIVE MATHEMATICS: MATH KANGAROO TEAM COMPETITION

This year's Math Kangaroo Team Competition marked an exciting new chapter in how students experience mathematical problem solving. Unlike individual contests, the team format encouraged students to think together, discuss ideas, challenge one another's reasoning, and arrive at solutions collaboratively. For many participants, this was their first opportunity to experience mathematics as a shared intellectual adventure rather than a solitary task.

Throughout the competition, teams demonstrated not only strong analytical skills but also creativity, communication, and perseverance. Students learned how to divide tasks efficiently, explain their thinking clearly, and respect different approaches to the same problem. These are essential skills that extend far beyond mathematics and play a vital role in academic growth and real-world problem-solving.

The enthusiasm was evident during preparation sessions and on competition day. Coaches and parents reported that students were highly engaged, motivated, and eager to contribute to their teams. In many cases, students continued discussing strategies and solutions well after the sessions ended, a clear sign of genuine interest and enjoyment.

Parents shared very positive feedback, noting that their children

Cather Elementary School Teams
(Omaha, NE)

Margolin Hebrew Academy Teams
(Memphis, TN)

Sutter Elementary Team
(Santa Clara, CA)

Geffen Academy Team at UCLA
(Los Angeles, CA)

were excited, highly engaged, and proud to work as part of a team. Many appreciated seeing students develop communication skills, confidence, and enjoyment in mathematics beyond individual performance. Many parents also suggested that the team competition become a series of events rather than a single one, an idea we are strongly considering.

Center managers and coaches also responded enthusiastically, highlighting the strong student engagement and the value of the collaborative format. Several noted that the team competition created a sense of community at their centers and expressed interest in offering similar team-based events in the future. Based on this feedback, we are actively considering developing the team competition into an ongoing program.

The pilot Team Competition also provided valuable insights for future development. It showed that collaboration can deepen understanding, build confidence, and make advanced mathematical thinking accessible and enjoyable for a broader range of students. We are excited to build on this foundation and further expand team-based opportunities in the years ahead.

Lucia Liu
Chief Marketing Officer

WHEN MATH BECOMES AN ADVENTURE: MATH KANGAROO ASIA CAMP

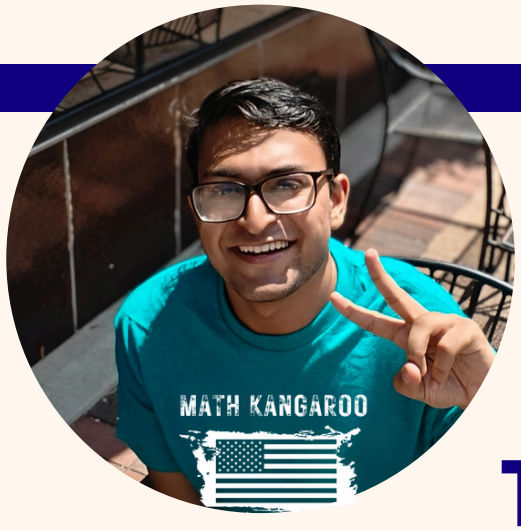
As the Lead Teacher for the Math Kangaroo Asia Camp, I had the privilege of guiding **14 outstanding Grade 6–8 winners and 3 guest participants as they joined over 900 campers from more than 10 countries** for a six-day immersive experience. The program challenges students' mathematical skills while fostering creativity, collaboration, and global connections. Participants competed in math challenges, showcasing their individual problem-solving abilities and teaming up with others to tackle complex, stimulating problems. In workshops and masterclasses, students explored real-world scenarios, sharpened their logical thinking, and engaged in hands-on inquiry that pushed their limits.

Beyond the classroom, campers enjoyed Math Carnival, Math Bazaar, and Team Show activities, blending mental challenges with physical games, creative projects, and teamwork. Students presented their knowledge through posters, models, multimedia, and fun team performances, celebrating ingenuity and cooperation. The camp also encouraged friendships across cultures, sparking exciting conversations and idea-sharing among math enthusiasts worldwide.

Our students returned with boosted confidence, stronger problem-solving skills, and a renewed curiosity for learning. Many earned awards individually and as teams, but the true

value lies in the friendships formed, the thrill of creative exploration, and the inspiration to continue pursuing mathematical excellence on a global stage.

(from left in the back) Ritisha Srivastava, Mehrunisa Pflyuk, Yukti Nakul, Pavinoor Kaur Jaggi, Tiffany Han, Kristyn, Anastasia, Lila Esther Smith, Kyril Heraskou (from left in the front) Theodore Hoelscher, Leo, Luke Shu Gui, Franklin Liu, Jay Mitros, Eva Chen, Anh Khoa Ho, Ishaan Srivastava



Arpit Ranasaria
Chaperone the 2025
Math Camp in Poland

BEYOND BORDERS: U.S. STUDENTS AT THE MATH KANGAROO CAMP IN ZAKOPANE, POLAND

In summer 2025, our U.S. team had the joy of joining the Mathematical Kangaroo camp in Zakopane, held July 29 to August 7 at the Dafne II resort.

Each day felt like a small story: morning light on the Tatra Mountains, laughter over breakfast, and then the quiet intensity of minds turning toward a beautiful problem. Our hikes opened into breathtaking views across Poland and toward Slovakia, and the mountains somehow made even hard mathematics feel expansive and possible.

Students arrived from several countries, and by the end, the camp felt like one shared language of curiosity, kindness, and brave attempts.

Problem of the Day became a daily heartbeat, as teams worked side by side on proof-based questions over several days. Some groups began the moment the problem appeared at breakfast; others saved the final push for late-night brainstorming, chasing the last missing idea together. The workshops invited exploration beyond typical math camps, rewarding creativity, clear communication, and the steady courage to keep cracking at difficult problems until you succeed.

Over the course of the camp, I watched strangers become lifelong friends in real time: solving puzzles together, challenging each other in sports, bonding over shared interests, and exploring Zakopane together.

When camp was over, we rejoiced with a talent show, swapped little gifts from home, and at the end, traded Math Kangaroo shirts as if to carry a piece of each other back across borders.

It was only ten days, but it felt like much more: an adventure where mathematics, friendship, and wonder braided together into something lasting.

(from the left side) Kaitlyn Du (chaperone), Jiaying (Daisy) Ying, Connor Kong, Varun Gadi, Ishaan Mittal, Anshul Mantri, Tejas Gandi, David Wang, Riddhiman Rana, Arnav Prabhudesai, Aahlad Bysani, Arpit Ranasaria (chaperone)

REFLECTIONS ABOUT MATH KANGAROO COMPETITION

David Deutsch

San Diego, CA

I have always loved thinking about the problems, which I find fun, refreshing, and motivating. Participating in Math Kangaroo each year strengthened my enthusiasm for mathematics and puzzle-solving, and it played an important role in motivating me to pursue a career in STEM.

The first time I participated in MK, in 3rd grade, I saw two students leave early (within the first 20 minutes) and collect their participation certificate and t-shirt from the proctor. I thought that they were being handed first and second prize for finishing fastest, so in order not to miss out on the remaining "third prize", I stopped solving problems and got out as well. I exited the room beaming and waving the certificate triumphantly at my dad, who realized that he had never explained the rules to me. The partial work I turned in did not suffice for third rank, but I did make the national winners list.

I will be attending Stanford University, where I plan to study computer science and neuroscience, aspiring to a research career in computational neuroscience.

David Zhang

Sam Ramon, CA

I still remember taking my first Math Kangaroo competition back in first grade and realizing that Math Kangaroo represented a fundamentally creative side of math. The problems, though concise in formulation, required clever logic and intuition to unravel. They seemed to perfectly capture the thrill and challenge of the puzzles I had always loved.

Since then, I've participated in many other math competitions and programs, but none of them have come close to Math Kangaroo in terms of accessibility and unique perspectives. I especially appreciated the international camp in Zakopane, which opened my eyes not only to fresh viewpoints surrounding math but also to fascinating cultures.

Math Kangaroo has been extraordinarily meaningful for me, and I have every faith that it will continue to inspire curiosity and passion in younger students.

This fall, I will be attending MIT, majoring in mathematics and computer science.

Andrew Brahms

Morris Plains, NJ

I have participated in the Math Kangaroo competition every year since fourth grade, and I don't think that there was a single time I came away from the contest without a few of the problems stuck in my mind for days after.

This is part of why I chose to volunteer with the organization during the summer of 2023, which proved to be a similarly enriching experience. It was my first experience being a teaching assistant, and I enjoyed it so much that I then decided to TA with a local math circle the following autumn, where I still volunteer today.

I would like to thank the Math Kangaroo organization again for everything they have done for me, **helping inspire me not only to learn fun and interesting math concepts, but also to share my passion for mathematics with others.**

I will be attending MIT in the fall, majoring in Computational Biology.

I love participating in Math Kangaroo since it is such a unique math competition. Math Kangaroo is special in that it involves lots of logic and intuitive reasoning, skills that are becoming increasingly relevant with the rise of software and AI.

Math Kangaroo is an excellent way for young students to get started with this logical reasoning, and it has been one of my favorite activities since I was very young.

I started taking Math Kangaroo in 2nd grade. Since then, year upon year, I have come back not only because of how the exam has improved my reasoning but also because I genuinely enjoy tackling the fun and thought-provoking problems.

The award that allowed me to attend the Wolfram Summer Camp was especially transformative, opening the door to mathematical research and taking my exploration of math to an entirely new level.

Aidan Zhang

Irvine, CA

I am deeply grateful to you for organizing such engaging and challenging competitions and for consistently supporting students through so many enriching opportunities over the years.

This fall, I will be attending Yale University, where I plan to study Applied Mathematics.

Daniel Gilman

Edgewater, NJ

I first participated in Math Kangaroo in 1st grade, and have looked forward to the competition every year since. I enjoyed how the problems required creative thinking, often challenging me to approach them in several different ways. With time, my participation in Math Kangaroo led me to try other competitions and explore math on my own.

I am also extremely grateful for having been able to attend the Math Kangaroo Camp in the summer of 2023. Working together on math problems, I became friends with participants from the US and around the world.

Although this year was my last time participating in Math Kangaroo, I will always remember it for helping me develop my love for math.

This fall, I am planning to attend Oxford University, where I will study Math and Computer Science.

Eric Jin

West Lafayette, IN

It was honestly the fun of thinking of creative solutions to unique problems. Each problem was like a brain puzzle, and Math Kangaroo does a good job of writing high-quality questions. (#notsponsored)

The creative thinking skills I got out of Math Kangaroo (and also math competitions in general) carried over to a lot of things, like doing well on AP tests at school or thinking of how to accomplish some specific task when I'm writing a piece of software.

This year's test was pretty hard at first. I got stuck on like maybe 3-4 of the last ten questions. Somehow, after staring at them for like 5 minutes each, I managed to do them all. I don't know the exact score I got yet, but given that I won money, I guess I did pretty well! Don't give up!

This fall, I will be attending Purdue University to pursue a major in Computer Science.

Rohith Raghavan

Sharon, MA

Throughout the past 12 years, I've often found Math Kangaroo to be a place of respite.

After a busy season of math competitions requiring the memorization of obscure formulas and school classes forcing repetitive techniques, **Math Kangaroo offered a different flavor of math.**

Most of the problems could be solved by people of all ages and math backgrounds, focusing on out-of-the-box logic and critical thinking that led to elegant solutions without the need for complicated formulas. For those 75 minutes every year, as I mapped geometric figures in my head and used simple, beautiful logic to solve hard problems, I rediscovered why I had fallen in love with math in the first place: the ability to explore and dream freely in pursuit of an answer.

Those feelings kept me returning to Math Kangaroo year after year, and reinvigorated a passion for math that pushed me to go deeper into my studies and exploration.

This fall, I plan on attending Harvard College and majoring in Applied Math, continuing to pursue my love for math while also focusing on real-world applications in democratic and social systems.

I owe it to Math Kangaroo for instilling in me not only a love for math, but also the persistence to think about math creatively and boldly.

Rockwell Li

Virginia Beach, VA

I have two main inspirations to continue participating. The first is that I had a friend who took the Math Kangaroo alongside me every single year until he graduated. I really liked his support and enthusiasm for math, so for each year, I did the same for my younger sister to support her development of curiosity in Mathematics. Secondly, I have always enjoyed how Math Kangaroo is different from other competitions in the way that it has promoted outside-the-box thinking over repetitive calculations and theorems. It has always been a joy to take the Math Kangaroo, even in 12th grade.

The program has really driven me to explore mathematics rather than just arrive at answers. It is about why do numbers behave in this way, or why do these shapes match up in the way they do. I think that this philosophy has given me a fuller view of mathematics, as whenever there is something I don't understand, I seek to derive and prove it before continuing.

My most memorable moment was in 3rd grade when I had struggled really hard on the last problem and couldn't figure it out. I had remembered the problem until the next week when my math teacher held a small group meeting, and I brought it up. We took a long time thinking about the logic and trying different arrangements before I was finally able to understand it. Although the memory is faint, I still remember that the problem had something to do with a flower's petal.

I plan to go to the University of Oxford.

Timothy Torubarov

Wayne, NJ,

I was fascinated by math since I could barely talk. As a math student, I loved the difficulty level, where I could feel both confident and challenged while taking it. It became a tradition to annually take part in Math Kangaroo with my brothers and celebrate our participation and achievements together. Each year, I was motivated to return by the joy of tackling creative and challenging problems that went beyond the standard curriculum.

It allowed me a very accessible platform to practice my math and to learn what it could be about. There aren't many programs that allow young students to pursue math this way, and it has played a large part in manifesting my love for mathematics. I'm grateful to Math Kangaroo for the opportunities and encouragement it has provided.

My favorite memory related to Math Kangaroo was my trip to Zakopane, Poland, where I was able to meet dozens of talented mathematicians from all over the world. It was a great bonding experience and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. One of the best trips was into the salt mine near Krakow, a truly unforgettable adventure.

As an incoming Ellison Scholar, I plan to study at the University of Oxford this fall, majoring in Mathematics and Computer Science.

Ethan Do

Bellevue, WA

What inspired me to return to Math Kangaroo each year was the combination of joy and challenge it brought.

From 1st grade onward, it became more than just a competition—it became a personal tradition and an annual celebration with the math community. I loved seeing how the problems evolved over the years, requiring not just formulas, but creative thinking. Each contest felt like a fun puzzle session that tested not only what I knew, but how I thought.

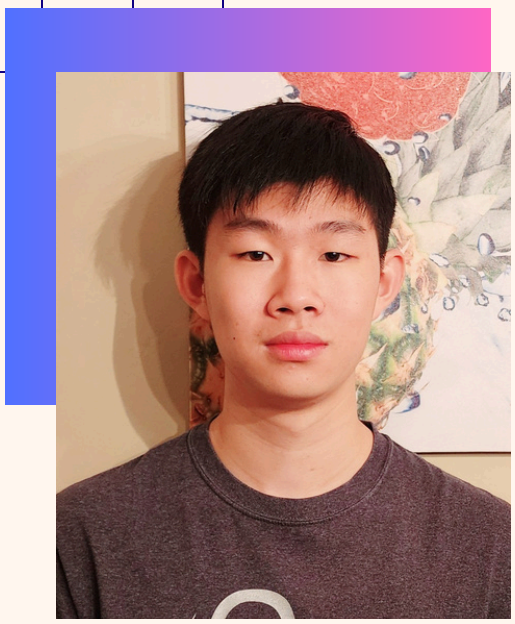
Math Kangaroo has shaped how I approach problem-solving in general. It taught me to think outside the box and not be afraid of unconventional methods. It also helped build my confidence in math, as I saw consistent growth year after year. Serving as a volunteer teaching assistant the past two years has been especially meaningful—teaching others deepened my understanding and showed me how much I've grown since I first began. Sharing strategies and seeing younger students have "aha!" moments were incredibly rewarding.

Before walking into the contest center for my final Math Kangaroo contest this year, I expected there might be a few other students taking the Level 12 exam. But to my surprise, I was the only one. For a brief moment, I felt a little lonely—after all, I had grown up taking this contest alongside so many others. But that feeling quickly turned into pride. Despite the demands of school and extracurriculars, I had stayed committed for 12 consecutive years.

Being there alone reminded me of how far I'd come. I hope that my presence, even as the sole Level 12 contestant, might inspire younger students at the center to stick with their own MK journey—and one day, complete the marathon too.

Lastly, I'd be studying computer engineering at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Math Kangaroo 2025 Awards Ceremonies in CA, GA, NY, and WA



Ivan Zhang

Rockville, MD

Math Kangaroo is more logic and pattern-finding-heavy than other math competitions, and I find that area of math most enjoyable. **It was interesting to see how problems evolved each year and realize the best way to approach certain types of challenges over time, and that inspired me to come back each year to take another shot and see what I could figure out.**

It let me dive into some math that isn't often covered in school and demonstrates some interesting number theory and probability techniques that I kept with me. Math Kangaroo helped train my ability to identify patterns and mathematics in the real world, which offered benefits beyond just mathematical reasoning.

One year, I read a question on the exam that I didn't know how to do, but felt awfully familiar with. I came back to the question later in the test, and I realized that I'd watched a TED-ED video about a similar question the day before. I used the method from the video and was able to solve the problem. Looking back on it, I think it's interesting how we sometimes find answers from the most unexpected sources.

For my plans, I will be majoring in computer science at Carnegie Mellon University in the fall.

Anjena Raja

Burbank, CA

Math Kangaroo questions have always appealed to me because they're inventive and difficult. **Every year, I eagerly anticipated putting my problem-solving abilities to the test in novel and interesting ways.** I remained motivated by the friendly rivalry and the opportunity to advance my mathematics skills.

Outside of the traditional classroom, Math Kangaroo has improved my understanding of mathematics and my ability to reason logically. It also gave me the confidence I needed to take on challenging tasks under time constraints, which has helped me in both academic and private settings.

I practiced Math Kangaroo problems with my friends. These sessions not only made problem-solving more fun but also created a passion for engineering and technology as a future career path.

This fall, I plan to major in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of California, Irvine. I am eager to learn more about different branches of science and math and hope to make a significant contribution.

Alex Hart

Atlanta, GA

I kept participating every year because the problems were always fun and interesting, and I enjoyed working on them. The program helped me hone my problem-solving skills and discover new techniques, and it helped improve my confidence with math.

Anshul Gokul

Cumming, GA

I've always enjoyed participating in Math Kangaroo; the problems were interesting and fun to solve. The program helped strengthen my problem-solving skills early on and also sparked a deeper interest in analytical thinking. It piqued my interest in pursuing something I'm truly passionate about.

While I don't have any specific stories to share, I'm grateful for the experience and the role it played in my development.

I plan to attend Georgia Tech and major in Computer Science.

I love participating in math competitions. For Math Kangaroo specifically, I love working on the creative, logic-based problems while also striving for efficiency due to the time constraint.

Math Kangaroo competitions have helped me hone my creative problem-solving skills, especially when I am under pressure due to having limited amounts of time.

Additionally, I was able to go to the International Math Camp at Zakopane, Poland last year, through Math Kangaroo, which was an amazing experience. I had a lot of fun at this camp, sightseeing, learning, and making new friends. We also played a lot of card games together---for example, the American group stayed up the entire night our final night there laughing, talking, and learning new card games.

I will be attending MIT next year, and plan on studying either architecture or math!

Lily Tjia

Newton, MA

Joshua Lin

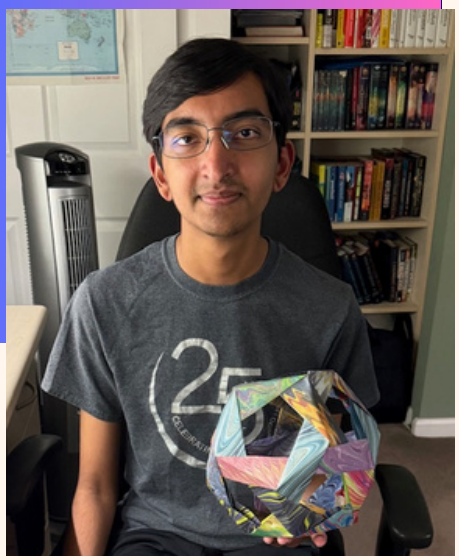
Hoffman Estates, IL

I enjoyed the unorthodox challenges that each Math Kangaroo problem provides! Instead of memorizing formulas or methods, I enjoy how problems feel like puzzles to solve, where I have to analyze and understand a concept and find a fun solution.

This was one of my first academic competitions, and it was through this contest that I learned that I enjoyed mathematics and problem-solving. Through Math Kangaroo, I was inspired to join the Math Team and continue competition mathematics throughout high school to challenge myself and learn new ways of thinking.

I think everyone needs to feel the experience of guessing a problem right. It feels like winning the lottery.

I will be attending UIUC in the fall, studying Engineering Undeclared.



Satvik Sivaraman

Palo Alto, CA

Math Kangaroo's puzzle style of problems were very appealing to me. Finding the "trick" that would let me solve each problem was very rewarding and kept me going. The first time I participated in MK, I didn't do that well. In subsequent years, I practiced, got better, enjoyed it more and more, and improved over the years.

Preparing for and competing in Math Kangaroo helped me think out of the box. Being part of Math Kangaroo also gave me the opportunity to tutor other kids, which gave me confidence in teaching others to think in different ways.

I am headed to University of California at Berkeley in the fall of 2025 to pursue my interest in pure Mathematics. On the side, I hope to continue helping math enthusiasts think creatively.

Shrey Gupta

Wesley Chapel, FL

I've been interested in math competitions throughout high school, and most of my mathematical knowledge comes from the fun process of studying for math competitions. Math Kangaroo's test provided an opportunity to learn math I found interesting through self-studying for the test. Similarly, Math Kangaroo has benefited me by providing an opportunity to learn math in an engaging manner.

I found out about a scholarship opportunity - called the Ellison Scholars program - for students at the University of Oxford through Math Kangaroo's communications. Without Math Kangaroo's communication, I would've never known about this opportunity. I'm now applying for the scholarship opportunity and, if I get accepted, I would receive the funds to make my undergraduate studies at Oxford entirely free.

FEEDBACK FROM WOLFRAM CAMPS

Eddy Zhang

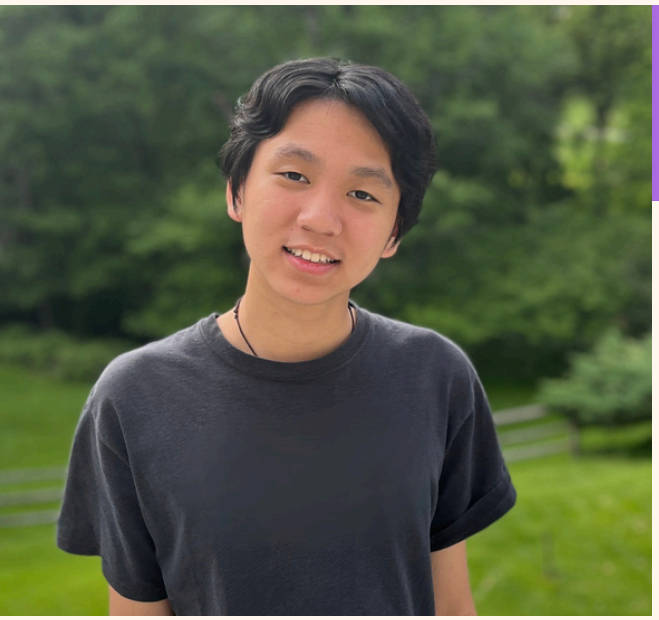
Allentown, PA

The Wolfram Summer Research Program was an invaluable experience for which I am deeply grateful. The program provided a rigorous and highly educational environment, where I gained significant knowledge of the Wolfram Language and explored a wide range of topics. In addition to its academic depth, the program fostered an engaging and collaborative atmosphere through a variety of daily activities, which made the experience both enriching and memorable. I would strongly recommend this program to anyone interested in programming or seeking to advance their skills in computational research.

I would also like to sincerely thank Math Kangaroo for introducing me to this wonderful opportunity and for providing the funding that made it possible. Without their support, I may never have discovered this program. This opportunity also allowed me to connect with other students who share a passion for mathematics and broadened my perspective on both mathematics and mathematical research.

[WSRP25] Analyzing higher dimensions of the sliding block puzzle

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CAMP MEMORIES



David Wang

Rockville, MD

My experience at the Math Kangaroo International Math Camp in Zakopane, Poland, will be one of my favorite **memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life.**

I absolutely loved every minute of the camp, which was filled with interesting activities, both math-related and not math-related. The weather was perfect for the outdoor activities, which included long hikes that had beautiful and captivating views.y

The afternoons were filled with very interesting math lectures that I really enjoyed. They covered a variety of interesting topics that I had not previously encountered, such as graph theory, and were concluded by an interesting and difficult math competition that was incredibly fun. I also really enjoyed being able to play ping pong and chess with everyone, not only people from the USA but also people from around the world. Spending the nights playing board games with everyone and meeting new people was definitely a highlight for me. I also really enjoyed the variety of excursions, including the trips to the waterpark, the salt mine, and Krakow.

I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to go on this trip to Math Kangaroo and the hardworking chaperones for making this trip possible. I'm also very happy to have met the rest of Team USA as well as people from other countries, who made sure that this trip was unforgettable. I'm so glad I was able to have this opportunity, and the memories that I made will stay with me in the future.

Arnav Prabhudesai

Westford, MA

I am extremely grateful to Math Kangaroo for the opportunity to spend two weeks with such amazing people in Zakopane, Poland. **This math camp was one of the most fun experiences in my life.** I loved the mixture of outdoor activities like hiking and exploring Krakow with mathematical activities like the Problem of the Day and the math workshops.

As attendees of the camp, we got the experience to learn many cool things, such as graph theory and Simpson lines. We also worked with our teams and competed with other teams in the problem of the day challenge, which had us prove a solution to a difficult problem. These problems were very fun because they tested our skills in various fields such as geometry and number theory.

We also had lots of fun going on hikes up mountains and exploring the Wieliczka Salt Mine and the city of Kraków. One of my favorite activities was the day we went to the water park. We also had a lot of fun each night playing card games and board games with each other. I think the best part about this was how we didn't just play with our own team but also with all the other teams from across the world. I had never previously had the ability to interact with such an international and diverse group of people and really enjoyed the opportunity.

Overall, I would like to thank Math Kangaroo for organizing such an amazing experience and our chaperones, Arpit and Kaity, for making this trip so fun. The memories I made with everyone on this trip were amazing and truly irreplaceable.

Ishaan Mittal

Saratoga, CA

This summer, I had the amazing opportunity to attend the International Math Kangaroo Camp in Zakopane, Poland. **It was one of the most memorable experiences of my life, bringing together challenging math, cultural exploration, and unforgettable friendships.**

The math sessions were both rigorous and engaging. I especially enjoyed exploring advanced topics such as geometrical inequalities and divisibility, which taught me to approach problems more creatively. Sharing ideas with students from different countries gave me fresh perspectives and made every session more exciting.

Outside the classroom, the camp offered a wide variety of activities. We hiked in the Tatra Mountains and saw breathtaking views of the Polish countryside. My favorite part of the trip was visiting the Wieliczka Salt Mine and the historic city of Kraków. Getting to explore gave me a glimpse into Poland's culture and history that I will always remember. I also really enjoyed the trip to the water park, where we relaxed and had lots of fun on the slides and in the thermal baths.

Equally meaningful were the evenings spent playing chess, table tennis, and other board and card games with students from all over the world. I especially enjoyed teaching and learning new games from friends in countries I had never visited before. These moments, filled with laughter and friendly competition, made the camp feel like a true international community.

I am extremely grateful to all the organizers of Math Kangaroo and our chaperones for organizing such a thoughtful and enriching program and for giving me this opportunity. This camp gave me the perfect balance of math, adventure, and international friendship. The knowledge I gained, the memories I made, and the connections I formed will stay with me forever.

Anshul Mantri

Portland, OR

This summer, I went to the Math Kangaroo camp in Zakopane, Poland. It was a lot of fun, and I got to do math, meet new people, and see some really cool places.

The math classes were interesting and I learned some new things, but I also liked hearing how other students solved problems. I think the variety of puzzles and lectures made it exciting.

We also went on hikes in the Tatra Mountains, visited the salt mines, and toured Kraków. The views were nice and I enjoyed trying Polish food and ice cream. In the evenings we played lots of games like cards, ping pong, and chess. I learned some new ones too. Spending time with teammates and kids from other countries made it even more enjoyable.

Overall, **I'm thankful to Math Kangaroo and the chaperones for giving me this chance. The camp was a really good experience, and I'm glad I was able to go.**

All participants of the camp with the chaperons.

Riddhiman Rana

San Ramon, CA

My time at the International Math Kangaroo Camp in Zakopane, Poland, was one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had, and will truly be one of my core memories for years to come. **The camp was an amazing combination of challenging math with an unforgettable chance to experience the natural and cultural beauty of Poland.**

We delved into interesting mathematical concepts during lectures, focusing on open-ended, puzzle-based problems that really made you think. We also went on daily hikes through the Tatra Mountains, visited the Wieliczka Salt Mine, had a great time at a waterpark, and explored the beautiful city and architecture of Krakow.

What truly made this experience unforgettable, however, were the people. I had the opportunity of connecting with students from all around the world and understand their diverse perspectives, including countries like the USA, China, Ukraine, Germany, Turkey, and Lithuania. I still vividly remember playing board games late at night with other countries, diving deep into complex mathematical conversations, and simply learning about each other's lives.

Overall, I am incredibly grateful to Math Kangaroo for providing this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Thank you to all the organizers and chaperones for fostering **such a fun and amazing camp, and giving me such irreplaceable memories that I will never forget.**

Connor Kong

Fremont, CA

My experience at the Math Kangaroo camp in Zakopane was a unique and unforgettable memory. We got to experience so much of what Poland has to offer, from scenic hikes in the Tatra Mountains to bustling tourist-filled streets and historic places, all while learning from the lecturers about a number of topics in math, such as graph theory, polynomials, the complex plane, and convex figures.

At first, I didn't really know what to expect when I came to Europe, as I didn't really think that it would be that much different from America at first, but as the days passed, I understood more and more just how different Europe was. Compared to America, I think Europe is a much calmer and quieter place, with natural scenery that is easily visible from almost anywhere. The camp itself was a very lively place, with so much to do at all times, from table tennis and chess to just talking with the other people from all the countries that participated in the camp.

The math lessons were very engaging, with excellent teachers giving lectures on topics that we might not have known about before. Every day also came with a problem of the day for us to solve as a team, each question being both interesting as well as challenging to solve.

Although I had so much fun with everything that we did, I especially enjoyed getting to know everyone from so many countries, from China, Germany, Ukraine, Turkey, Lithuania, and Poland. I will remember this camp for a long time, looking back on those ten days in Poland with a smile on my face and gratitude for everyone who has worked to make this camp possible for us all.

MATH KANGAROO ASIA SUMMER CAMP MEMORIES

Tiffany Han

San Jose, CA

This year's Math Kangaroo Asia Camp took place on the island of Boao, Hainan, China, for 5 days, and the highlight of my summer. On the first day, my team and I bonded over the Card Tower icebreaker, where we competed to build the highest tower of playing cards. In addition to a week-long obsession with card games, winning the challenge taught my team how to collaborate together.

During the summer program, we participated in competitions every day, and I especially enjoyed the Team and Guts Rounds the most because of the passionate debates we had over the correct solution. We also picked up each other's methods along the way. My favorite exercise was the Crossword Round, which is essentially a crossword with numbers instead of words. When the numbers aligned together, it gave me a sense of satisfaction knowing that the answer was correct. During the competitions, the environment was always lively and energetic: everyone was shouting answers and putting their all into winning. Thanks to our strategy and teammanship, my team and I were even able to win several awards in the group rounds—we earned first place in the Intermediate team category, and I personally achieved Top 3 individually!

Beyond class time, my teammates and I bonded over games (we're middle schoolers after all). We splashed in the swimming pool and

played card games whenever we could. During lunch, the entire USA team would play Mafia. Using my imagination as the narrator, I transformed us into flies dodging venomous spiders or took them to a werewolf's hidden lair.

Overall, the Math Kangaroo Camp is a fantastic event where I could meet kids who shared my interests and matched my energy. Most importantly, it strengthened my love for mathematics, as I realized how much joy and satisfaction come from solving problems, collaborating with others, and exploring creative ways to think mathematically.

Tiffany Han at the Math Kangaroo Asia Camp

Franklin Liu

Blacksburg, VA

Despite the hot and humid weather in Hainan, I made the most of my time at camp. I made new friends, tried local foods, and spent hours playing games together. The teachers and staff were always so dedicated, making sure everything ran smoothly no matter the time of day. One of my favorite parts was the trip to Sanya, where we visited a traditional ethnic village, sampled even more local dishes, and stayed up late splashing around in the swimming pool with friends.

At the math camp itself, there were so many exciting activities. The math carnival was full of fun games that went beyond just numbers and formulas. The lectures taught me new skills, like drawing different shapes using only a compass and straightedge. I also loved the math competitions, especially the team rounds where we had to work together under pressure. I'll never forget the stress and rush of adrenaline during the final countdown round, when everyone was racing to score as many points as possible.

Overall, this camp was an amazing experience that I truly enjoyed. Thank you to Math Kangaroo for giving me the chance to take part in such a memorable summer!

The US Team during the award ceremony

Yukti Nakul

Princeton, NJ

Attending the Math Kangaroo Asia Camp was such a fun and memorable experience!

The competitions were exciting and really challenged me, but what made it even better was how friendly and welcoming everyone was.

I got to meet and interact with students from across different countries, and I was also able to make lasting friendships with my team.

Beyond the competitions, there were so many fun activities that brought us all together and made each day enjoyable. The camp wasn't just about math (although I loved getting the opportunity to test my knowledge), but it was also about meeting people who share the same love I have for math.

This camp was truly an unforgettable experience, filled with unique memories and new friends!

Pavinoor Jaggi, Yukti Nakul, Mehrunisa Pflyuk

Magdalena Teodorowicz,
Chief Design Officer,
Editor of the Bulletin

MATH KANGAROO 2026 POSTER CONTEST

The annual Math Kangaroo USA Poster Contest was announced in May and received an impressive array of creative submissions. The poster review committee thoroughly enjoyed evaluating all the entries, but faced a challenging task in choosing just one winner. The posters were thoughtful and imaginative, while also reflecting strong mathematical themes.

This year, we received an outstanding **150 poster submissions**, including 13 from adults and the remainder from students across 19 states. The creativity and variety on display were remarkable, ranging from charming hand-drawn illustrations by younger students to sophisticated digital designs submitted by older participants and adults.

Congratulations to Arpana Sawhney from Suwanee, GA, the winner of the Math Kangaroo 2026 Poster Contest. Arpana received the Best Poster Certificate of Excellence along with a $200 Amazon gift card. We thank all participants for their inspiring work and for making this year's contest truly exceptional.

ARPANA SAWHNEY

Suwenee, GA

This is what Arpana says about herself:

"Hi! My name is Arpana Sawhney, and I'm a mom of two — a 10-year-old and a 4-year-old. Math was my favorite subject growing up, and now I love experiencing it all over again through the curious eyes of my kids. I'm passionate about both art and math, and I enjoy any opportunity where I get to bring them together.

I got more curious about Math Kangaroo when Settles Bridge Elementary School hosted it this year, and my daughter participated in the competition. It was a wonderful experience for her, and it introduced us to how fun andinspiring math can be when presented in a creative and engaging way. Later, while browsing the Math Kangaroo website, I came across the poster contest and was excited to take part.

Some of my hobbies include digital art, crafting, doing math puzzles, and reading with my children. I also love finding creative ways to make learning fun at home, whether it's through games, crafts, or story-based problem-solving.

My inspiration for the poster came from the idea of a student standing at the beginning of their journey into the world of math. The winding path filled with mathematical symbols represents the excitement, challenges, and discoveries that come with learning. The warm sunset symbolizes hope, imagination, and endless possibilities. I wanted the artwork to feel inviting — like an adventure waiting to happen.

I'm connected to Math Kangaroo as a parent and a fan. I appreciate how it makes math accessible and enjoyable for kids of all ages. Designing this poster was a meaningful way for me to contribute to something that celebrates both learning and creativity."

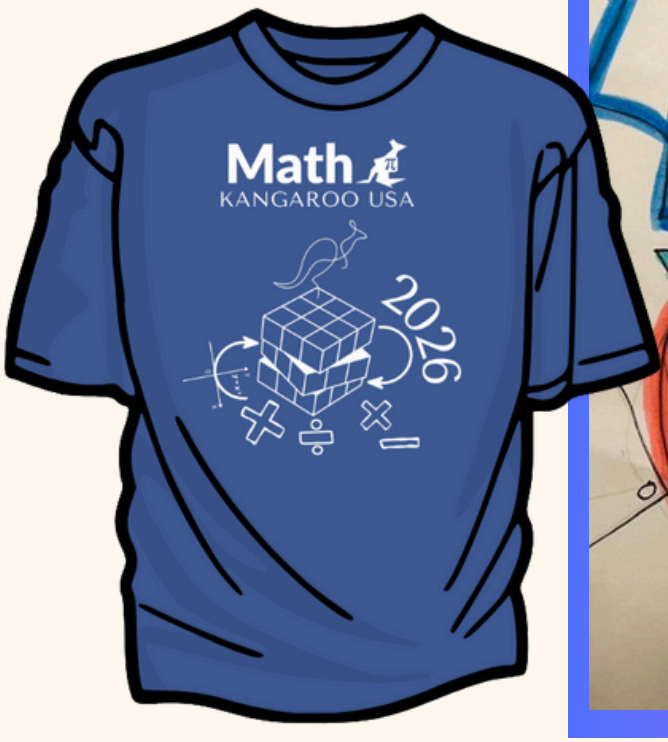
THE WINNING POSTER FOR MATH KANGAROO 2026

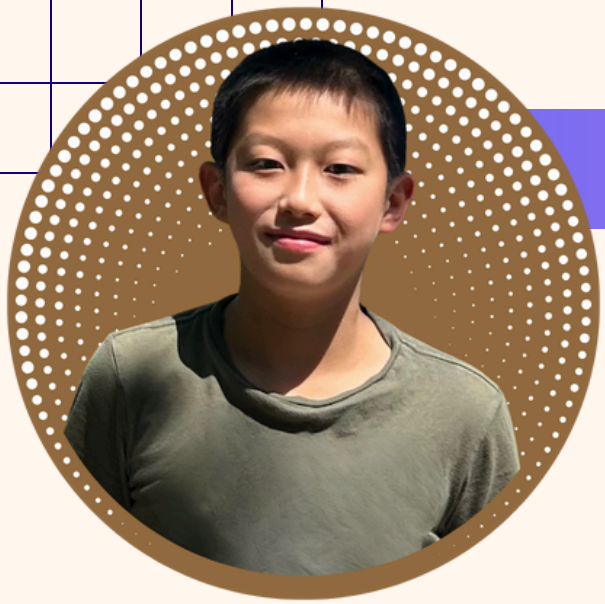
Congratulations to Arpana for her winning entry, and a special thank you to all participants!

MATH KANGAROO 2026 T-SHIRT DESIGN

Among the submitted entries, we also selected another poster that will be used as the Math Kangaroo 2026 T-shirt design.

Congratulations to Yifei Zhao, the winner of the Math Kangaroo 2026 T-shirt design! Yifei received the Best T-shirt Design certificate and a $100 Amazon gift card.





YIFEI ZHAO

Grade 6, Great Neck, NY

This is what Yifei says about hiself:

“Hi, my name is Yifei Zhao. I am a 6th grader going into 7th grade in September at Great Neck North Middle School. My hobbies are tennis, drawing, and chess.

My little brother competed in 1st grade math Kangaroo this year, so my mother got an invitation to this contest. I didn’t get the chance to compete in Math Kangaroo when I was younger. This gave me an opportunity to join the community even though I am not a math guru.

My inspiration for the design was from iLeaning School. They have a giant Rubik’s Cube. The Rubik's Cube represents messy and random elements. This time, I combined the Rubik's Cube with mathematical symbols as a foundation of my art creation for the poster. “

Congratulations to Yifei for her great design!

OUR SPONSORS

WOLFRAM

MEHTA+

SUPPORTING SPONSORS

LIVE MOMATH Early Family Math math for love

AoPS Art of Problem Solving Think Academy HILLS BANK

PLEASE CONTACT US AT INFO@MATHKANGAROO.ORG IF YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION ARE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING OUR ENDEAVOR.

CONTACT US

INFO@MATHKANGAROO.ORG

MATH KANGAROO USA, NFP

50820 SUMMIT HILL CT

GRANGER, IN 46530

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS OF MATH KANGAROO USA, NFP