

Dam Duck Tape & Cardboard Regatta **Race Tips and Tricks**

- Get corrugated cardboard from any appliance store or big box distributors.
- Boat Design: A flat bottom boat is recommended. V-shaped bottoms are likely to tip over unless the V is very gentle.
- The lowest center of gravity is the most stable. Kneeling or standing will cause you to tip over.
- Longer boats go faster but they are harder to turn.
- Boats shorter than 10 feet are difficult to steer.
- For height, allow 18 inches for you to sit and paddle effectively without the edge of your boat blocking your arms. For width, figure about 48 inches for two people.
- Paint all surfaces before gluing (latex based basement primer and carpenter's glue works great).
- Avoid oil-based materials because the oil soaks into the cardboard, may never dry, and weakens the cardboard.
- A 180 pound person will float in a boat that is 1ft by 1ft by 3ft.
- Forget about the glue guns because that type of glue will melt on a hot day.
- Duct tape shrinks when it is painted. Clear tape melts when it is painted.
- Cover all edges of cardboard. Glue and reinforced paper works well over edges and seams.
- Most of all - HAVE FUN AND BE CREATIVE!