

RESTON MUSEUM

How to Build a Cardboard Boat Some Tips & Hints!



The Goal

- Design and build a person powered cardboard boat that will win the race on Lake Anne!

Schedule

- Build your boat before race day.
- Attend race packet pick up the evening before the race.
- Registration begins at the Reston Museum (1639 Washington Plaza Reston VA 20190)
 - Best GPS Directions: 11401 North Shore Drive Reston, Virginia 20190
- The first race starts early afternoon. A full schedule, including when you should arrive will be sent out closer to the day of the event.

Tips & Hints

- **Gather your supplies!** Check out the rules listed at the end of this document or view on our website <https://www.restonmuseum.org/cardboard-rules> to see which supplies are or are not allowed!
 - **Good supplies to start with:** Corrugated cardboard, tape, wood glue, cutting tool, measuring tape, straight edge, paper, water based paint or water sealer, and pencils.
 - Don't forget to get paddles!
 - Decorative and non-functional items that are not cardboard can be added to your boat.
- **Design how you want your boat to look. Think about:**
 - Will your boat have a theme or only use specific colors?
 - How will the boat be shaped?
 - How many people do you want to fit in your boat?
 - How high will the boat be? Will the rowers be able to row?
- **Start constructing your boat!**
 - Make sure the space you are building it in is big enough and that your boat will be able to fit through doorways!
- **Most importantly, be creative, work together, and have fun!**

We can't wait to see what you created!

We will be in touch regarding details for the event. If you have any questions please visit the Reston Museum, call us at 703.709.7700, or email us at info@restonmuseum.org

Reminders

- Waivers must be signed by all participants by the day of the event. You can sign the waiver at https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/w/5942e2d791e81/web/?blm_aid=0 or during registration. We recommend signing the waiver ahead of time in order to make boat check in go as quickly as possible. All participants must sign and return a copy of the waiver and release form to the Reston Museum before or at check-in. **All students under the age of 18 must have the signature of a parent or guardian.** No participant will be allowed on the dock or in a boat without a signed waiver.
- Boats will be inspected prior to the race to ensure they comply with all rules.
- Participants must wear a life jacket and be able to swim.

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Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta Rules

1. The entire boat must be built of cardboard.
2. Boats cannot be bigger than 6 by 12 feet. There is no limit to height.
3. Cardboard may be as thick as you want and may be layered together.
4. Cardboard carpet tubes or similar tubes may be used. "Sono-tubes" or any other type if pre-treated or coated cardboard that has been processed in such a way as to waterproof the cardboard may NOT be used.
5. Duct tape, masking tape, strapping paper tape, wood glue, or contact cement may be used. Metal or plastic staples, clamps, nails, screws, etc, may NOT be used.
6. Boats may be painted with a water based paint or water sealer, like Thompson's Water Seal Stain. All paint and stain must be dry before the boat enters the water. Tar, wax, silicone, fiberglass resins, epoxy glues, or Styrofoam are prohibited.
7. The use of Paper Mache is allowed, particularly on the decorative elements of the boat. However, cardboard should still be your primary building material.
8. 100% of the crew members must be inside or on top of your boat. Where the crew sits may not be enclosed. The boat crew must be able to get IN and OUT of the boat easily.
9. The propulsion system may NOT be motor power, or kick power. Any oars or paddles may be made out of any material or store bought.
10. No electrical power sources will be allowed on any boat once in contact with the water.
11. If there is any doubt about the construction, the judges reserve the right to use a probe, such as an ice pick, to test and verify that only cardboard has been used. Construction violations discovered during any part of the day shall be cause for elimination.
12. Coast guard approved life jackets must be worn by all participants during the race. We encourage you to bring your own if you have one (as it will fit best), but life jackets also will be available for those who need them.
13. Each team is responsible for disposing of their boat after the race. A dumpster will be provided for disposal.
14. There is no limit to the number of rowers, however all rowers must fit inside the boat. Teams should nominate a captain to attend the Captain's Meeting. Teams are also allowed to have two "crew" members on the dock to assist with the race start/finish.
15. HAVE FUN! This is a family-friendly event, meant to foster Reston pride and teamwork. While a little healthy competition is GREAT, let's demonstrate GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP and be kind and courteous to all of the staff, volunteers and other teams.

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