



GETTING STARTED HANDOUT

2017 WV Bridge Design Competition

West Virginia Contest Website: <http://www.wvbridgedesignandbuildcontest.com>

Important Dates

WV Statewide Qualifying Round Begins:	October 10, 2016
Deadline for Teachers to Request Classroom Visit:	March 1, 2017
WV Statewide Qualifying Round Ends:	March 15, 2017 11:59 p.m.
Statewide Finalist Notification Deadline:	March 31, 2017
Statewide Finals:	May 13, 2017

Steps to Compete

1. **Form a Team.** A team may consist of one or two students in grades 6-12 attending a West Virginia public, private or home school.
2. **Install the Software.** Download the Bridge Designer 2016 software from the contest website at <http://wvbridgedesignandbuildcontest.com/resources/>. Versions for both Windows and Mac are available.
3. **Design a Bridge.** Use the Bridge Designer 2016 software to design a bridge. To be eligible for submission to the contest, the design must pass the simulated load test. The objective is for the design to be as inexpensive as possible. Once the design is complete, save it as a "bridge design file."
4. **WV Statewide Contest Registration.** The team captain and ONLY the team captain should register the entire team by visiting <http://wvbridgedesignandbuildcontest.com/register/>. It is important to include the contact information for you, your parents, and your teacher to ensure you are notified if selected as a finalist.
5. **Submit a Design.** Log in to the WVBDB website <http://wvbridgedesignandbuildcontest.com/login/> and upload the bridge design file for judging. Once upload is complete and the file is received, the file will be checked to ensure the bridge design passes the load test and then determines the team's contest standings, based on the cost of the design. Use the Bridge Designer 2016 software to refine and improve the design to reduce the cost. There is no limit to the number of designs a team may submit. The WV Statewide Contest Leaderboard is updated once per week based on designs that have been submitted online. <http://wvbridgedesignandbuildcontest.com/leaderboard/>