

High-Power Rocket Bootcamp

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Students build, paint, and launch their own high-power rocket, and it is **free**. I started the bootcamp in August 2025. I run the program and I manage the money. The rockets fly up to 5,000 feet, and every student takes theirs home.

336

ROCKETS BUILT

170+

LAUNCHED

220+

PARTICIPANTS

9

COHORTS

\$155K

RAISED

\$0COST TO
FAMILIES

WHAT A STUDENT GETS

- One 5-hour build day: build and paint their own high-power rocket with a trained volunteer at the table.
- A launch day at an approved launch site under FAA airspace coordination.
- Aerodynamics, propulsion, recovery systems, and how airspace gets cleared, learned by doing it.
- Ages 8 and up. Ages 6 and 7 with a parent at the table.

WHO HAS FUNDED IT

MEPI · Cummins · Lilly · Purdue University

Program partners: Indiana State Museum, City of Fishers, Enlace Academy, Girl Scouts of Central Indiana, Indiana Rocketry, Rocketeers of Central Indiana.

RECOGNITION

- Letter of recognition from Governor Mike Braun of Indiana, 2026.
- NSBE 25 Under 25 honoree, 2026.
- Coverage on WTHR, Fox59 / CBS4 Indy Now, iHeartRadio, and in The Week Junior.

WHAT A DOLLAR BUYS

- About **\$325 per student**: kit, motor, paint, tools, venue, food and transport. The family pays \$0.
- Funds buy kits, the materials that go into building them, and transport to the launch field.
- 23 US small businesses directly funded through kit, motor and hardware purchases.
- 2,800+ student contact hours so far across 5 Indiana communities and 10+ partner institutions.

SAFETY

- Run under OSHA's hierarchy of controls and the capital construction safety standards I use as a project manager at Lilly.
- Kids never touch a motor or an igniter. I buy, store, load and arm every one.
- I am the Flyer of Record for every rocket, and a Tripoli Rocketry Association and National Association of Rocketry certified mentor.
- 50+ trained, background-checked adult volunteers. Four training cohorts so far.

THE GOAL

1,000 rockets built by students, free. 336 down, 664 to go. Every figure above is documented at tanakachonyera.com/recognition#claims.

Fund a cohort

\$325 covers one student end to end. Email me with "Funding" in the subject line.

Host a build day

A room with tables for about 5 hours. I bring the kits, paint, tools, trained volunteers and paperwork.

Volunteer

Training and a background check are required. Sign up at tanakachonyera.com/join.