

2017 -- This event is held at Swanson Pool on June 24.

Sink or Swim: Cardboard Boat Race Information

Build a boat out of only cardboard and duct tape that is capable of holding at least 1 person and up to 4 people, and can be launched and paddled across a swimming pool.

GENERAL INFORMATION

To assist you in planning to participate in this exciting and fun event, the following information and recommendations will help you during the planning process:

- A maximum of 4 people per team
- Teamwork and planning is strongly advised prior to the event to determine strategy, design and use of materials.
- Carefully review the construction criteria to determine your strategy for the race.
- All participants in the boat must wear a lifejacket (PFD). US Coast Approved Type II PFDs are provided for use during the event.
- All participants are welcome to swim after the race has ended.

WHERE TO GET MATERIALS

Cardboard

Grocery Stores, Office Supply Stores, Appliance Stores... all receive their wares in cardboard boxes that they subsequently throw away. Just go into one of those stores and ask to relieve them of their cardboard. They're usually happy to let you sift through what they have!

Packing Or Duct Tape

Office Supply Stores sell packing tape in bulk. For a typical boat, you won't need more than 2 rolls of tape.

CONSTRUCTION TIPS

- To make the base as strong as possible you could double the cardboard. You do this by placing a sheet of cardboard over another sheet so that the corrugations on the two sheets are at right angles to each other.
- To fold a piece of cardboard across the corrugations you can score it with the handle end of a craft knife and a ruler as guide.
- BEWARE: Walking on corrugated paper weakens it!
- Avoid oil-based stains, caulk and glue because oil soaks into the cardboard, may never dry, and weakens it.

AWARD CATEGORIES

FIRST PLACE: because sometimes speed is all that matters

Vogue Award: most spectacular or attractive boat

Pride of Columbus: most creative design and best use of corrugated cardboard

Best-Dressed Team: costumes may be funny, spiffy or elegant...but they must be creative

Team Spirit Award: most-spirited and best-organized team...the looks of the boat don't count here

Titanic Award: most spectacular sinking... to qualify, you must salvage the remains

PARTICIPATION RULES

- Boat construction is strongly recommended prior to the event.
- Teams may not exceed 4 people. Teams are permitted to bring team 'alternates'.
- ALL PROJECTS MUST BE DESIGNED TO ALLOW ONE TO FOUR PEOPLE TO BE FULLY CONTAINED WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOAT WHILE PARTICIPATING. (NO RAFTS OR SURFBOARD STYLES WILL BE PERMITTED!)
- Lifeguards may determine a boat unsafe at any point during the event.
- Projects may not be lined or constructed of a prefabricated liner, tarp, coated cardboard or water proof sealant.
- Boats must be made with corrugated cardboard. The entire hull, superstructure, and seating must be cardboard also.
- Tape may be of varying colors for creativity but must have come manufactured in that color.
- Maximum length may be 10 feet.
- Project construction materials including paint or glue must be non-toxic.
- Hair dryers or electrical drying devices are not permitted.
- Decorations must not aid in the buoyancy of the boat. Lacquers, waxes, latex/water-based paint, spray paints, other adhesives or final finishes are not permitted.
- No legs or feet can be used to propel the boat.
- No clamps may be used during the day of the race.
- Teams are not allowed to reinforce or adjust their boat in any way after the event has begun.
- No electrical power to propel the boat will be permitted.