

YVC of Reading & Performance Toyota

Present the 3rd Annual Canstructure Contest

Youth Structure Building Competition
to Fight Hunger

March 7, 2020 – Berkshire Mall
Theme: Inspire Kindness

A community service project that's fun, competitive and educational!



Team Leaders – What to Expect

Thank you for your interest in leading a team for Canstructure! Teachers, church leaders, and parents have all been Team Leaders in prior years. Here are some questions & answers you may have, plus additional helpful information.

Q: How often should we meet? **A:** Groups can meet as often as twice a week before their build, or only a handful of times, it's up to you!

Q: How are the divisions decided? **A:** Depending on the grades of the students, your team will be entered into the Elementary, Intermediate, Middle, or High School division. As soon as all teams have registered we will make this determination. Last year we had a large number of 5th and 6th grade teams with fewer middle and high school teams so Middle and HS teams were combined into a single division and Intermediate was its own division.

Q: I don't know anything about building, can I do this? **A:** Yes, you can! This year, Youth Volunteer Corps of Reading is partnering with Penn State Berks engineering students to provide STEM education and mentors to your teams. These college students are available to come to your meetings and do some basic engineering design experiments and talk about how they became interested in engineering. Penn State students will be given Team Leaders email contact information to coordinate these meetings. In addition, we can provide a STEM professional to come to your meeting and discuss their career pathway if you are interested.

Q: The children I work with need volunteer hours, are they available? **A:** Yes, YVC provides volunteer opportunities and tracks service hours for children ages 11 to 18. In order to have hours count as a service project, students must have their parent or guardian fill out our waiver (available on the website at www.voiceupberks.org/canstructure) and as Team Leader you must track their attendance and the hours you meet for this project. The waivers and attendance can be turned into YVC staff during registration on the build day, March 7, 2020. Students who meet for at least 10 hours can receive a YVC t-shirt. All students who participate in Canstructure will receive a draw-string backpack.

Q: Are adults allowed in the build area? **A:** Adults are only allowed in the build area with teams in the elementary division. Intermediate and above are expected to complete the build without any adult assistance other than verbal encouragement.

Q: How will I collect enough cans? **A:** There are many ways to collect cans! Examples include holding a food drive through the children's school. Also consider setting up a table outside a local grocery store and asking for donations (please speak to store manager first). Tell them you are collecting cans for the Canstructure Contest and all cans will be given to Helping Harvest Food Bank (formerly the Greater Berks Food Bank.)

Q: How do I get all the cans in? **A:** Each team needs to transport their cans to the Berkshire Mall on the day of the build between 8:00 am and 9:00 am. Per Berkshire Mall rules, all cans must be in the build area no later than 9:00 am. Structure building may begin anytime after 8:00 am.

Q: Where in the mall is this located? **A:** At center court, below the food court, in front of the former Bon Ton.

Q: Is lunch provided? **A:** Students may bring a packed lunch to eat in the food court or may purchase lunch at the food court (upstairs from the build area.)

Q: Should the children's families come? **A:** Yes, absolutely! The mall opens at 10:00 am, so it is better for younger siblings or larger groups to come then, although extra adults to help unload cans at 8:00 am. Fan Favorite tickets will be on sale from 10:00 am to 1:00pm.

Q: What else should I know? **A:** YVC of Reading needs your help with Decanstructure – taking all these cans to Helping Harvest Food Bank the week after the build competition. On Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 7:00 am we will be breaking down the structures. Last year we moved over 11 tons of food. If each team could send 3 helpers to help us with break down, it would lighten the load. Sign up information is on the website at www.voiceupberks.org/canstructure.



For more information or questions,
please contact
build@voiceupberks.org
484.706.9364

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TOYOTA