



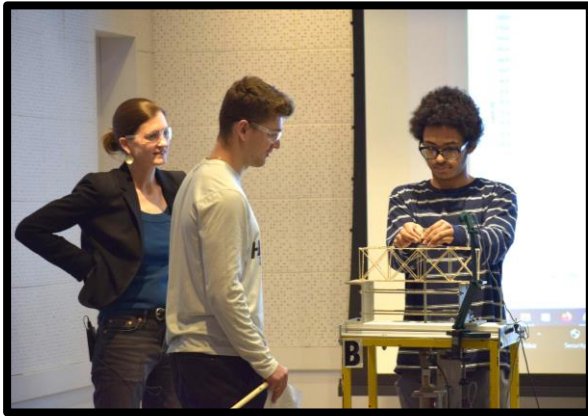
Maryland Engineering Challenges

2026 Wood Bridge Challenge

High School Level – Grades 9-12

Supported By:
American Society of Civil Engineers
Engineer Contact:

Michael Newman—conradnewman13@gmail.com



Important Dates

Registration

- ⇒ **Friday, January 16, 2026** **Prior to 4:00 p.m.**
- In order to be a participating team, each participating student(s) building a bridge must register online at <https://bit.ly/2026MECRegistration> in advance of the due date

Wood Bridge Competition

- ⇒ **Saturday, February 7, 2026** **Doors open at 8:00 a.m.**
- Competition will be at the Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Highway, Baltimore
 - Teams should bring their completed bridge to the competition ready to be tested
 - Full details about the Challenge event will be emailed to Coaches after the registration deadline.

Questions about Challenge specifications or judging should be sent to the Engineer Contact:

Michael Newman—conradnewman13@gmail.com
Other questions? Jessica Celmer challenges@thebmi.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- Q: What rules will the competition be using?
 - A: We will be following the International Competition rules this year, which can be found at <http://bridgecontest.phys.iit.edu/>
- Q: What is the overall premise of the competition?
 - A: Competitors are to construct the most efficient basswood bridge that spans approximately a 1' gap.
- Q: Where can I purchase the materials to construct my bridge for the competition?
 - A: The wood must be 3/32-inch square cross-section basswood and can be purchased online at Amazon or Walmart or in person at many hobby shops.
- Q: Is this an individual event or can competitors work in groups?
 - A: Any amount of people may be represented by one bridge entry. However, the bridges that qualify for the international competition must be represented by one person only.
- Q: How many bridges can I test?
 - A: Individuals can only submit one official bridge. All others will be tested, but the competitor must select which bridge will be official while registering their bridge during check-in.
- Q: What if there are barriers preventing me or my class from participating?
 - If there are any barriers preventing you from participating, please reach out so we can overcome these challenges together. We would love to find solutions to make this program meet your school's needs.
- Q: What prize do the winners receive?
 - Winners receive a plaque and a cash prize for their winning bridge and to assist in the costs to participate in [the national competition](#). Prize money is generated from fundraising and vary year to year, but guaranteed to be in the amount of at least:
 - First place: \$600
 - Second place: \$375
 - Third place: \$225
 - Architecture award: \$150
 - Fan favorite: \$150