



Civil Engineering...the art of the possible

Balsa Wood Bridge Competition  
February 21, 2008  
Washington Square Mall

December 17, 2008,

Dear Teacher:

Once again it is time for the University of Evansville's annual Balsa Wood Bridge Building Competition. As always, ASCE is very excited at the opportunity to interact with the community and get younger people involved in engineering. I ask each of you to encourage your students to get involved in this activity. It is a great experience not only for students but for parents, teachers and all of us here at UE. This year the competition will be held at **Washington Square Mall** on **February 21, 2009**.

This contest has been an integral part of UE's community involvement for the past several years. The competition consists of each individual or team of two participants building a bridge using the design specifications and the balsa wood that will be provided. The bridges are then displayed and loaded to failure in the center court of Washington Square Mall. (Schedule will be provided with the rules and materials). The bridges will be scored and ranked by their efficiency (load to weight ratio). The bridge from each division (I. k-5; II. 6-8; III. 9-12) will be declared the winner for that division. Awards for second and third in each division will also be given along with certificates for all participants. Also, a scholarship will be given to the high school Junior with the highest ranking bridge.

The pick-up date for the rules and materials of the competition will be **Saturday January 24, 2009**, from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** in the **Koch Center Annex**. Students can either participate as an individual or a team of two. The material to be used for building the bridge will be provided as well as a set of rules for each participant. I, along with other ASCE members will be available at this time to answer any additional questions.

The registration fee of **\$12 for individuals** and **\$20 for a team of two** covers the cost of the wood and a T-shirt for each participant. Please pay your registration fees on the Pick-Up day.

Again, I ask that you strongly encourage every student to participate in this competition. In the past, teachers who have offered prizes or extra credit in science class for participation have had excellent results. It is a wonderful opportunity for both the participant and our Civil Engineering students here at UE. I have enclosed a preliminary sign up sheet for your convenience. If you could please return this sheet to me by **January 17, 2009** so that I can get a general idea of how much wood and materials to have available for pick up day I would really appreciate it. Please FAX the sign up sheet to (812) 488-2780 c/o Dr. Mark Valenzuela.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to call or contact me via email. Hope to hear from you soon!

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