

MESA DAY

Straw Tower Contest

Level: Elementary/Grades K - 5
Middle School/Grades 6 - 8

Teams: 2 Students per team.

Overview: Students will build the tallest freestanding tower possible from drinking straws and masking tape.

Materials: The following will be provided by MESA:

- Fifty (50) drinking straws (approximate size 20cm L x 0.6cm diameter)
- One (1) meter of masking tape (2 meters given to elementary teams)

Rules:

1. The tower must be constructed from the straws and tape supplied by MESA. NO other material or substitutions are allowed.
2. Straws may be bent, fitted inside one another, or taped, but they can't be cut.
3. The tower must be freestanding for at least 10 seconds upon the arrival of the judge. It must not touch or be attached to or leaning against any other surface (e.g. walls, ceiling, desk, etc.). However it can be taped to the floor.
4. Contestants will have 20 minutes to build a tower from scratch.
5. Students may not use ladders, stand on chairs, or lift each other up at the testing site to assist in construction of towers.
6. The judge's decision shall be final related to any apparent safety hazards.

Judging:

1. A tower is measured from the floor to the highest point. A tower that curves or sags will be measured to the highest point while it is curved or sagging (e.g. a tower sagging under its own weight will not be straightened and measured).
2. Towers will be judged only once.
3. You must notify the judge when you are ready to be judged.

Awards:

Awards are given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for each grade level. In the event of ties, duplicate awards may be given.