

Event 3: Sculling: Bubble Power!

Directions: Cut out two boat shapes from a piece of cardboard (see pattern). In the rear of each boat, cut out a small notch. Place a soap chip in the notch of one boat. Place the boats in a tray of water and describe what happens. What caused the boat to move? (Hint: Place a drop of water on the table. What happens to it when you put a soap chip in it?)

Design a better shape for the boat so that it will move faster and in a straight line. Experiment with different shapes of boats, placement of the soap chip, and size of the soap chip. Choose the best design and place the boat at one end of the tray at the start line. Time it until it crosses the finish line.

How long did it take to cross the finish line?

Event 5. Slalom: Weaving In and Out!

Directions: Cut out strips of two brands of paper towels—one you think will absorb the most water and one you think will absorb the least. Tape one end of each towel to the middle of a pencil. Lay the pencil on top of a tall glass.

Figure out how much water will need to be added to the container to immerse the ends of the paper towels $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (1.5 cm) into the water. Remove the towels, fill the container to that level, and put the towels back in. Let the paper towels absorb water until the water stops rising. Use a ruler to measure the height absorbed above the water for each towel.

Event 1:

Pole Vaulting: Over the Top!

Read the directions through before you begin this event. How many pennies do you think you'll be able to add before the water spills over?

Directions: Fill a clear plastic cup with water until it is even with the rim. Add pennies, one at a time. Keep track of the number of pennies added. Continue until the water spills over the side.

Event 4:

Backstroke: Clipping Along!

Read the directions before you begin this event. How many paper clips do you think your team can suspend on the surface of water?

Directions: Try placing a paper clip on the surface of water. (Hint: Lay the paper clip on the prongs of a fork and lower it into the water.) Use a magnifying glass to observe the surface of the water where it comes in contact with the paper clip.

Event 2:

The Balance Beam: A Penny for Your Thoughts!

Read the directions before you begin this event. How many drops of water do you think you'll be able to put on the penny?

Directions: Using an eyedropper, place as many drops of water on the penny as possible without spilling over the edge. Keep track of the number of drops. Continue until water spills over or the water drop collapses. Repeat for the other team member.