

USS Fort Worth Support Committee Whatever Floats Your Boat Regatta

Rules for boat construction

Teams of 5 -- At least 1 person with a life jacket will go across to the other bank and back

Pick a theme for your boat and your team – decorate & dress accordingly

Sail, row or scull across the river, topple over or slowly sink

Bring all that stuff you would take to recycle or reuse, and create a boat

Construction may begin off site. You will have from 4-6 pm to complete construction on site

Guidelines:

- All boats must be constructed of materials that have been previously used (that is, nothing new except duct tape) for anything except for a boat
- All boats must be propelled either by poles, self-made oars, self-made paddle wheels, or sails made out of material not intended for sails --or any combination thereof. Keep in mind that the race course can get up to 17 feet deep
- All boats must have a readily visible name
- You may bring as much duct tape as you would like. We will provide you with one roll per team as well
- Judges will inspect the boats before the race begins to ensure compliance with the construction and safety rules
- After all inspections are complete, the racing will begin. We hope that will be at 6 pm, but not before

Acceptable Materials:

- Cardboard
- Plastic bottles
- Duct tape, twine, and rope
- Cloth, including burlap bags
- Repurposed floats or flotation devices

Unacceptable Materials:

- Parts from "real" boats, including old boat hulls – commercial or recreational, boogie or surf boards, real rudders, engines, sails, oars or anything else actually used on a boat.
- Material that could easily break off your boat and float away (e.g., styrofoam packing peanuts)
- Containers that held pollutants, harsh chemicals, or other potentially hazardous powders or liquids
- Potentially dangerous objects (e.g., sharp edges, rusty metal, or anything made of glass)
- Wood

Safety rules

- All captains must be at least 16 years of age.
- All crewmembers must be at least 12 years of age.
- All captains and their crew members **MUST** wear U.S. Coast Guard Approved life vests (not that we don't trust your shipbuilding abilities) and closed toed shoes. No flip flops.
- No swimming, pushing, or towing and no attaching any parachutes to the stern of someone else's boat. Not that anyone would actually try that.
- No anchor required.

Prizes

- First boat to cross the finish line in the regatta
- Most like the USS Fort Worth
- Most creative use of materials
- Titanic Award for the most spectacular failure
- People's Choice
- Best Team Costume

