

2009 DEL-MI CATAPULT CONTEST RULES
PLEASE READ THESE CAREFULLY

1. Catapults must be constructed of log spars and lashed together with rope using correct lashing techniques. No surgical tubing, glue, bolts, nails, or other hardware is permitted. The throwing basket may be of any commercial design and attached in any manner, but may not contain surgical tubing or similar material. Several alternate throwing arms are suggested in the event of breakage.
2. Catapults must be constructed using wooden spars and lashings using methods outlined in the Pioneering Merit Badge pamphlet.
3. The entire catapult must be constructed on-site the day of the contest.
4. Catapults must be movable (Scouts must be able to pick up and carry between event stations).
5. Catapults are to be "Scout-powered". No surgical tubing, springs of any material, or uncontrolled mechanisms are allowed.
6. Construction and operation of catapults must ensure the safety of participants and observers.
7. Balloons shall be filled only with water. Failure to comply will result in unit disqualification. Each Scout will obey this rule on his Scout's Honor.
8. All observers (parents, adults, etc.) are off limits as targets during the water balloon combat.
9. Senior Patrol Leaders and Scoutmasters are responsible for their respective Troop following all contest rules, sound construction principles, and safe conduct at all times.
10. Bathing suits, t-shirts, and sneakers are the recommended uniform.
11. Each Troop should bring about 200 balloons (6" diameter) filled with water to about the size of a grapefruit. No water will be available at the site. Units may be asked to share balloons with other units during the course of the water balloon combat.
12. Target Contest: Each unit will launch three balloons at each of three targets at different distances (30, 40, and 50 feet). Judges decisions are final.
13. Distance Contest: Each unit will launch five balloons for maximum distance. Awards will be given for the highest three-launch average distances.

14. Accuracy Contest: Each unit will launch five balloons at a single target placed between 50 ft to 100 ft from the firing line. Awards will be given for the closest three-throw averages.
15. Distance during the water balloon combat: Each side will be separated by a distance of not less than 50 feet. No Scout will be permitted in the "no man's land" between each side during the contest!
16. All balloons must be launched with the catapult; no balloons can be hand thrown during the water balloon combat unless an opponent's balloon is caught. Opponent's balloons can be thrown back. Units can catch balloons in any manner.
17. All Scouts must stay and police the area of broken balloons after the contest. We must leave the area cleaner than we found it.
18. The judges are free to interpret rules to ensure the spirit of fair play. All decisions are final.

Notes:

- A. Catapults must be constructed completely on-site the day of the contest. Troops that have never made a catapult are encouraged to practice ahead of time. Rehearsal is the key to good performance!
- B. The best catapults are generally about 5' x 5' x 10' (width x height x length) made from spars 2 to 6 inches in diameter with a long throwing arm.
- C. Throwing arms occasionally break so you may wish to have a spare or two ready. Spare rope and extra spars are recommended in the event of a broken spar or loose lashing.
- D. It is not unusual for a good catapult to be able to launch a grapefruit-sized water balloon around 100 feet. This is accomplished using a well-constructed catapult, a long throwing arm, and excellent coordination from the Scouts (practice!)
- E. Each Scout can fill a few balloons and transport them in plastic clothes baskets lined with garbage bags. Coolers work very well for transport.
- F. Overfilled balloons break easily and seldom launch very far. Under filled balloons do not have enough weight to launch very far either. The softball-size water balloons seem to work best.
- G. Parents and spectators are welcome and encouraged to come to this event. It is suggested that for comfort they provide their own seating arrangements.

Questions or suggestions regarding the event should be directed to

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