



## MESA Day Contest Rules

### Sponge Activity

<b>Event:</b>	<b>Straw Tower Contest</b>
<b>Level:</b>	Middle/Junior High School
<b>Type Of Contest:</b>	Team
<b>Composition of Teams:</b>	1 or 2 students per Team.
<b>Number Of Teams:</b>	5 Teams Per Center

**Overview:** To build the tallest free-standing tower possible from drinking straws and masking tape.

**Materials:** All Materials are provided by Host Center.

- Fifty (50) drinking straws (approximate size 7 3/4" L x 1/4" diameter)
- One (1) yard of masking tape (36")

#### Rules:

1. The tower must be constructed from the straws and tape supplied by the Host Center. 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 free-standing ( except for tape to the floor) for at least 10 seconds upon the arrival of a judge. It must not touch or be attached to or leaning against any other surface ( e.g. walls, ceiling, desk, etc.).
4. Contestants have 30 minutes to build a tower from scratch.
5. During the contest all students shall have equal access to additional mechanical devices such as chairs, tables, bleachers, etc.
6. The decision of the judge shall be final on any actions that shall be deemed a safety hazard.

#### Judging:

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 sagged (e.g. a tower sagging under its own weight will not be straightened and measured, which would give a greater height than the tower actually reached). Towers will be judged only once. You must notify the judge when you are ready to be judged.

#### Awards:

1. **First Place:** Tallest Tower.
2. **Second Place:** Next tallest tower.
3. **Third Place:** Next tallest tower.

**Attachments:** None