



## 2025 Rules and Regulations

### Award Categories:

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- Local Awards will be given in the following categories:

**National Awards:** Best Meal  
Structural Ingenuity  
Best Original Design  
Most Cans  
Best Use of Labels  
People's Choice

**Local Awards:** 2 Honorable Mentions  
Judges Favorite

- Winners of the National Awards will go on to compete internationally through submission of slides to a national panel of jurors.
- Cansculptures could win in more than one category.

### Materials and Size:

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- Teams may have as many members as they like to assist with staging materials, transporting cans, opening boxes, and other tasks outside the build area. However, for safety reasons, only **five (5)** team members are allowed inside the official build area at any given time. At least **one team member** should plan to attend the awards celebration to represent your team and answer questions about your structure.
- Maximum structure size is 10 feet long by 10 feet wide 8 feet tall.
  - Wall structures between one (1) and six (6) feet must be four (4) cans thick or more. Wall structures between six (6) and eight (8) feet must be five (5) cans thick or more. Wall structures of any height using the offset stack method may or may not use leveling. Where wall structures of any height using the inline stack method must use leveling to keep cans stable.
- A **minimum of 2,000 cans** must be used for each structure. All cans will be donated to The Houston Food Bank at the end of the competition. Please reach out to the Canstruction Houston Board if your team has any questions or concerns regarding the can minimum.
- The Houston Food Bank cannot use any food items where the label has been altered, removed, or destroyed, nor can they take damaged cans. In addition, the Houston Food Bank is unable to accept open packages, perishable foods, baby food, pet food, or items with expired dates. Aluminum food cans of all sizes may be used. Cans must be full, unopened, and with labels intact and legible. Some manufacturers are switching to plastic cans. If using plastic, make sure they can take the pressure of cans from above.

Refer to the Houston Food Bank Fact Sheet found on [Canstruction-Houston.com/teams](http://Canstruction-Houston.com/teams) for more details regarding Most Needed Items. Your team should consider this roster of food items when designing your structure.

#### Non-Permissible Items:

- NO glass containers or alcoholic beverages
- NO junk food (e.g. candy, chips, etc.) or pet food
- NO opened, exposed or expired food/beverage
- NO covered, removed or altered can/product labels
- NO empty cans or plastic bottles/containers

**Permissible Items:**

- Full, unopened, canned food of all sizes with labels intact/unaltered
- Full, unopened, beverage cans of all sizes with labels intact (NO alcoholic beverages)
- Full, unopened, plastic bottles/containers of food/beverage with labels intact/unaltered
- Use of boxes, bags and packets of food is acceptable; however, cans must be used for the majority of the structure

**Structures MUST be supported internally and externally by canned food and/or beverage cans between leveling materials.**

- a. Props may be used; however, it is best to solve design problems with food items. (If you must use props, try to make them out of food items such as tea or coffee bags, condiment packets, etc.) Lighting, mirrors, electronic devices are acceptable, but may reduce a structure's chance of winning the International Competition.
  - b. Boxes and other non-can items are discouraged, but not prohibited. The name of the competition is CANstruction. Jurors prefer to follow the name of the competition and in recent national competitions structures with boxes (unless used for flooring) did not make it through the elimination process.
4. Your structure MUST be structurally self-supporting - foam-core, cardboard, masonite, plywood, and plexiglass are limited to **one-quarter inch thick** to serve as leveling materials and not load bearing. Cardboard tubes used as guides must also be limited to one-quarter inch thick. Teams should take into account the affects of humidity, wind, and other environmental conditions within the building. If your team's structure will be close to one of the outer doors, wind considerations should be included in the design of the structure.

**Non-Permissible Items:**

- NO wood or metal beams, struts, steel tubes or bracing materials
- NO leveling materials (templates) greater than ¼" thick (6mm)
- NO sheet metal, steel plates, Fiberock, or glass
- NO permanent adhesives or bonding process (soldering, etc.)

**Permissible Items: (provided they do not damage cans or labels)**

- Velcro, magnets, zip-ties, tape, silicone
- Rubber bands, nylon string, wire mesh or wire
- Wood or steel rods, PVC pipe, threaded metal rods
- Leveling materials (templates) not greater than ¼" thick (6mm)  
Examples of approved leveling materials are: cardboard, foam core, Masonite, MDF, plywood, plexiglass, fiberglass

5. It is **mandatory** for all teams to provide floor covering underneath their structures.
- a. Floor covering must be at least one foot larger than your structure on all sides. For Example:
    - i. A 10' x 10' structure would need 12' x 12' floor protection
    - ii. A 7' x 7' structure would need 9' x 9' floor protection
  - b. Acceptable floor protection includes:
    - ¼" Masonite
    - ¼" Pegboard
    - Rubber backed or non-skid carpet
6. **Important items to bring:**
- a. Multiple hand dollies – No pallets or pallet jacks are allowed inside the building.
  - b. Plenty of box cutters and scissors
  - c. A broom to clean up your area after your build is complete
  - d. Plenty of Trash Bags
    - i. All teams are responsible for removing all their trash from the site. Bulk trash receptacles will not be available on site. Any items you bring with you must be properly disposed of off-site by each team.

## Acquisition of Canned Goods:

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1. Participating teams are responsible for obtaining their own supply of canned goods.
2. Teams may solicit donations of canned goods from manufacturers, consultants, or conduct employee food drives. **Refer to the requirements of information needed for the charity's federal tax return for details regarding team sponsor documentation that will need to be submitted.**
3. Cans should be packed in sturdy cartons and labeled with your team name and site number.
4. If arranging for canned goods from an out of town supplier, they must be delivered to your work area during your allotted time. No sidewalk deliveries. All the same labeling requirements are necessary.
5. Team members are responsible for their own deliveries or any supplier deliveries for their team. This includes loading the boxes and cans from vehicles to your work area. All drivers, including drivers that may be coming from a distributor, must know your team's name and build space number at the time of delivery to assist security personnel at the locations.
6. A team member MUST be onsite to take delivery of the cans and move them from the vehicles to your designated tenant area.
7. Kroger will be sponsoring the 2025 event and offering can discounts and delivery to GRB. Details of the Kroger sponsorship will be discussed at Canstruction 101.

## Can Information

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1. The following "Can Information" must be submitted using the forms provided at [canstruction-houston.com](http://canstruction-houston.com)
  - a. List of can foods used in the structure (i.e., peas, corn, sweet potatoes, etc.)
  - b. Total number of cans used (i.e., number of cans purchased)
  - c. Total cost, whether purchased or donated
2. Team Captains must submit all excess team sponsor funds not used to purchase cans..

## Signage & Text: (See Sample)

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1. Teams are responsible for providing their own signage. Signs must not be larger than 30x42. All signage must be displayed on an easel. No cans may be used to support signage. Easels to be supplied by teams and must be standard black metal design. No wooden easels allowed.

## Site and Area Assignments:

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1. Kick-Off/Site Selection Meeting and Canstruction 101 date and location will be posted on the [canstruction-houston.com](http://canstruction-houston.com) website. It is **mandatory** for each team to have a representative at the meeting.
2. Team Load in details, including date, time and instructions, will be provided prior to Build Day
3. Make sure to position your structure for photography.

## Location:

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1. Only bottled water may be permitted in the build space area. No food will be permitted in the build area. No alcohol is permitted in the build area or on GRB Property.
2. Teams are responsible for leaving their site "broom-clean." Each team is responsible for recycling its own cardboard from the can packaging and the trash from each site.
3. The official Logistics Officer is responsible for insuring that all structures meet safety guidelines. This includes advising of structure stability and has the authority to ask you to tear down and rebuild, if deemed necessary.

**Please plan for your team's recycling needs.** Please help Canstruction Houston make our event as **GREEN** as possible.

## Build Day

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1. Cans must be delivered to the Site on **Build Day, prior to Build Commencement**. Each team will be assigned their load in time, which will be announced prior to build day. **Floor protection must be delivered at the time of your cans so the cans can be placed on top of the covering in your space. Cans will not be allowed on the floor without protective covering.**
2. **Be on time.** The build will start promptly at 9:00 am and finish at 5:00 pm. No construction will be allowed before 9:00 am or after 5:00 pm.
3. Floors will be marked with tape designating the build area for each site. Structures must be built within the marked areas.
4. Try to do as much prefabrication of foam core cutting or other special materials you require prior to the build out. If you have a chance to practice building in your office, take that opportunity to lessen surprises at the site.
5. Bring plenty of extra supplies (tape, scissors, foam-core, cardboard, etc.) - over estimate.
6. Bring plenty of trash bags. Teams are responsible for discarding of trash, cardboard and any plastic overwrapped from the cases of product off-site.
7. Bring a ladder if you are building tall.
8. When your structure is completely finished, notify a Logistics Officer to release the team and take team pictures.
9. If a can-structure is not structurally sound, the Logistics Officer has the authority to ask the team to take it down and rebuild (providing there is enough time) or take it down completely. If the decision to take it down, all cans and debris need to be removed from the building and the extra cans be moved to the designated location.
10. If a structure falls, at any time, the team captain will be notified, and asked to remove the cans from its location. The team captain will have **3 hours** from the time of notification to provide a plan for removal of the collapsed structure. For safety reasons, it is imperative any collapsed structure is removed as expeditiously as possible. The team is responsible for taking care of the can-structure, cans and debris. The cans should be taken to the designated location for extra cans.
11. Any team that fails to respond to a fallen structure in accordance with the rules will be issued a Site Restriction Penalty resulting in a \$500 fine, which must be paid prior to the next competition year.

## Judging Criteria

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1. Judging will occur on Wednesday November 12th.
2. Team members cannot be in the area at the time of judging.
3. Judging is done anonymously. Company Logos on signs must be covered the day before judging. Signs with company logos displayed will not be judged.
4. Judging is based on a point system. Points are awarded based on the following criteria:
  - **Best Meal** – Does the structure use ingredients that would create a balanced meal? Does it make for an appetizing meal?
  - **Structural Ingenuity** – Does this design involve a high level of difficulty? Does the structure appear gravity defying by stable?
  - **Most Cans** – The winner of this category is the structure containing the most cans.
  - **Best Use of Labels** – Are the labels used to create details on the structure? Do the labels enhance the structure's overall appearance?
  - **People's Choice** – The winner of this category is the most popular structure determined by receiving the most public votes.
5. Judges will additionally consider compliance with all Build Out Rules & Regulations. Points will be deducted from the teams final score for violations of the Rules & Regulations.

## Photography

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1. Professional photographs will be taken of each entry.
2. Winning teams will have their photos taken on Build Day and at the awards presentation.
3. Teams are encouraged to take digital pictures, preferably with high resolution and emailed to [houston.canstruction@gmail.com](mailto:houston.canstruction@gmail.com)

## Decanstruction

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1. **Sunday, November 16**, starting promptly at **8:00 AM**. Each entry must be taken down and packed in boxes provided by the Houston Food Bank for pickup.
2. Each team must provide at least **two team members** for Decanstruction. All team members participating in the Decanstruction must arrive for this event by **7:30 am**. Decanstruction goes fast and you are welcome to leave once your structure has been dismantled, moved to the palletizing area, and the Logistics Officer has cleared your team. Your structure space must be returned to a "broom-clean" condition before you are cleared by the Logistics Officer.
3. Volunteers from the Houston Food Bank will be on hand to assist teams in moving cans from their build site to be palletized and onto the waiting trucks. For safety reasons, volunteers will not help disassemble the structures, unless Logistics Officer has deemed it is safe to do so.
4. **Bring multiple hand dollies to move cans from your build site to the food bank trucks. No pallet jacks or pallets are allowed.**