

MESA DAY

Rubber Band Car

Level: Elementary/Grades K - 5

Teams: 2 students per team.

Overview: Students will build ONE vehicle, powered by rubber bands and designed to travel as far as possible.

Materials:

- MESA will provide a basic kit of supplies containing:
 - Six - #33 Rubber bands
 - 8" x 9" piece of cardboard
 - One yellow "stop clip"
 - One blue "slide stop"
 - Two - 6" dowels
 - Four wheels
- All other materials to build the vehicle are legal and optional.

Rules:

1. Rubber band cars can only be powered by rubber bands.
2. Cars must travel down a straight track that is 2 meters wide.
3. The car must remain within the confines of the track, if the car crosses over the edge of the track the distance will be recorded as the score for that trial.
4. Each team is given 2 trials. The better of the 2 trials will be the team's score.
5. The score for each trial will be a combination of distance traveled and distance from the centerline of the track.
 - a. For example, if the car travels 5 meters down the track before touching a sideline of the track then the score would be distance traveled minus distance from centerline, $5\text{m}-1\text{m}$, for a score of 4 meters.
 - b. Or, if the car travels 10 meters down the track and stops only 0.25m away from the centerline the score would be calculated as $10\text{m}-0.25\text{m}=9.75$ meters.

Awards:

Awards are given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.