

BRIDGE BUILDING

Description:

This event tests a students' ability to build a lengthy, strong, stable, and reproducible suspension bridge from common materials.

Number of Participants: 2

Approximate Time: 45 minutes

The Competition:

1. Students will be given (at the Science Olympiad site) fifty plastic straws and a length of masking tape. They are to construct a suspension bridge that spans the greatest possible distance and be able to support at least one chalkboard eraser placed (by the judge) in the center of and at a right angle to the bridge.
2. The bridge must support the eraser for 10 seconds.
3. No string or other materials may be used.
4. The bridge will be suspended on two similar supporting structures -- like two chairs or tables.
5. No straws may touch the floor or other supporting structures.
6. Straws may be crimped and slipped together.

Scoring:

1. The bridge spanning the greatest distance supporting the eraser for 10 seconds will be declared the winner.
2. In the event of a tie, additional chalkboard erasers will be added until the strongest bridge is determined.

