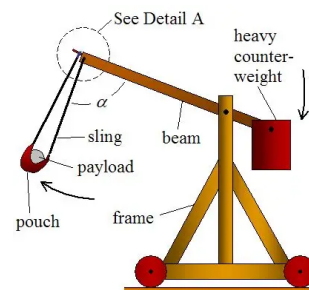




Youth Punkin' Chunkin' 2026 Contest Rules



About Youth Punkin' Chunkin'

The Youth Punkin' Chunkin' Contest is a fun and creative competition where teams of local youth build and operate trebuchets to launch small pumpkins as far as possible. The event is designed to encourage teamwork, engineering skills, and community service, as teams also collect food and donations for local food banks. Trebuchets will be set up in front of the Clayton Pavilion at Frink Park and will launch pumpkins out into the water. All donations collected will be given to local food pantries in Alexandria Bay, Cape Vincent, Clayton, DePauville, and LaFargeville.

Key Terms and Definitions

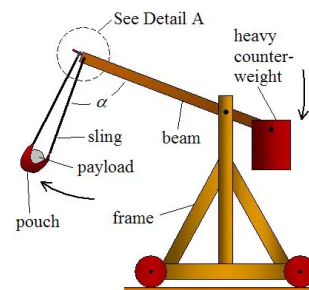
Term	Definition
Trebuchet	A type of catapult that uses a swinging arm and a heavy counterweight to launch objects. In this contest, the trebuchet is the device that throws the pumpkin.
Counterweight	A heavy object attached to the trebuchet that provides the energy to launch the pumpkin by swinging the arm.
Axle	The rod or shaft around which the throwing arm of the trebuchet rotates.
Base	The bottom part of the trebuchet that sits on the ground and supports the whole structure.
Frame	The main structure of the trebuchet that holds all the parts together.
Joint	The place where two parts of the frame are connected, usually with bolts and washers for safety.
Safety Glasses	Protective eyewear that helps prevent injuries to the eyes while working with or near the trebuchet.
Hard Hat	A helmet worn to protect the head from injury during construction or operation of the trebuchet.

Competition Rules

1. The trebuchet must be small enough to fit into a pickup truck or small trailer for easy transport.
2. The distance from the throw arm axle to the ground must not be more than 6 feet.
3. The counterweight used to power your trebuchet must not weigh more than 250 pounds.
4. The counterweight must be the only source of energy used to launch the pumpkin.
 - a. No other energy sources are allowed, including springs, elastic bands, motors, or human power



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5. All joints in the frame must be firmly bolted together using bolts that are at least 1/4 inch thick, with washers, for safety.
 6. Trebuchets should be able to launch small pumpkins about the size of a grapefruit.
 - a. Teams must supply their own pumpkins
 7. All participants must be of school age.
 - a. Each team must have at least 3 members
 8. Teams must collect donations (food or money) for local food banks.
 - a. All donations must be weighed or counted in advance and brought to the Municipal building on the Friday before the event
 - b. Water is not allowed as part of the donation weight
 - c. For scoring, \$1 donated counts as 1 pound
 9. The 1st and 2nd place winners will be given trophies. The winners will be chosen based on the distance their pumpkin is thrown, multiplied by the total pounds (or dollar equivalent) of donations.
 - a. The best throwing distance for each team will be used for scoring
 - b. The number of throws will be determined based on time available and number of teams participating
 - c. Each team will get at least three throws
 - d. An award will be given for the best presentation, which can include decorations, costumes, posters, flags, and other creative ideas.
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Youth Punkin' Chunkin' Requirements

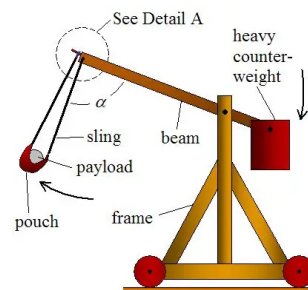
1. Teams must provide their own safety equipment including hard hats and safety glasses.
2. Anyone working within the throwing area must wear safety glasses and a hard hat at all times.
3. Adult supervision is required during setup, operation, and removal of trebuchets.
4. Always follow instructions from event organizers and safety officials.

Setup and Cleanup Requirements

1. Teams are responsible for setting up and removing their trebuchets themselves.
2. Trebuchets will be set up in front of the Clayton Pavilion at Frink Park along the waterfront walkway
3. Trebuchets must be set up by Dusk on Friday Oct 16th
4. Trebuchets must be removed by Dusk on Sunday Oct 18th.



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Contact Us

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 Brendan Crowley of the Clayton Rotary Club at 315-608-0103.