

E-Week Bridge Contest FAQ's

Q: Can we cut, break, and bend, etc. the sticks? Does a cut stick count for one or two?

A. You are allowed 200 sticks to use any way, shape, or form you choose. If a stick is cut in half it is still counted as one stick (in two pieces). The Popsicle sticks can be cut up and used in any way. They can be drilled, sanded, *laminated, and contoured in any way. Let the imagination run wild!

Q. What part of the bridge is used to pass through the 3 inch cube prior to bridge testing?

A. This is important because if the cube cannot pass through this section of your bridge, it is disqualified. The 3 inch cube has to pass all the way through the bridge at the deck level (i.e. driving surface).

Q. Does the bridge width have to be exactly 24 inches or a little bigger?

A. The span (clear opening that is the transportation surface for any vehicle or pedestrian, in the case of a walking bridge, to cross over) is 24 inches. If you build the bridge exactly 24 inches, when placed within the testing equipment, it would fall into the opening of the equipment and would not be able to be tested. Another way to look at this is the supports for testing are 24 inches apart. The bridge will "free" rest on these supports for the test. It is up to you on how your bridge is braced against these supports.

Q. When should I arrive to have my bridge tested? What will happen when I get there?

A. Arrive 30 minutes before your designated test time **with your bridge already built** to check in and have your bridge examined for eligibility. Here is what the Engineer's Week volunteers will do to check your bridge:

- Weigh it
- Measure it (see brochure for construction requirements: no taller than 12", no wider than 6")
- Must have a 2" X 2" opening at the top for the testing "arm" to pass through and press down on the bridge surface for testing purposes
- Make sure your bridge has at least 2 parallel trusses
- Run the 3 inch cube through the bridge at deck level
- Examine bridge for use of the correct glue (white, Elmer's type yellow wood glue only)
- Make sure it is not painted or coated with any materials

Q. How do you define a "mentor"? How can a mentor/coach help?

A. A mentor is someone who encouraged you to participate and gave you ideas, directions, and/or guidance before and during the building process. The mentor/coach can:

- **Provide** contest rules and testing procedures
- **Explain** contest terms that may not be understood
- **Encourage** student to participate and **research bridge building**
- **Recommend** student explores various successful designs
- **Guide** the student on best practice strategies for model construction
- **Offer feedback**

The honor form indicates the student did the bridge design/construction themselves.

*Laminate with popsicle sticks means gluing sticks together to make a bigger piece of wood. It can then be used as is (such as a beam) or carved to form a different shape.