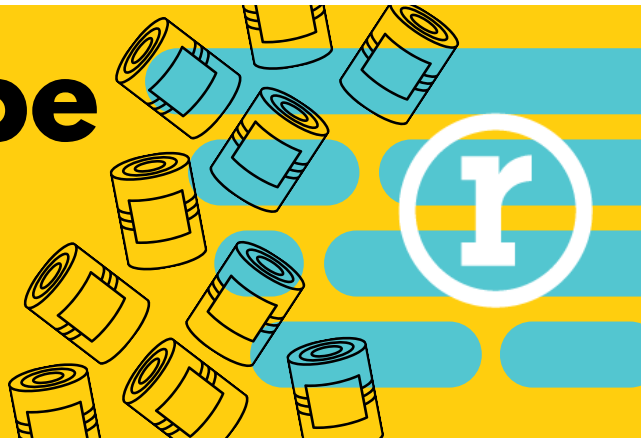
Cans for Hope Sculpture Competition



Guidelines

Event Overview

We're excited to add a creative twist to a traditional canned food drive. This year, We're inviting groups from churches, schools, businesses, and circles of friends to come together not only to give—but to create! Participants will collect canned goods and transform them into imaginative sculptures, combining generosity with teamwork and fun.

Please review the following guidelines to ensure a fair, safe, and inspiring competition for all involved.

Event Schedule

- Registration Opens: January 4th
- Registration Deadline: January 25th
- Competition Deadline: March 1st
- Award Announcements: March 10th

Rules and Regulations

Work Area: Your build will be constructed in an area of your choosing. We suggest having some floor protection under your structure. Sometimes laying a simple layer of paper under the cans provides a clean, visually appealing look that also protects your floor. It can even be part of your aesthetic!

Size of Build Team: Our preferred build team size is 15 participants or fewer. However, we understand some groups may be larger and do not want this guideline to limit participation. If your team has more than 15 members, please contact us so we can discuss the best way to accommodate your group.

Permissible Items:

- Full, unopened, canned food with labels intact/unaltered.

- Use of boxes, bags and packets of food is acceptable; however, cans must be used for the majority of the structure.
- Should covering cans be part of your design, please ensure the label is intact.

Non-permissible Items:

- glass containers
- junk food (e.g., candy, chips, etc.) or pet food
- opened, exposed, or expired food
- removed or altered can/product labels
- empty containers
- alcoholic beverages or products labeled with alcohol as an ingredient

Building Materials - Permissible Items: Please note - building materials should not damage labels or cans.

- Velcro, magnets, zip ties, tape, silicone, rubber bands, nylon string, wire mesh, or wire.
- Leveling materials not greater than 1/2" thick
  - Examples of approved leveling materials are cardboard, plexiglass, threaded rods and foam core.

Building Materials - Non-Permissible Items:

- Leveling materials greater than 1/2" thick
- Sheet metal, steel plates, fiberock, or glass
- Permanent adhesives or bonding - gluing, welding, etc
- Minimal use of props

Safety Precautions: The following guidelines are provided for your consideration; however, we are not liable for any injuries sustained while working on your sculpture.

- All team members should wear closed-toed shoes.
- Watch where you are walking.
- No running.
- Lift correctly - with legs, not the back. If the load is too heavy, get help.
- Do not encourage visitors to touch your structure.
- Please use adult supervision if working with children or youths.

Judging & Awards

Award Categories - Each winning team will be invited to tour our facility and attend a special awards ceremony at the Mission where they will be presented with their trophy.

- Most Cans: The structure with the largest can count wins!
  - Peanut butter and beans, are ingredients that are often used in the kitchen.
- Most Creative: The winner of this category will be for the most original structure. The design, imagery, and use of labels will be taken into consideration. (See sample score sheet below.)

- Fan Favorite: The winner of this category will go to the team with the most Rockford Rescue Mission votes.

Scoring and Judging Criteria

- Structures are scored on a 100-point system per Judge.
- Points are awarded to each category, varying in weight based on the specific award being judged.
  - Structural Design: Does the design involve a high level of difficulty?
  - Use of Labels: Are the labels used to create details on the structure? Do the labels enhance the structure's overall appearance?
  - First Impression: Is it awe-inspiring? Will it create a lasting impression? Does the structure excite or stimulate at first sight?

Most Creative		
Structural Design	50	
Use of Labels	25	
First Impression	25	
	Total	

Submitting Your Build

- Your build will be judged based on the pictures your team submits.
  - Photo submission requirements:
    - Front view (straight-on)
    - Left side view
    - Right side view
    - Overhead view showing the build from above. (May be taken from an angle rather than directly above, provided it clearly captures the top and overall shape of the build.)
- The e-mail submission must include the Cans for Hope submission form and pictures.
- Builds must remain on display until the announcement of the winners. Winning teams are asked to keep their sculpture intact until Mission staff delivers their award, allowing us to take promotional photos and celebrate their achievement.
- Teams are expected to deliver their completed build to the Mission on their own. In exceptional cases, we may be able to help coordinate a pickup. Because pickup resources are limited, this option should be used only when no other transportation arrangements are available.

Additional Information

- No political messaging. Contact us if you're unsure.
- Tip: Host a canned food drive to acquire canned items but be specific about what you are collecting.

- Tip: Place leveling boards after each level of cans.
- Tip: Walls within structures may be unstable. Plan to use 3 to 5 rows of cans for sturdiness.
- Upon request, a Gift-in-Kind receipt for tax purposes, will be provided to the appropriate individual or organization and provided by e-mail, mail, or in person.
- Tip: Have a friendly competition between teams, grades, or individuals.
- Please arrange for your own delivery to the Mission.

Registration

To enter the competition, your team must complete the online registration form. Each participant will also need to sign an individual waiver. A link to the waiver PDF will be provided for participants to print, sign, and return to their team leader. The team leader is responsible for scanning and submitting all signed waivers by the **Registration Deadline, January 25th, 2027**. Registration is complete after the registration form and all required waivers have been received.