



Professional Engineers  
and Geoscientists of BC  
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THOMPSON RIVERS  
UNIVERSITY

APEGBC South Central Branch  
&  
Thompson Rivers University  
**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Popsicle Stick Bridge  
Contest**

## Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **Where can I buy popsicle sticks?**

Popsicle sticks can be purchased in bulk from various hobby stores. One example is *Michael's* in Kamloops. Dollar stores also carry stock.

2. **Can I use jumbo popsicle sticks or even make my own?**

No. The rules call for the use of “standard” popsicle sticks. Jumbo, tongue depressors, or custom made sticks are not permitted.

3. **Can I enter more than one bridge in the contest?**

Yes you can enter as many bridges as you like. We only ask that each one be separately registered.

4. **Are you allowed to cut or split the popsicle sticks?**

No. The rules call for the popsicle sticks to remain intact. They must not be split or cut to length. Judges will be checking these details before your bridge is tested at the same time your bridge is weighed in and verified to use 100 or fewer popsicle sticks.

5. **Can epoxy based or “Crazy Glue” type adhesives be used?**

No. The rules call for white glue such as Elmer's, Bondfast, or any of a wide assortment of white woodworking glues available from any hardware store. **Yellow or brown woodworking glue is not allowed.** Judges will be checking that only approved adhesives have been used when your bridge is weighed in.

6. **A group of us together built a bridge. How do I decide which category to enter?**

The oldest member of the group determines the category.

7. **I helped my young son / daughter built a bridge. How do I decide which category to enter?**

We expect Dads or Moms help youngsters. Deciding the category depends on the level of assistance given. To make it fair for all contestants, we ask is that you judge the level of assistance provided and choose between Elementary and Open.

8. **Is it possible to have a closer look at the “Bridge Buster” machine before judging on the day of the event?**

Yes. If you would like to have a look at the machine before the contest you can contact Normand Fortier (828-5404 or nfortier@tru.ca ) to arrange a viewing time.

9. **How accurately can the “Bridge Buster” actually measure the forces being applied to the bridge?**

The force is calculated by measuring air pressure being applied to the pneumatic cylinder which is stressing the bridge. The air pressure is measured with a sensor certified to +/- 0.1% accuracy. Accounting for small air leaks and something call “stiction” in the pneumatic cylinder, we are reasonably confident forces can be measured to within +/- 1%. This means a 500 lb measured failure force is 500 +/- 5 lbs.

10. **Is there some way I can register electronically to avoid having to FAX or hand deliver my registration?**

Yes. Simply do the following:

- Download the registration form in MS Word format.
- Use your word processor to fill in the details of your registration.
- Save the completed form as a file on your computer.
- Email the completed form to nfortier@tru.ca)

Please check back. More questions and answers will be added as they come up.

Happy Bridge Building !!!!