

As you probably know, my experience with Mathcounts goes back to the beginning of the program. I was a volunteer for the Golden Gate Chapter in those early years. I lived in Sonoma and worked in San Francisco for most of my career, and therefore participated in Bay Area activities rather than Sonoma County activities. I did serve as the Golden Gate Chapter Mathcounts coordinator once or twice in the early years, but those of us that volunteered for the job, always had Julia Gee to provide leadership, guidance and assistance. Julia is and has always been a hard working and dedicated proponent for Mathcounts.

As the Mathcounts program evolved through those early years, many of us volunteers began to realize what a great program it was, and what a great concept it was based on. A concept where mathematics is encouraged with students, when most of their academic career is still in front of them. We all watched as Mathcounts grew, improved and became an important activity for many middle school mathematics curricula.

My role really changed about 10 years ago when the Redwood Empire Chapter needed a coordinator and I volunteered for the job. The fact that I lived in Sonoma County, and had my two children educated in local public schools there, was a consideration. However, the greatest influence was the Mathcounts program itself. By this time, I was a real believer in the program and its value for seventh and eighth grade students. The competition itself is a good thing, but the real good comes from the months of preparation beginning in September and ending with the chapter competition in February. The students may or may not excel in the competition, but they have spent months forming new friendships, studying extra curricular mathematics, working as a team, and developing into better people.

I couldn't begin to count the number of parents, teachers, and students who have thanked me over the years for my small part in Mathcounts. Many have gone out of their way to let me know how valuable the program has been for them personally, or how it helped their son or daughter, or what a fine teaching aid it provides. Volunteers are another group of people who once exposed to Mathcounts, tend to return year after year because they see the value of the program, and are impressed by the hard working well behaved students who participate.

As a Mathcounts coordinator you get to work with the very best teachers and students. It's great.

Sincerely Bill Angeloni