

Dear Bridge Contest Participant:

Congratulations on qualifying for the 2012 International Bridge Building Contest!

We hope that you will be able to attend the event in person at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) on Saturday, May 5, 2012. I am writing to inform you of the preliminary schedule of events and to provide you with suggestions for housing in the Las Vegas area. **If unable to attend in person, you may mail in your bridge to Walt Vodrazka, Orth-Rodgers & Associates, 3130 S. Durango Drive, Suite 404, Las Vegas, NV 89117, and it will be tested by one of the judges – be sure to package it securely as we are unable to perform any repairs or maintenance.**

With this letter, either your Regional Contest Host will have given you the official wood for the contest, or the official wood is enclosed. This wood must be used to construct your bridge with a commonly available adhesive. A few points must be remembered when receiving your official wood and during construction.

1. The official wood has been specially treated with an identifying dye and you should use standard woodworking precautions when working with it. **The rules require that each piece of wood be identifiable as official wood.** This means that you should take special care when cutting or sanding the surface. All bridges will be inspected to ensure that only the official wood is used.
2. The **latest revisions of the contest rules** are available on the contest web site (link at the end of this letter. Please read them carefully and contact Chief Judge Paul Matuska (pmatuska@usbr.gov) if you have any questions.
3. A copy of the registration form is enclosed with this letter. **This registration form must be returned to us no later than April 13th.** The form may be mailed, emailed or faxed to the addresses noted on the form. The registration form will contain a place for you to sign and certify that you have designed and built this bridge by yourself. We will be using the information on this form to make up the program so please print legibly!
4. Some Regional Contests allow and encourage teams to build bridges but this contest is for individual students. This means that we can only acknowledge one member of a Regional Contest winning team. Please do not come as a team and expect us to bend these rules by acknowledging more than one student per bridge.

We will be having several events over the weekend of the Contest:

1. **Friday Evening Events:** We will meet at 3:00 pm at the DoubleTree Hotel, 7250 Pollock Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 where we will load on buses to travel to the Hoover Dam and O'Callaghan/Tillman Bridge for tours of each before dinner is served in historic Boulder City. You, as an official contestant, will be treated to this event, any guests you bring along will have to pay on Friday evening. The typical cost for the Friday event is about \$30 so come prepared. Transportation from DoubleTree hotel to Hoover Dam and back will be provided, however, we will need an accurate count of the number of people who will attend. **Please return the enclosed registration form as soon as possible.** Please leave yourself plenty of time to get from the airport to the hotel, check-in, and to prepare for the tour.
2. **Saturday's Events:** Saturday's competition will be held in UNLV's Thomas Beam Engineering complex (a link to the campus map is at the end of this letter). The planned schedule is as follows:

8:00 am	Check-in begins; There is plenty of time, you do NOT need to arrive early. (Check-in includes judging for compliance with the rules)
9:30 am	Check-in ends. Welcome and judging for architectural merit begins
10:00 am	Testing for efficiency begins
12:30 pm	Lunch will be served in the Student Services building (A wide variety of food options)
2:30 pm	Awards Ceremony begins
4:00 pm	Awards Ceremony ends;

* All times are approximate and could change slightly.

For legal reasons, if you are a minor, you must either be accompanied by a responsible adult or compete by mail.

We will have the lunch and Award Ceremony in the early afternoon so that you may have the evening free to enjoy Las Vegas or catch your flight home. You will be allowed to bring 2 guests to the lunch at no additional cost (up to 3 tickets will be given to you at check-in). Please mark the total number of attendees on the registration form. Additional attendees will be asked to pay \$5. Please be prepared with cash or to write a check to the "ASCE", **we do not have the ability to accept debit or credit cards.**

Finally, a few words about housing in the Las Vegas area:

1. We have made arrangements for a special contest room rate at the DoubleTree Hotel in Las Vegas. This is centrally located to the airport, UNLV and the Strip. If you elect to stay at the DoubleTree, please visit the link below to access the 2012 International Bridge Building Contest block of rooms.

http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/L/LASCHDT-BB5-20120504/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

2. You should make reservations soon since there are often conventions in the city and rooms can be scarce. Many internet based search engines now allow you to find good deals on hotels. There are dozens of hotels and motels within 15 miles of UNLV.

PLEASE MONITOR THE CONTEST WEB SITE FOR ANY LATE ANNOUNCEMENTS OR CHANGES: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/intlbridgebuilding.html>

UNLV CAMPUS MAPS: <http://go.unlv.edu/maps> Look for the Thomas Beam Engineering complex

We look forward to seeing you in May and to having the best Bridge Building Contest ever. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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