

Construction and Competition Rules

Description

Competitors build the largest possible flying kite, using straws.

Event preparation:	Prepare entry prior to the competition
Grade level:	Grades 4-6
Team size:	2-4 students per team
Maximum number of entries:	Unlimited

Materials

- M.1 Disposable plastic drinking straws with a minimum 7-inch length
- M.2 Any kind of string, yarn, line, rope, etc.
- M.3 Any kind of tape or adhesive
- M.4 Any sheet material: paper, plastic film, cloth, etc.
- M.5 A handle for the kite pilot

Construction Rules

- C.1 Only materials described in M.1-5 may be used to build a kite.
- C.2 After a completed kite is turned in prior to the event, no further work may be performed on it.
- C.3 Each individual tetrahedron must have six straws that are internally tied together, and two sides covered by sheet material.
- C.4 The individual tetrahedrons may only be tied together at their corners.
- C.5 There is no limit to the number of tetrahedrons that can be added, or any restriction on the arrangement of tetrahedrons other than specified in C.3.
- C.6 No “tails” are permitted.

Competition Rules

- R.1 The judges weigh each kite, including its bridle. Note: A kite *bridle* is the arrangement of any strings placed between the kite and its flying line; used to hold the kite at a certain angle to the flying line to improve how the kite flies.
- R.2 Each kite may have only one pilot who receives one attempt to fly, with time based on the competition schedule. Launching may be from the ground or with an assistant.
- R.3 Flying is defined as the kite increasing in altitude, ascending to at least above the outstretched arm of the pilot, either due to wind or the pilot running.
- R.4 For flying kites, judges count the number of non-damaged tetrahedrons. Damage includes ripped sheets and broken straws.

Scoring and Awards

- S.1 Awards are given to flying kites based on the greatest number of non-damaged tetrahedrons.
- S.2 In the case of a tie, the lighter kite wins.