



Youth Punkin' Chunkin' 2026 Contest Guidelines



Sponsored by Rotary Club of Clayton and the Clayton Chamber of Commerce

The following rules are designed to allow maximum creativity for the participants.

1. The base of the trebuchet (pumpkin chucker) must be small enough to fit into a pickup truck or small trailer so it can be easily transported and moved to the launch site.
2. The distance from the throw arm axle to the base shall not exceed 6 feet.
3. The counter weight shall not exceed 250 lbs.
4. All joints in the frame must be firmly bolted together with 1/4" or larger bolts and washers for safety.
5. During the event, anyone working the machine has to wear safety glasses and a hard hat. It is expected that the trebuchets will be able to pitch small pumpkins about the size of a grapefruit or a cantaloupe. Teams must supply their own pumpkins.
6. The 1st & 2nd place winners will be selected based on the distance thrown multiplied by the number of pounds of food donated. The distance will be determined by the better of two shots.
7. An award will also be given for Best Presentation (decorations, costumes, posters, flags etc)
8. All the food collected shall be weighed in advance and brought to the Municipal building on the Friday before the event. Signs will be made for each team showing how much food was gathered. Water is not to be used as part of the food weight.
9. Participants must be of school age and groups must have a minimum of five members.

The event is a lot of fun, a great team builder and a way to give back to the community by donating food to local food banks. Trebuchets will be located in front of the Clayton Pavilion at Frink Park and launching out into the water. All the food will be donated to local food pantries in Alexandria Bay, Cape Vincent, Clayton, DePauville and LaFargeville.

A Rotary Club member will gladly bring a model Trebuchet to any group meeting to show how they are constructed, to demonstrate how they work and to answer any questions. It will be exciting for everyone involved, whether they are building the launcher, collecting food, making posters or growing a lot of pumpkins.

We are looking forward to working with all interested groups of youth in our area and welcome any questions or suggestions you may have. If you have any questions please feel free to call or text David Neuroth of the Clayton Rotary Club at 315-955-4295 or email him at dhnwindmill2@gmail.com.