



YVC of Reading & Performance Toyota

Present the 4th Annual Canstructure Contest

Youth Structure Building Competition
to Fight Hunger

April 28 – March 2, 2021

Theme: Stronger Together

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! Because of the pandemic this year, Youth Volunteer Corps of Reading is partnering with Penn State Berks engineering students in a virtual way to provide STEM education and support for your team. These college students are creating "building-support" videos that will be available for viewing on the Canstructure website beginning in February. Penn State students and an engineering professor will also be available to answer questions during specified "office hours" held via zoom.

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 should be turned into YVC staff with submission of the build video April 28-May 2, 2021. 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: Where should we build our structure? **A:** Anywhere! Because of COVID-19, we are allowing teams to choose a location that works best for you. This could be at a school, a local business, a church, the mall, or even a team member's garage. We will be securing a few locations for groups that don't have a build site and setting up specific dates and times for builds at those locations. (Please email us for information on build locations that are available.)

Q: If I choose to build at the mall this year, how do I get all the cans in? **A:** Each team needs to transport their cans to the Berkshire Mall on the day and time of their assigned build. Build times are being staggered to keep number of students interacting low. Build time assignments TBD.

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

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.

Q: What else should I know? **A:** YVC of Reading needs your help with De-canstructure – taking all these cans to Helping Harvest Food Bank the week after the build competition. On Saturday, May 8, 2021 we will be breaking down the structures at the Berkshire Mall. Teams are encouraged to help with this process which will occur 7-9 AM. In addition, teams who build at locations outside the mall will be responsible for transporting their cans to Helping Harvest Food Bank.



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

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TOYOTA