



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
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News Release

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Corps celebrates E-Week with Walla Walla Valley students; Walla Walla District engineers to hold trebuchet design contests

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – Four Walla Walla Valley schools will help the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, celebrate National Engineers Week, Feb. 18-24, by participating in engineering design contests.

Walla Walla District's Engineering Division traditionally sponsors an "E-Week" structural or mechanical design familiarization event among participating Walla Walla-area middle schools and high schools. For as long as some folks remember, the students have built bridges and catapults with a variety of materials, and District personnel have helped students test their structures.

This year, Corps engineers went "mechanical" with scaled-down models of a trebuchet – a medieval siege weapon. Walla Walla District engineers will travel to Walla Walla Valley Academy, in College Place; and Sager Middle School, Walla Walla High School and DeSales Middle School to put students' trebuchets to the test. WWVA's contest will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 10:50 a.m.; DeSales' on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 8 a.m.; WWHS' on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 10:50 a.m.; and Sager's on Friday, Feb. 23, at 8 a.m.

"We wanted to familiarize the students to concepts in mechanics, kinematics and dynamics," said Kyle DeSomber, an engineer with the District's Mechanical Design Section, and E-Week coordinator for the District. "The trebuchet is a simple design for students to work with, and they have a lot of fun competing with each other to see whose trebuchet can hurl an object the farthest. The engineers have lots of fun judging the contests, too."

The trebuchet is a mechanical version of a human using a sling, a device that hurls a projectile with great amounts of kinetic energy through simple biomechanical motion, DeSomber explained. The key components of the trebuchet are the base structure, the throwing arm, the counterweight and the sling.

District engineers provided the trebuchet kits for students to assemble and make design modifications. The District also provided trebuchet simulation software, which students could use to refine their designs by testing them on the computer.

National Engineers Week was founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers. It's always celebrated at the time of George Washington's birthday. Our nation's first president was a military engineer and a land surveyor. Every year, the nation's engineers take a week to highlight the practice and accomplishments of engineers to show what can be done with a little science and imagination. For more information about National Engineers Week go online to www.eweek.org.

For more information about the Walla Walla District, visit our Web site at www.nww.usace.army.mil.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Graphics to support this story are available on the Walla Walla District Web site at www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/pa/npwpapag.htm or goto www.nww.usace.army.mil and click on "News"

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