

NOVA NEWS

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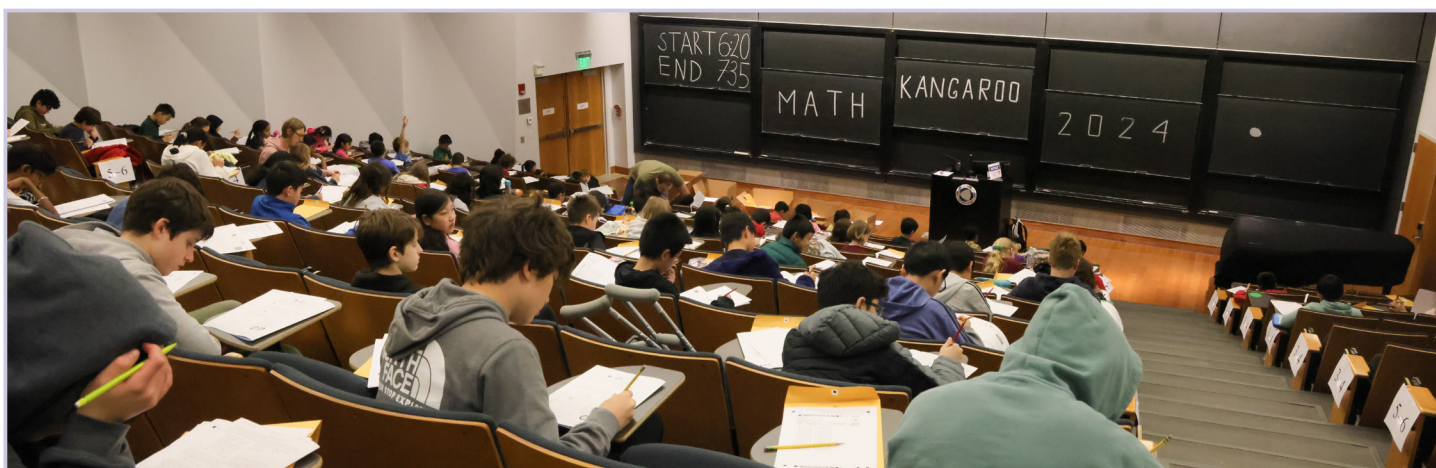
March 2025

WELCOME TO MATH KANGAROO 2025!



What is the Math Kangaroo?

Every year on the third Thursday of March, over six million students worldwide participate in Math Kangaroo, an international math competition. Math Kangaroo is open to all students aged 7 to 18, offering a fun and accessible challenge through multiple-choice questions. Its goal is to make math engaging and enjoyable for a broad audience.



Letter From the Director

The day SchoolNova hosts the Math Kangaroo is one of my favorites. It's exciting to see students of all ages arrive with their families, eager to tackle engaging math problems together. Their expressions shift from deep focus to joyful smiles as they work through challenges. Older students stay behind to discuss solutions, while younger ones excitedly share their experiences and small gifts from the organizers.

As an official competition center, SchoolNova enables many local students to participate each year. Over 30 have been state winners, with more than a dozen ranking in the national top three.

In 2023, Math Kangaroo winner Michael Lu was selected for an exclusive international math camp in Poland. Each year, Math Kangaroo invites ten outstanding high school freshmen and sophomores to this ten-day camp, where they engage with top mathematicians, compete in math challenges, and explore cultural attractions. Michael's mother shared, "It's an honor for Michael to represent SchoolNova."

Marina Polonskaia,
SchoolNova Director



Five Facts About the History of Math Kangaroo

#1: Math Kangaroo originated in Australia in the 1980s, founded by Peter O'Halloran, a passionate mathematics teacher. His vision was to create a competition encouraging students to approach mathematics creatively and confidently.

#2: In 1991, André Deledicq and Jean Pierre Boudine were inspired by the Australian mathematical competition to start a similar contest in France, which they named the Math Kangaroo.

#3: In 1994, representatives from 10 European countries established the Association Kangourou Sans Frontières (AKSF). This association, which organizes the Kangaroo contest was officially established and registered in Paris on 17 January 1995.

#4: The United States joined Math Kangaroo in 1998, beginning with a single participating school in Chicago. When SchoolNova became a hosting center, there were only 800 participants nationwide. In 2025, over 52,000 students will participate in Math Kangaroo USA.

#5: Over the years, the Math Kangaroo became the largest math contest in the world, with over 6 million participants worldwide.



Toy mascot of the competition



Math Kangaroo 2007



Math Kangaroo 2010

"I loved Math Kangaroo because it was a fun introduction to math competitions for me. My SchoolNova teachers would put a few Math Kangaroo style problems in our homework every week to prepare us so I didn't feel too nervous or stressed, and it was fun to get the T-shirts and other goodies and see all my SchoolNova classmates on a different day of the week."

Sophia A.

"What I liked most about participating in Math Kangaroo is the community there. About a month before it starts, I enjoy studying alone and with friends, and it has a lot of questions that really make you think! I think Math Kangaroo is a good thing to do whether you study for it or just do it for fun, and you are guaranteed a celebration with your family if you do well!"

Yoni K.



Math Kangaroo 2024



Math Kangaroo 2024

"I participate in Kangaroo not because my parents make me, I do it of my own will and I do it of my own will because I know doing the questions will make me smarter, more observant, and better at reading comprehension. While becoming smarter is a part of it, I do Kangaroo for the thrill, and to make me happy with what score I get, good or bad. It pushes me to be better and work harder. These are some reasons I do Kangaroo."

Sophie K.

- > We sincerely thank the **Simons Center for Geometry and Physics** for their support and for providing the space for our annual Math Kangaroo event.
- > Thank you to all past and present SchoolNova Center managers — **Marina Polonskaia, Tatiana Portnaya, Tatiana Zaliznyak, and Darya Stepanenko.**
- > Photos are courtesy of **Natalia Ilina.**