

Engineering Mentor Program Penny Boat Challenge

Brief Description of Engineering Mentor Program

The Engineering Mentor Program is a student-run organization created to serve underclassmen students pursuing a degree in engineering. Juniors and seniors serve as peer mentors to interested freshmen and sophomores (the mentees) within the same disciplines. EMP aims to aid mentees as they work through challenges all entry-level students face – such as lack of knowledge on engineering programs and available resources, required work ethic, industry expectations, and different career options. EMP also strives to unite the College of Engineering by becoming a professionally recognized organization which is managed by and for the students active or interested within the college.

Competition: Penny Boat Challenge

Competitors are working to determine whether the shape of a boat can affect how much weight it holds – specifically, a foil boat holding pennies!

Groups of 2-3 will be given a square of aluminum foil and a certain number of pennies. Groups are to construct a boat out of the foil to hold as many pennies as possible without sinking. Each boat will be made from only one of the foil squares.

Boats will be tested in a tub of water, one penny at a time. The boat must float for five seconds before that penny addition is counted as successful. Water entering the boat or the boat touching the bottom of the tub is considered sinking, and the last penny added before the sinking doesn't count toward the penny total.

It is suggested that groups sketch out ideas and weigh pros and cons of design plans before putting them into action. May the best boat win!

Notes

EMP will be providing materials for the students.

Depending on time, teams may be given the opportunity to put together a new boat to test.