



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Corps celebrates E-Week with Walla Walla Valley students; Walla Walla District engineers to hold bridge building contests

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – Five Walla Walla Valley schools will help the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, celebrate National Engineers Week, Feb. 17-23, 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 the past two years, the students have built trebuchets and catapults with a variety of materials, and District personnel have helped students test their structures.

This year the contest is bridge construction. Walla Walla District engineers will travel to Walla Walla Valley Academy, in College Place; and Garrison Middle School, Walla Walla High School, Lincoln Alternate High School and DeSales Middle School in Walla Walla to put students' bridges to the test. Lincoln's Contest will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 9:30 a.m.; DeSales' on Thursday, Feb. 21, at 8 a.m.; Garrison's on Friday, Feb. 22, at 8:10 a.m.; and WWVA's on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 7:50 a.m. WWHS plans to participate, but has not finalized a schedule.

"This activity gives students a chance to apply what they are learning in their Math and Science classes. We hope this experience will increase their understanding of engineering and technology in our society and nation. At the same time, we hope they'll gain an interest to learn more," says E-Week coordinator, Charles Fano.

Standard white glue and 110 lb. card stock paper are the only materials allowed for the bridge construction. The District engineers provided eight sheets of paper to each team. The students are also given a list of specifications to help them build the bridge in time for the big testing day.

Each bridge will be tested and scored according to its "strength coefficient," which is calculated by dividing the maximum weight the bridge supported by the weight of the bridge. The bridge with the highest "strength coefficient" wins.

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.

-30-

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 go to www.nww.usace.army.mil and click on "News". Media should contact the schools to arrange for reporter access to cover these events.

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