

OVERVIEW

It's back! Thank you for your interest in the Dover Y's 2026 Cardboard Boat Regatta! Between now and July 31 you and your kid(s), community, or supporters will need to construct a boat made entirely of cardboard and duct tape. Your boat needs to be large enough that your designated boat driver can fit inside comfortably and safely paddle the boat from one end of the pool to the other. Awards for place in heats and themes (boat decoration, driver costume themes, etc).

TEAMS

- Teams can be composed of either your family, friend group, business group (or combination)
- For teams under age 16, there must be someone age 18+ with you on race day
- Please REGISTER your boat before July 25
 - Early registration ends July 25. Register early to receive regatta swag!

MATERIALS

Below is a list of the ONLY materials you can use to construct your boat

1. Corrugated Cardboard
 - a. Corrugated cardboard has a waffled texture (see example)
 - b. No wax-covered cardboard (like some fruit comes in)
 - c. No shiny cardboard with ink (like the box a microwave might come in)
 - d. Make sure to remove any staples or other sharp items from cardboard
 - e. You can use any size/shape/form of cardboard you want, as long as it's corrugated
 - f. You are welcome to cut your cardboard into the shape you want.
2. Duct Tape
 - a. Any brand of duct tape will do.
 - b. There are some points for style/design, so flair it up with some colorful or printed duct tape!
 - c. Duct tape is the ONLY substance you can use to hold your boat together. No other tape, staples, glue, etc.



DESIGN

- You are free to build your boat whenever you want, but it must come ready to race on Friday, July 31.
- Your boat MUST have sides – no raft, surfboard, etc designs.
- **All boats must be under 5' in length**
- You will need to also construct a paddle out of cardboard and duct tape. This is the item your driver(s) will use to propel themselves with. **All paddles must be in the shape of a paddle. No paddles that slip onto the hands.**
- Your boat needs to be large enough to hold your boat driver inside of it. They will need to be in either a sitting or kneeling position – no standing.
- The biggest fail in this race is not waterproofing your boat and paddle. Use a lot of duct tape!
- HINT: there's some great design ideas online.

RACE DAY

- Please bring your boat to the Dover YMCA by 5:45 pm on Friday July 31. Races start at 6:00pm.
- Heats will be formed the day of the race depending on the boat driver's age (i.e. a youth heat, politicians heat, business heat, parent's heat, teen heat, etc). The winner of each heat will move onto the Champion Heat where they will race again.
- For safety purposes, all boat drivers will be required to wear a PFD (provided by the Y).
- The race will take place in the pool with the object being for the boat driver to successfully paddle your boat from one end of the pool to the other first.
- There are be 4 categories you can place in: (1) Best Design: colorful, fun, has a name, etc; (2) 1st place in heat (3) Champion in final heat (4) Davey Jones Locker, (5) Most Spirit (overall theme)



Registration Link

https://ymcade.formstack.com/forms/cardboard_boat_regatta

Questions? Contact JRice@ymcade.org