

Zakopane Camp Memories



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The Zakopane Camp was an unforgettable experience. One of the favorite places we went to was Gubalowka. I enjoyed the Gravity slide, sampling food stalls, and exploring the area. My favorite part was the cable car ride down. The views were so beautiful and it was a very calm, relaxing experience.

I also really loved the aqua park. I was thrilled when we got to go a second time too. I enjoyed the slides, and my favorite part was playing freeze tag with everyone from Team USA.

The math in the camp was also great. I loved collaborating with Team USA on the Problems of the Day, and the lectures were very interesting. The paper folding lecture was my favorite, and I found it fascinating how you could construct things impossible with a compass and ruler.

The best part of the camp was the awesome people I got to meet. I made so many new friends, and shared all the fun experiences of the camp with them. A special thanks to my roommate Anish, and friends Alex, Chris, and Zack, for being so fun to hang out with on this whole trip. One of my favorite memories is playing bughouse with all of them.

I also made friends from other countries such as Germany, Lithuania, and Poland. It was really interesting to hear about the similarities and differences their countries had to ours.

Finally, a huge thank you to our chaperones, Arpit and Kieran. They made sure we were safe and taken care of at all times and without them, the camp would not have been the same. Arpit also taught us some cool games such as Hanabi and Contact, that I'm definitely going to play again back at home.

Thank you Math Kangaroo for organizing such an amazing camp. You gave me some of the best memories and experiences I've ever had.





My time at the International Math Kangaroo Camp in Zakopane, Poland, was an experience I will remember for a long time. **I loved the combination of challenging mathematics, exploring Poland, and getting to know students from around the world.**

The daily lectures, which covered topics ranging from polygon arrangements to ellipses and cycloids, taught me that mathematics can be approached in many different ways. I especially enjoyed seeing how ideas that seemed unrelated at first could lead to interesting solutions. With our goal of submitting the most creative solution for the Problem of the Day competition, hearing different inputs from team members, each with their own perspective on the problem, allowed for a diverse range of solutions.

Beyond mathematics, the camp gave me the opportunity to meet students from countries all around the world and learn about their different experiences and cultures. At the same time, exploring Poland through hikes, our visit to the Wieliczka Salt Mine, and our trip to Kraków gave me a chance to experience Polish culture and see places I had never been before.

Some of my favorite memories, though, came from spending time with the USA team, like the nights when we stayed up together practicing for the talent show. Those nights, along with playing games, talking, and spending time with students from other countries, made the camp feel much more like a community.

I am very grateful to Math Kangaroo for giving me the opportunity to be part of this experience. I came home with a lot of memories that I know I will look back on for years to come.



Going to the International Math Kangaroo camp in Zakopane was easily one of the best experiences of my life. The lectures were incredible, especially the series on paper folding. It blew my mind to see how simple geometric folds can actually construct numbers like the cube root of two, also known as solving the classical problem of doubling the cube, which is literally impossible with just a compass and straightedge.

Outside the lecture halls, there was never a dull moment. We went on stunning hikes through the Tatra Mountains, had intense ping-pong tournaments back at the camp, and explored the historic salt mine. Walking through centuries old underground tunnels and seeing an entire cathedral carved out of salt deep below the surface was unforgettable.

Above all, what made camp truly special was the community. Bonding with my fellow Team USA teammates during our day trips and putting together our act for the end of camp talent show brought us really close. I also made great friends with students from all over the world, including Lithuania, Germany, and Turkey.

A special thank you to our chaperones and the entire Math Kangaroo team for organizing everything and making this an experience I'll never forget.





Math Kangaroo Camp in Zakopane was my first independent trip away from home. **I cannot imagine a more comprehensive adventure.** It combined a trip to a foreign country, meeting students from other countries, math competitions, sightseeing, hiking, and many other activities I normally enjoy as well as completely new experiences.

One of my favorite memories is the hike to Black Gąsienicowe Lake in the Tatra Mountains. After an arduous hike it felt surreal to sit on a large rock on the edge of the lake, which was remarkably blue and surrounded by mountain cliffs on all sides. Another unforgettable experience was riding the cable car up to hill Gubalowka and looking down and seeing sheep grazing below us. A new experience for me was visiting the Wieliczka salt mine. The mine was surprisingly vast and elaborate with both natural and man-made constructions such as salt lakes and cathedrals with chandeliers made of salt. It was like being in an alternate world.



Some students at the camp didn't speak English and I wondered how they managed to comprehend the lectures? I was grateful that the lectures were in English because I really enjoyed them, for example, seeing the rearrangement of any polygon into another with the same area. Playing, learning, and exploring together with students from other countries who share a common love for math was a new experience for me.

Thank you for giving me this unforgettable experience!



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Although I initially thought I would find the hikes at the camp the most fun, there was one lecture, the one about paper folding, that I probably enjoyed even more than the hikes.

I found it really fascinating that you could construct so many types of numbers and angles using a variety of different methods, and so many of these methods were creative approaches to seemingly complex problems; also, constructing parabolas and using those parabolas to construct cubic roots was a very interesting and elegant method. Other than that, I found the hikes to be decently interesting, albeit way too hot, as I love to walk around in new places.

Finally, I really enjoyed the Polish food and thought that they were quite good, especially the Polish specialties of the meat-filled dumplings and the potatoes on a stick.



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