

[TOP](#)

13th Annual Bridge Building Competition

NOVEMBER 10TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Southeast High School Students Gear-Up for MoDOT's 13th Annual Bridge Building Competition

Competition Nov. 17 at Cape West 14 Cine

After weeks of work to build the most efficient model bridges, Southeast Missouri high school students are now gearing-up to put their bridges to the test. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) will test bridges entered into its 13th Annual Bridge Building Competition Thursday, Nov. 17 at Cape West 14 Cine, located at 247 Siemers Drive in Cape Girardeau.

Doors will open at 8 a.m., with the competition beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding at approximately 2 p.m.

The competition challenges high school juniors and seniors to design and construct the most efficient model bridge using limited materials—15 pieces of balsa wood, thread and glue.

“We are very pleased to have over 40 area schools participating in this year’s competition,” said Senior Highway Designer Anita Clark. “In addition to giving students a great opportunity to learn about engineering, participating schools can also win prizes.”

Prizes donated by area businesses and organizations will be awarded to the top-five

bridge building winners, as well as for the most aesthetic bridge and the electronic bridge building contest. Similar to previous years, cash prizes donated by the SE Chapter Transportation Employee Association of Missouri will be given to the top three schools with the best overall performance.

Prize donations and supply sponsorships have been made possible by the following businesses and organizations: SE Chapter Transportation Employee Association of Missouri, Cape West 14 Cine, Three Rivers Community College, Cape Area Engineers Club, Southeast Physics & Engineering Club, Southeast Chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers, Papa John's, Pepsi Mid-America and the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety.

Prizes donated by area businesses and organizations will be awarded to the top bridge building winners. In addition, MoDOT has partnered with Arkansas State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, University of Missouri-Columbia and Southern Illinois University to offer seniors interested in civil engineering up to \$10,000 in scholarships.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Southeast Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety will be on hand during the competition to discuss the importance of buckling-up with the Seat Belt Convincer, which simulates how it feels to be in a traffic crash.

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