

Foothill Annual Physics Mousetrap Car Race

The Vehicle and the Race:

Design and build a vehicle that

- (a) is powered by a mousetrap,
- (b) covers a distance of ten (10) meters in the minimum time, and
- (c) IS NOT A KIT

Date:

Competition will commence during the week before speak break. The exact date will be announced in class as the deadline approaches.

Rules:

- The only source of energy is ONE standard, small, and disposable, VICTOR brand mousetrap. Either the traditional model or the pre-baited Easy-Set model may be used since the spring mechanism is identical in both.
- The mousetrap may be modified in any way you wish, as long as all the energy delivered to the car comes from original components of the mousetrap.
- The mousetrap (or the parts of it which are actually used) must be rigidly attached to the car and must travel with it. The car must consist of one piece, which travels as a unit. No detached or tethered objects, devices, or parts may be used.
- If you are in doubt as to whether your design is legal, see Mr. Newbery (herein known as the Official Race Committee), for an engineering opinion. NO CHARGE!
- Contest will run in the wrestling room annex within the Hansen Gymnasium. Your car will be timed between two lines a distance of 10 m apart. The racetrack width will be approximately 5 m wide. Your car must stay on the track. If two or more cars finish with times within 1 second of another, an actual race will be held to determine the winner (details to follow).
- One mousetrap costs approximately 75 cents retail. We have a special, One for a Dollar when purchased from the Official Race Committee.
- Maximum cost of vehicle should not exceed \$10.00. You should use things that are commonly considered “junk”. Common and cheap household materials should be used.
- You will never use a kit or any part of a kit.

Prizes:

Prizes will be awarded to the top 5 times overall.

Examples of entries from previous years available for inspection.

