

Dear Principals, Teachers and Parents,

Engineers Week, a formal coalition of more than 70 engineering, education, and cultural societies, and more than 50 corporations and government agencies, was founded in the United States in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers. Dedicated to raising public awareness of engineers' positive contributions to quality of life, Engineers Week promotes recognition among parents, teachers and students of the importance of a technical education and a high level of math, science, and technology literacy, and motivates youth to pursue engineering careers in order to provide a diverse and vigorous engineering workforce. Each year Engineers Week reaches thousands of schools, businesses, and community groups across the United States.

To celebrate Engineers Week, our local chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) conducts an Index Card Bridge Building Contest at the Peoria Riverfront Museum in Peoria, IL. This contest involves area 5th (new this year), 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in the building of model bridges out of 3"x 5" index cards. The bridges are judged in various categories such as quality of construction, structural efficiency, aesthetics, and performance under loading.

ASCE would like to extend an invitation to the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at your school to compete in the **2019 ASCE Bridge Building Contest**. Please make the enclosed information available to your eligible students. Feel free to make additional copies of the rules or contact me and I will send more. Representatives from our local chapter can visit with you and/or your classrooms to discuss the event in more detail.

Participation in this contest will introduce the student to one aspect of civil engineering, namely structures. As a member of the design/construction team the student will be exposed to the process of considering alternatives and coming to a consensus on the most efficient structure type. Bridges will be judged on contest criteria as stated in the enclosed set of rules and tested for load carrying capacity with prizes awarded to the highest scoring entries.

Thank you for taking the time to consider involving your students in this STEM related event. Hope to see you on contest day!

Sincerely,

Keith J. Plavec
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