

NSSL October 2009

Water Clock Event

Students will build a device that can time events of short, medium, and long duration (0-30minutes) using water as the timing mechanism. The use of electronic devices or conventional timing devices of any sort is prohibited (disqualification); students should remove all watches from their wrists and put all phones away where they cannot be seen. Water clocks must be hand made and cannot be generated from pipets or other commercially developed liquid controlling devices (valves, etc) (disqualification). Homemade valves and controls are okay.

Event

Teams will use their homemade clocks to time three different time intervals at the event.

Scoring

Time differentials between the accepted times and the experimental times will be calculated and ranked for each interval. Intervals closest to the accepted time interval for each interval will earn 30 points with successive places earning one point less per place making the three intervals worth a maximum of 90 points. Up to ten points will be awarded to each team based on ingenuity and design of the water clock as determined by two or three judges whose scores will be averaged. The highest score attainable for the event will be 100 points.