



ASCE American Society
of Civil Engineers

THE 26th ANNUAL STUDENT MODEL BRIDGE BUILDING CONTEST

WHEN: Saturday, March 7, 2015, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 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

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 the weight of the bridge. The contest scoring will be separated into elementary, middle, and high school divisions. Prizes and trophies will be awarded to students in each division who design and build 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 to be held in Portland, OR this spring.

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

Teachers who have participated in previous competitions agree that this program is a great activity to supplement the classroom curriculum. Your students may build bridges individually or as teams in the Elementary and Middle School competitions, but must enter individually in the High School competition. We encourage teachers to design their classroom curriculum around the contest, but teachers can present this as an extra-curricular project to their students. We will offer a teacher's workshop at UNLV on Wednesday, **January 14, 2015**, to be confirmed in an upcoming issue of Hotline and on the CCSD website. At the workshop, we will discuss the specifications, bridge design, basic engineering concepts, 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. The integrity of this competition is dependent on each student designing their own bridge and not copying another student's work. We encourage teachers to express to their students the importance of the contest objective of developing their creativity, ingenuity, and craftsmanship skills by construction of an efficient bridge of their own design. If needed because of lack of student participation, a student can enter more than one bridge so that the school can meet the minimum number of bridges in their division, **however, only one award per student or bridge will be provided for the individual competition.**

HOW DO WE ENTER?

The 2015 Model Bridge Building Specifications and a registration form are enclosed. Please read the specifications carefully as they change each year. Fill out the registration form completely, including the number of students/teams (number of bridges) that will compete from your school, and your email address. **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 compete in the International contest, the trophies and awards for the winners in each 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?

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 702-979-7960 or 702-332-1630; or
- Orth-Rodgers / The Burns Group, located at 8871 W. Flamingo Road, Suite 202, from 7 AM to 3 PM, M-Th (Please call Walt Vodrazka for kit availability at 233-4060 ext. 627 or 525-9865). See attached maps for locations.
- At the Teacher's Workshop to be held on January 14, 2015
- We **cannot accept credit cards** at the pickup locations. To avoid a wasted trip, please call the pickup location of your choice before you drive there.

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 may be available at no cost for Title 1 schools. Please contact Rich Eastland at reastland@usbr.gov to request these kits.

SOME KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Registration begins **December 16, 2014**. 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 January 14, 2015 from 4 – 5:30 pm 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.
- Registration will end February 13, 2015.
- A **maximum of 10 bridges per school** may compete in the Southern Nevada Competition. **Only one award per student or bridge 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. The proceeds from the BBQ support the UNLV ASCE student chapter, so 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. If you have questions about the specifications, workshop or the registration process, please contact Rich Eastland at reastland@usbr.gov.