



**ASCE** American Society  
of Civil Engineers

## **THE 23rd ANNUAL STUDENT MODEL BRIDGE BUILDING CONTEST**

- WHEN:** Saturday, March 10, 2012, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Thomas T. Beam Engineering Complex
- WHO:** You and your elementary school, middle school, and high school students
- SPONSORS:** Bureau of Reclamation - U.S. Department of the Interior  
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Clark County School District  
Orth-Rodgers & Associates  
Terracon Consultants and other local engineering firms

### **WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?**

This contest gives students the opportunity to apply scientific theories learned in the classroom by planning, designing, and constructing a wooden bridge to given specifications. Using materials from an official kit, students must design their bridges according to the specifications for their division. The bridges will be weighed, tested, and scored by their efficiency, which is the load carried divided by bridge weight. The contest scoring will be separated into elementary, middle school, and high school divisions. Prizes and trophies will be awarded to students in each division who design, build and test the model bridge with the highest efficiency. The top two finishers in the High School division will be eligible to compete in the International competition in Las Vegas, Nevada, this spring.

### **I'M A TEACHER....WHAT'S MY ROLE?**

Teachers who have participated in previous competitions feel this program is a great activity to supplement the classroom curriculum. Your students may build bridges individually or as teams. Teachers can present this as a classroom or extra-curricular project. We will offer a teacher's workshop on Wednesday, **January 11th**, to be confirmed in an upcoming issue of Hotline and on our website. At the workshop, we will discuss the specifications, bridge design, and ideas for presenting this program in the classroom.

### **HOW MANY BRIDGES CAN BE ENTERED FROM EACH SCHOOL?**

A maximum of ten bridges will be accepted from each school; a pre-qualifying competition for your school may be needed to limit the number of entries. **Only one award per student will be provided.**

### **HOW DO WE ENTER?**

The 2012 Model Bridge Building Specifications and a registration form are enclosed. Please read the specifications carefully as they change from year to year. Fill out the registration form completely, including the number of students/teams (number of bridges) that will compete from your school. **The registration fee is \$5 per bridge entered. This cost includes one bridge kit per student/team registered. One registration form per class or school is adequate.**

### **WHY DO WE HAVE TO PAY FOR THE BRIDGE KITS?**

The contest is funded entirely through the sale of bridge kits. All money earned from the sale of bridge kits is used for the contest, which includes our costs for the kits, sending winners to the International contest, the trophies and awards for the winners in each age division, and a certificate for each student. The contest is run exclusively for the benefit of the students who participate. All of the folks who organize it are unpaid volunteers.

**Remember, no funding = no contest. Please purchase your kits through us.**

WHERE DO WE GET THE BRIDGE KITS? **THERE WILL BE TWO PICKUP LOCATIONS THIS YEAR!**

Bring the completed registration form along with check, money order, cash or PO (made out to: ASCE) to:

- Terracon Consultants, Inc. at 750 Pilot Road, Suite F, from 8 AM to 5 PM (Please contact Tanner Hartranft for kit availability at 597-9393 x215 or 340-9869), or
- Orth-Rodgers & Associates, located at 3130 S. Durango Drive, from 7 AM to 3 PM. (Please call Walt Vodrazka for kit availability at 233-4060 or 585-9865). See attached maps for locations.

**Registration will begin on December 19, 2011.** We **cannot accept credit cards** at the pickup locations.

PLEASE NOTE: **If you must use a purchase order, we can only accept those payable to ASCE and addressed to Tanner Hartranft, 4411 Satinwood Drive, Las Vegas NV 89147. If you have any questions, call Tanner at (702) 340-9869.**

WHERE DO WE GET ADDITIONAL BRIDGE KITS?

Additional bridge kits are available for \$5.00 each and may be picked up when you register or any time thereafter. To pick up additional kits, please bring check, money order or PO (made out to: ASCE) to Tanner Hartranft or Walt Vodrazka, at one of the addresses noted above.

A limited number of kits will be available at no cost for Title 1 schools. Please contact Paul Matuska at [pmatuska@usbr.gov](mailto:pmatuska@usbr.gov) to request these kits.

SOME KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Registration begins **December 19<sup>th</sup>**. We encourage all teachers and students to pick up kits as a group instead of individually. Call those listed above for kit availability, prior to pickup.
- Registration is \$5.00 per competing student. This price includes one bridge kit per registrant. Additional kits may be purchased for \$5.00 at registration or any other time.
- A teacher's workshop is scheduled for 4 – 5:30 pm, **January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012** in Building B of the Thomas Beam Engineering Complex. Please consult our website for more information before the workshop at [www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/bridgebuilding.html](http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/bridgebuilding.html) .
- Registration will end **February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012**.
- A maximum of 10 bridges per school** may compete in the Southern Nevada Regional Competition. **Only one award per student will be provided.**
- Prizes will be awarded in each division to those students who design and build the bridges with the highest efficiency. The High School division winner will receive a \$500 scholarship from ASCE.
- BBQ'd hotdogs and hamburgers will be available, for a modest cost, from 10am through 3pm on the day of the contest. Plan to come hungry and enjoy lunch with your students.
- A testing schedule will be mailed to each class/group involved in the Southern Nevada Regional Competition at least 10 class days before the competition.
- Please return all travelling trophies to UNLV on contest day.**

Students who have participated in the contest in previous years feel that this activity excites, challenges, and motivates them. We encourage you and your students to participate and register early.

QUESTIONS?

For information (registration form, specifications, and rules) please visit our website at: [www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/bridgebuilding.html](http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/bridgebuilding.html). If you have questions about the specifications, workshop or the registration process, please contact Paul Matuska at [pmatuska@usbr.gov](mailto:pmatuska@usbr.gov).