



Maryland Engineering Challenges™

INFORMATION SHEET

Participating During a Pandemic

How to Start:

1. Choose a challenge!
 - a. Two Elementary School challenges--Paper Airplane (1st-5th Grade) and Safe Racer (2nd-3rd)
 - b. Four Middle School challenges--Future City, Straw Bridge, Hovercraft, and Robot
 - c. Three High School challenges--Robot, Wood Bridge, and Cargo Ship
2. Review the guidelines for your challenge as some of the challenges are allowing individual students to compete instead of with a team due to the restrictions in gathering during the pandemic.
3. Form a team, depending on the challenge, with either one student and an adult coach, or several students with an adult coach.
4. Discuss how the team will communicate to complete the project:
 - a. Follow CDC and state guidelines to work safely during the pandemic.
 - b. Use video conference platforms to meets as a group--Zoom, Google Hangout/Google Meets, Webex, or Skype
 - c. Plan the timing and assignments for the project in accordance with due dates
 - d. Use project collaboration sites to track group work and progress and to keep project records--[Google Docs](#), [ClickUp](#), [Figma](#), [Trello](#), and [Wrike](#)
5. Research, plan, design, and build--consult library and online resources to support the project, plan team assignments, design the project collaboratively, and test and improve the design continuously.

Note to Adults:

- **The Maryland Engineering Challenge organizers would like to stress that the majority of the work on all phases of the project is to be done by the students.** Though, we recognize during this pandemic, students may need more help than usual.
- Adult assistance is to be limited to: mentoring students; teaching principles applicable to the project; assisting in production of the report and drawings; overseeing manufacturing of the project; performing any process that may pose a safety hazard to students (taking due account of their ages).
- Guidance should be in the form of questions (leading questions, if necessary) to promote creative thinking by the students.
- Consider attending the **Coaches' Information Session**: This "drop-in" virtual event hosted on Zoom is designed for adults interested in coaching a team to chat with engineers. Find out if a particular Challenge is a good fit for your student(s). Attendance is strongly encouraged. Contact Jessica at jcelmer@thebmi.org with any questions

WHEN: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 from 6:00–8:00PM

WHERE: <http://bit.ly/MECInformationSession>