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1st Place
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It was October. Ghosts hung from the trees. Spiders were crawling everywhere. Everyone was waiting impatiently for Halloween. But for me, there was an even more exciting event. At my school, there's a once-in-a-year tradition that happens in October: The Walk-A-Thon.

Every year, a swarm of people walk/run laps around the school field to raise money for the PTA. It's open to everyone – students, their friends, their families, and the entire community.

At 9:00 AM on a Saturday, the event started, and everyone blasted into the field at top speed. A sea of kids were moving like a tidal wave. Around me, people were cheering from their tents. The kids were chatting, laughing, and racing each other. The DJ in the middle of the field was blasting music. There is a bonus lap period in which you can earn additional laps. The kids morph into cheetahs at this point to get as many possible laps done.

There's a Pocket Lady walking around. She has a coat with many pockets in it. Each pocket contains a special treat. 50 cents gets you a ring pop. I sucked on it all day to get the needed energy.

The best part of the Walk-A-Thon is the prizes. You get prizes after every 5 laps: stickers, a T-shirt, key chains, etc. For finishing 40 laps, I got groovy goggles. By noon, when the sun was the king of the sky, I was almost done. After my 50th lap, I earned a gold medal. Sweat was rushing down my body. I felt tired but terrific. I will treasure this medal throughout my life.

The Walk-A-Thon is a truly special occasion and I hope that the tradition lasts for many more years to come. I can't wait to tell stories about it to my kids in the future.