

# 2026 State of Indiana CANSTRUCTION COMPETITION



## 2026 State of Indiana Canstruction Competition FAQ & Participant Need-to-Know

### What is the State of Indiana Canstruction Competition?

The State of Indiana Canstruction Competition is a food drive and design competition in one! Agencies will build a structure of their choice entirely of donated cans of food. At the end of the competition, the structures will be dismantled and all food will be donated to a local food bank or charity chosen by the participating agency team. Agency teams will compete for three awards: **Most Cans Donated**, **Best Structure**, and **The People's Choice**.

### When will the canned food drive and canstruction competition take place?

The event will take place between Wednesday, Jan. 14 and Wednesday, Jan. 28.

### Key Dates

**Monday, Jan. 5:** Registration opens.

Participating agency canstruction teams can register by completing [this brief form](#).

- *TIP: Before completing the registration survey, teams should identify their team captain, a team name, and where the canned food will be donated at the end of the competition.*
- There is no limit to the number of teams per agency.
- The deadline to register your team is Tuesday, Jan. 13.
- The competition is open to any branch of State government.

**Wednesday, Jan. 14:** Teams may begin collecting donations and building their canstruction.

**Wednesday, Jan. 28:** Agency teams must submit their final canned food count and one or more pictures of their completed structure to [spdccommunications@spd.in.gov](mailto:spdccommunications@spd.in.gov) **no later than noon ET**.

- All agency teams' final canned food count will be added together to determine the agency awarded Most Cans Donated.

**Friday, Feb. 6:** Winners of Best Structure, Most Cans Donated and People's Choice will be announced via statewide email on this morning. Team captains should coordinate with their pre-determined charity to ensure delivery of the collected food by this date.



## Who is participating on the panel of judges?

The judges who will participate on the State of Indiana Construction Competition Panel will be announced soon.

## How do I register my team?

Beginning on Monday, Jan. 5, teams can register by completing [this brief survey](#).

- *TIP: Before completing the registration survey, teams should identify their team captain, a team name, and where the canned food will be donated at the end of the competition.*
- There is no limit to the number of teams per agency.
- The deadline to register your team is Tuesday, Jan. 13.
- The competition is open to any branch of State government.

## What are the competition rules?

- Structures must be made from unopened canned food with labels still intact.
- Structures must be completely self-supporting.
- Canned food can be joined using any of the following methods: clear packaging tape, double sided tape, Velcro, fishing line, wire, rubber bands, zip ties, etc. No gluing, duct tape, welding or other permanent affixing of cans are allowed.
- Materials up to one quarter inch in thickness can be used to level constructions but not to provide load-bearing support.
  - Below are suggestions ranging from lightest to toughest:  
cardboard > foam-core > Masonite > MDF > plywood > Plexiglas
- Methods and materials must provide easy, safe deconstruction **without damaging the labels and cans**.
- You may wrap individual cans with paper (do not remove or cause damage to labels), but **you may not wrap a group of cans or your whole structure**.
  - *TIP: You don't need to wrap your cans - try sourcing cans of certain colors to complete the look of your structure.*
- No alcohol, glass containers, pet food, expired or open packages of food are allowed in the structure.

## Can construction occur while at work?

Construction should not be completed while on State time; however, it can be completed while on breaks or using discretionary time outside of normal work hours.

## Where should construction structures be designed?

Structures should be designed in a location where they will not disrupt operations, block walkways, or create any safety issue for others.

## Can other food be collected during the State of Indiana Construction Competition?

Of course! The primary purpose of this event is to assist with community food needs across the State. If the organization you are partnering with needs help beyond donating canned food, please feel free to collect these items as well. Although all awards (Most Cans Donated, Best Structure, and People's Choice) will be based on canned foods, teams are strongly encouraged to utilize this time to collect additional items their designated charity needs most.

## Have a question not included in this document?

No problem! Send any additional questions to [spdcommunications@spd.in.gov](mailto:spdcommunications@spd.in.gov).

