NH 4-H Maker Challenge

MOUSETRAP POWERED CARS

SIGN UP DEADLINE
Friday, February 15, 2019

What is it?
Can you build a model car and power it with a mousetrap? How far can you make it go? Join other young engineers and design and build your own mousetrap powered car. Make design modifications to make it roll faster and farther and then test your car to see if your design modifications work. Then race your car in the Merrimack County 4-H Maker Challenge to see how it measures up against the cars of other young engineers.

Who can participate?
Any 4-H youth ages 8-18 can participate in the 4-H Maker Challenge – Mousetrap Powered Cars.

Ways to participate?
- Distance Challenge: There will be a competition held during Merrimack County 4-H Presentation Day.
- STEMonstration: See “STEMonstration Fact Sheet”.
- Participants can enter in either the Distance Challenge and STEMonstration or both.

Where can I sign up?
Use the “NH 4-H Maker Challenge Registration Sheet” to sign up to participate. Registrations are due to the 4-H office by February 15, 2019.

Compliance Checklist
- Vehicle is powered by only one Victor brand mousetrap measuring: 1 ¾ “ x 3 7/8 “.
- The mouse trap is not physically altered
  - holes can be drilled only to mount the mouse trap to a frame
  - the mouse trap’s snapper arm may be cut and lengthened
- Vehicle is self-starting. Does not need or use additional potential and/or kinetic energy other than what can be stored in the mouse trap’s spring.
- The spring from the mouse trap has not been heat treated – look for discoloration on the spring.
- The mouse trap's spring cannot be wound more than its normal travel distance of 180 degrees.
- The vehicle must be able steer itself. Front wheels appear to roll straight.

Resources
Please contact the 4-H Office for a copy of the Mousetrap Powered Cars Curriculum or additional scoresheets or check out this website: https://extension.unh.edu/tags/4-h-mousetrap-cars for additional information.