



Before Lake Fest 26
September 26 3-5 pm

INTRODUCTION, BOAT BUILDING & RULES

United We Float is an official United Way of Hood County event dedicated to raising funds and awareness for local nonprofits. This event brings our community together to support families, celebrate collaboration, and strengthen workplace campaigns—all to advance the common good across Hood County.

Participating in United We Float is a premier team-building opportunity for companies and organizations. Your team will design, name, build, and navigate its own vessel, while fellow employees gather on Race Day to cheer them on.

- Key benefits for your team include:
- Enhanced communication
- Creative expression and innovation
- Stronger interpersonal relationships
- Increased morale and team spirit
- Hands-on problem-solving
- A shared celebration of community giving

Every boat is constructed strictly of cardboard and powered by two paddlers navigating the course off Granbury City Beach. Teams compete in high-energy heats for honor, bragging rights, and custom trophies.

COMMITMENT

Captains and Crews who wish to participate in United We Float event make a commitment to the following:

- Construct a boat out of cardboard and duct tape.
- All boats are human-powered (oars and paddles are acceptable as propulsion tools; you provide the oars/paddles, a minimum of 2 people) ·
- Participate in the entire event which includes:
 - Bringing completed boat to park on Saturday, September 26th before 2:30 pm.
 - Attending the Pre-Event Boat Crew Orientation on Saturday morning, 2:45 pm.
 - Attend the race on Saturday.
 - Stay for brief awards ceremony after the race.
 - Dispose of or remove your boat from the property after the race.

Awards

The Awards Ceremony will be held on the main stage shortly after the final division, and all boats are out of the water.

We will have 3 different trophies awarded for each division:

- **Fastest Boat:** For the team with the quickest crossing time across the course.
- **Best Sinker:** For the craft that goes down in the most spectacular fashion.
- **People's Choice:** Awarded to the crowd's favorite boat based on design, spirit, and creativity. Will be chosen with the most votes.

People can buy votes for people's choice for \$5 at the event.

Construction and Race Rules

- The ENTIRE boat must be built of cardboard, duct tape, and one-part polyurethane. (Any part of your boat that touches the water must be cardboard. This includes the

hull, decking, keel, cowling, superstructure, oar locks, seating, and rudder. Nuts, bolts, washers, and staples are NOT allowed in hull construction. The cardboard may be as thick as you want, but may not be glued or attached to wood, plastic, fiberglass, etc.)

- The only exceptions are the paddles & decorations. Use cardboard boxes, “blocks,” and carpet tubes.
- NO pre-treated cardboard is allowed.
- NO Sona-Tubes, waxed or “treated” cardboard
- NO wood, plastic, Styrofoam, or fiberglass
- NO caulking compounds or two-part/mixed adhesives.
- NO wrapping in duct tape, plastic or fiberglass, or similar product.
- Duct tape may be used to reinforce seams.
- Duct tape, masking tape, or adhesives such as “liquid nails” CAN be used to connect cardboard to cardboard and CAN be used to reinforce all seams and stress points. It **CAN NOT** be used to waterproof boats.
- Waterproof the boat with Varnish, Paint, or Polyurethane (one-part, paint-like substance). (If you don’t want your boat to sink, waterproof the entire boat with any paint-able, onepart substance like Varnish or Polyurethane inside and out.)
- The boat must be a NEW build. Please DO NOT reuse boats from previous races.
- Decorations are encouraged – as long as they don’t affect structural strength or buoyancy.
- The crew compartment **CAN NOT** be enclosed as to interfere with escape.
- Boats **CAN NOT** tow anything behind them for the safety of other boats.
- Every crew member must wear an age-appropriate personal flotation device (PFD) and proper footwear. **Please provide your own PFDs.**
- All crew members **MUST** sign a Participant Waiver/Hold Harmless Agreement on or before race day. **Participants under 18 must have a parent or guardian present to sign an agreement on their behalf.** Boats will not be allowed to race without each participant's signed agreement.
- Minimum of **TWO** crew members.
- For the kids division, both participants must be between 12 and 17.
- Children 8 and up are allowed to ride in the adult division if at least one adult crew member is in the boat.
- **All crew members under 18 must have a parent or guardian present during the races.**
- Human crew members only. No pets are allowed to ride in boats.

- All boats are human-powered (the oars and paddles you provide are acceptable as propulsion tools).
- Alcoholic beverages in boats are NOT permitted at any time.
- Boats should weigh less than 200 lbs. –This rule is for us. (If you need help getting out of the pond, we need the odds stacked in our favor.)
- Boats should be less than 6 feet wide. Here, more is not better.
- Care should be taken that construction does not include pointed objects and sharp edges that could injure anyone.
- Surfboard-style designs are **NOT** allowed.
- Consider “staying dry” as part of the challenge.
- Raft-style designs **ARE** allowed. (The distinguishing feature of a raft design, as opposed to a surfboard style, is the use of cardboard “logs” and other such accouterments as one would expect to find in/on a raft. Think Huck Finn.)
- RACE DAY – Please check in (entire crew) at the registration table on race day no later than 2:30 pm. Boats can arrive after 2:30 pm. Unload your boat in the display area. After unloading, please move your vehicle to the parking lot. Set up your boat display. After the safety inspection, other boats will race around the beach. After the race, boat crews must remove all cardboard, decorations, and other materials from the water and ground. Volunteers will be on hand to help. You can take your boat home or dispose of it in on-site recycling bins.
- If there is any doubt about the construction, the judges reserve the right to use a probe, such as an ice pick, to test and verify that only cardboard has been used.
- Failure to abide by any design, race rule, or the direction of a race official shall be cause for disqualification. The judges’ decision shall be final. Please contact UWHC offices if you have any questions.
- Any crew member who enters the water by accident or on purpose cannot attempt to sabotage, capsize, or deter the progress of another boat in any way.
- Judges decide on the interpretation of the rules.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Permissible Materials

- Corrugated Cardboard
 - Appliance or grocery stores
- Cardboard “blocks”
 - Furniture stores
- Cardboard Tubes
 - Carpet/linoleum stores
- Fastening material
 - Duct or masking tape
 - Liquid Nails adhesive
- Latex Paint, Varnish

NOT Allowed

- Wood, Styrofoam
- Plastic Sheeting
- Fiberglass
- Sona-Tubes, coated cardboard
- Silicon, Wax, Tar
- Caulking compounds
- Metal Staples, clamps, screws

CARDBOARD BOAT DESIGN

- Consider the size of the boat –building & transporting
- Big enough to hold crew, small enough to transport and carry. Wider is better for stability but still must be able to paddle.
- NO surfboard-style designs are allowed
- Rafts are allowed

- Consider the total weight of all materials when wet
- **EVERYTHING** must be removed from the lake
- Boat decorations and crew costumes are encouraged – use your imagination; you will be rewarded for your creativity!