

The 2012 Cardboard Boat Challenge



The 2011-2012 District 31 Bridge would like to issue a challenge to all USPS members in D/21 and D/31 to a Cardboard Boat Race during the Fiesta De' Boating IV Joint Rendezvous in 2012. The goal is to challenge each squadron in D/21 and D/31 to have their own cardboard boat races and then either bring the winners or the newly designed cardboard boats to the joint rendezvous next year where there will be prizes and bragging rights. Squadrons in both districts may enter as many boats as they want to compete.

Cardboard boat racing is an innovative way to challenge your squadron's creativity and initiative. It also has the excitement of a head to head race allowing for a fun competitive atmosphere. Teams are tasked with building a boat from cardboard, using only the materials listed in the rules below. The boat must be able to carry the teams (*2 man crew or larger*) around a fixed course. The teams are encouraged to customize their cardboard boat. At various cardboard boat regattas there have been many designs from simple to elaborate.



If you are confident in your boat-building abilities, you can make your cardboard boat into a floating piece of artwork. Once you have a stable base shape, create a concept that will take the boat to the next level. You might design the craft as a pirate ship, complete with cardboard masts and sails, or you might use paint to create a floating tribute to a favorite artist. For a fun twist, make your boat into something that wouldn't normally float, like a car, tank or airplane. As long as the base of the boat is steady, you can add on modifications and still float safely.

There are several websites that offer cardboard boat building guidance. There are no right or wrong ways to build a cardboard boat ensuring every creation will be different. Maximum participation is encouraged by all. Successful completion of the activity will require teamwork, resourcefulness, communication and problem solving.

THE CHALLENGE

- Design and build a corrugated cardboard boat capable of racing a designed course.
- A cardboard boat may not seem impossible, principles of buoyancy and stability help them stay afloat. As you design your boat, consider how you will use it and the conditions in which it must perform.
- Squadrons are encouraged to hold their own races prior to the joint district rendezvous.
- All boats are to be designed and built prior to the day of the race. There will be a designated area for the boats to be on display prior to the race for the judging of the creativity.
- There will be two categories of entries. Two person crew and then a larger person crew with an unlimited amount of crew members.

CARDBOARD BOAT RACE RULES

- The entire boat must be made of corrugated cardboard. Any thickness of corrugated is permissible.
- Corrugated bonded to other substances like vinyl, coated with wax, etc. may not be used.
- Carpet tubes may be used in the design of the boat except for the hull.
- All boats may use duct tape on the seams only. Tape must NOT wrap entire boat or the hull.
- Any paintable “*one part*” substance may be used as waterproofing. NO epoxy glue, fiberglass resins, or other “*two part*” finishes may be used. NO urethane based products or tar substance is allowed.
- The hull cannot be wrapped in plastic or any other material.
- Paddles (oars) are the only thing allowed that will not be made of cardboard. All crew members must remain on the boat - no one is allowed to use “swim” power.
- All crew members MUST wear life preservers and shoes.
- Boats must be easy to enter and exit should they become an unexpected *submarine* and be free of sharp edges or other dangers to crew safety.
- All entrants must remove their boats or pieces after the races are complete. ALL debris MUST be removed from the water and placed in the designated dumpster.
- All crew members must sign a “*Hold Harmless*” release prior to the race. If a crew member is under 18 years old the release must be signed by a parent or guardian.
- Races will begin in the water with crews in the boat. One person may steady the two crew boat and two people may steady a multi-crew boat. No pushing will be allowed.
- Boats will be inspected for rules compliance prior to the race. Boats that are deemed non compliant with event rules will not be allowed to race. The judge’s decisions are final.