

Competition Rules

Challenge Description

Competitors build the strongest possible tower, using the least amount of tape and straws.

Event preparation: Build entry prior to event
Grade level: 4-6
Team size: 1-2 competitors
Maximum # entries: unlimited

Materials

- M.1 Disposable plastic drinking straws (provided prior to the event).
- M.2 Masking tape (provided prior to the event).
- M.3 20 cm of additional masking tape provided at the event.

Construction Rules

- C.1 The supplied straws and tape, or their exact equivalent, are the only materials that may be used.
- C.2 After the completed tower is turned in prior to the event, no further work may be performed.
- C.3 The tower must be free standing, only touching the flat surface it is built upon.
- C.4 The towers must be at least 60 cm tall, measured perpendicularly from the flat building surface to the tallest straw.
- C.5 Tape may not be used as “rope” or to reinforce the straws outside of straw-straw joints.

Competition Rules

- R.1 The judges weigh the towers.
- R.2 Any straw touching the flat surface may be taped to the surface using no more than 20 cm of provided tape. Competitors have no more than 30 minutes to perform this task.
- R.3 Magazines/books are added by the competitors until the tower fails. Only one judged measurement is permitted.

Scoring and Awards

- S.1 Awards are given for the highest strength-to-weight ratio. Strength-to-weight ratio is the maximum supported weight of magazines/books divided by the tower weight.
- S.2 In the case of a tie, the lighter tower wins.

