



Stories Worth Sharing

The Kid Calculators Story



My name is Amey Ravikiran Karanjkar. I organized Kid Calculators, and I would like to tell you how it began, how I organized it, and where the idea came from.

I participated in a program called Manteca Youth Focus, where several students and I competed to become Manteca City Ambassador. One part of the competition was an advocacy project. **We had to create a project that would benefit the community and give a speech about it.**

We attended a workshop about choosing a project, but when I returned home, my mind was blank. I did not know what I was going to do. Then I remembered something one of the workshop leaders had told me: “Consider doing something connected to your favorite subject.”

My favorite subject is math, so I thought, “Why don’t I organize a math competition?”

At first, I did not know how a math competition would help anyone. Then I realized that many children do not enjoy math. I decided that my goal would be to help children discover that math can be fun.

I created several enjoyable rounds to make participants more excited about the competition. I also invited people to speak and encourage them.

A kindergarten student named Abir could not compete, but he wanted to share his love and interest in mathematics. He courageously came onto the stage and showed everyone how much he enjoyed math. Tiffany spoke about how math is not boring, it is about encouraging yourself and continuing to try. My friend Elyse also talked about how math can be fun. All these people helped make Kid Calculators an encouraging and enjoyable event.

The advocacy project also required us to donate to an organization. At first, I did not know which organization to choose. Then it came to me: Math Kangaroo.

I have participated in Math Kangaroo from third through fifth grade. Math Kangaroo has supported me throughout my mathematical journey, so I decided that I wanted my project to support Math Kangaroo and help other students have the same opportunity.

Then I had to decide how much money to raise. I saw a large check showing a \$551 donation I had made to Technovation Girls earlier, and I decided that I wanted to go further. I first thought about doubling it to \$1,100, but my dad encouraged me to aim even higher \$1,225. I decided to try.

That was the beginning of my fundraising journey.

I first approached large businesses, but I discovered that many had already distributed their annual sponsorship funds. Because I started later in the year, they could not offer additional support.

I then began contacting smaller businesses. The donations started arriving, \$100, \$200, and then \$300. It was going well, but my deadline was approaching, so I needed to move faster. I realized that many individuals might also be willing to support my cause, so I reached out to both small businesses and community members.

The total quickly grew to \$900 and then \$1,000. We were very close to our goal but still a little short.

On the day of the competition, many generous people made donations. All donations were optional. With their support, I reached my \$1,225 goal for Math Kangaroo. I was also able to cover the facility and insurance expenses for Kid Kalcators.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak about my project. Kid Kalcators was an amazing experience.

At the end of the competition, I asked how many participants had enjoyed math, and approximately 80 percent raised their hands. It was not every person, but my goal was to help as many children as possible enter the competition and leave it enjoying mathematics more than before.

Thank you for allowing me to share my Kid Kalcators story. **I had a wonderful time organizing it and supporting Math Kangaroo.**