

Cardboard Boat Race

Boat Building Basics



If you are reading this you are considering the challenge of entering the Dallas Aquatics Cardboard Boat Race! Be sure to check out the list of allowed materials before beginning construction. Other than that, we encourage you to get creative, both with your design and your decorations or theme. Remember we have four awards: Speed, Design/Creativity, Team Spirit, and the Titanic (for the best and most dramatic sinking) award. Most of all: HAVE FUN!!

CONSTRUCTION

Allowed Materials	Materials NOT Allowed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrugated cardboard from appliance or grocery stores • Cardboard “blocks” from furniture stores • Cardboard tubes from carpet/linoleum stores • Fastening material <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Duct or masking tape ○ Liquid nails adhesive ○ Latex paint, varnish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood • Styrofoam • Plastic sheathing • Sona-tubes or coated cardboard • Silicone, wax or tar • Caulking Compounds • Metal • Staple, clamps or screws

- The entire boat must be built of cardboard
 - Only exceptions are the paddles and decorations
 - Decorations are allowed – as long as they don’t affect structural strength or buoyancy
- Use cardboard boxes, “blocks” or carpet tubes
- No pre-treated cardboard allowed
- No wood, plastic, or fiberglass
- No caulking compounds or two-part/mixed adhesives
- No wrapping in duct tape, plastic or fiberglass
- Waterproof the boat with varnish, paint or polyurethane
- The crew compartment cannot be enclosed
- Every crew member must wear a life jacket
- Costumes are allowed to enhance your theme

DESIGN TIPS

Set your goal: Design, Speed, Looks, all three???

Sketch out your design

Flat bottoms, sit-to-paddle, are the easiest

Rudders help keep you straight but make turning difficult and add complexity to your design

Long boats go fast but are harder to turn

Short boats are difficult to keep straight

Reinforce the area where you sit or kneel

Best Length: 8-12 feet

Best Height: 18”