

October 13, 2008



COLUMBUS DAY

●
●
●

**CARDBOARD
BOAT
BUILDING
CONTEST**

**Boat
Building
Guidelines**



Illinois Valley YMCA
Link Aquatic Center
300 Walnut Drive
Peru, IL 61354

GENERAL INFORMATION

OBJECTIVE:

To build a boat out of only cardboard and tape that is capable of holding a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 4 people, and can be launched and paddled across a swimming pool.

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). The YMCA will provide a US Coast Approved Type II PFD for use during the event.
- Team members must enter the water in a lined swim suit.

All participants are welcome to swim after the race has ended.

AWARD CATEGORIES

~ Vogue Award ~

most spectacular or prettiest-looking boat

~ Pride of Columbus ~

most creative design and best use of corrugated cardboard

~ Best-Dressed Team ~

The 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.

~ Fastest Boat Award ~

~Most Weight Held~

BOAT CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

- Boat construction can be completed prior to the event. Construction time is set aside for those individuals who wish to construct their boats at the YMCA.
- Teams may not exceed 4 people. Teams are permitted to bring team 'alternates'.
- ALL PROJECTS MUST BE DESIGNED TO ALLOW ONE - 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. Paper towels will be available so teams can lightly dry their boats.
- No electrical power to propel the boat will be permitted.
- To qualify as a finisher, team members must be in the boat at the end of the race. The race course will be in approximate lanes down on length of the 25 yard pool.

HOW DO I GET THE 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.



Some tips for construction

- 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 the oil soaks into the cardboard, may never dry, and this weakens the cardboard.
- The fewer the seams the better.

