

Balloon Skewer Competition

Sponsored by:

Fibers and Composites Manufacturing Facility – FCMF, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville – MAE

Description:

The purpose of this activity is to introduce the students to the Polymers chain characteristic and how they can put a skewer through a balloon without breaking the polymers' chain and popping the balloon.

Team Size:

Individual (1 person)

Material (All provided by the sponsor):

Balloon, Skewer, Dish soap, Chronometer.

- Activity A: Fastest balloon skewer
 - Goal: Put a skewer through a balloon without popping it
 - Criteria: The fastest/shortest time per trial
 - Rules:
 - Each participant will get up to 3 trials (in case their balloon pops); if they manage to put a skewer through a balloon the first time, this will count as their trial. No 2nd or 3rd trials are needed.
 - The chronometer will start with the participant blowing a balloon and stops when they manage to put the skewer through it
 - If a balloon pops and they will need to start with another, the chronometer will start a new lap for each trial.
 - First, second, and third places will be announced on the Engineers Day website following the event.

- Activity B: Most skewers per balloon
 - Goal: Put as many skewers as possible through a balloon
 - Criteria: The most skewers per balloon within 3 minutes
 - Rules:
 - Each participant will have 3 balloons (in case their balloon pops). They can keep on trying until the 3 minutes are over.

- The chronometer will start with the participant blowing a balloon and stops at the 3-minute mark
- First, second, and third places will be announced on the Engineers Day website following the event.