

Onager WAR MACHINE CONTEST

January 2024

Guidelines

Challenge: To build a fully functional authentic onager model. The competition is for onagers only; no other Roman War Machines (such as catapults, ballistas or trebuchets) will be judged. This assures that “apples are competing against apples.” The onager must have a base frame with four wheels and a shooting arm that has a cloth/leather/fabric sack which releases the cotton ball. See sample picture.

Size: Base: rectangular in shape, no smaller than 1 ½ feet nor larger than 3 feet. Must have operating wheels that support one person moving the machine a minimum of 5 feet to the shooting line.

Height: no more than 2 feet 6 inches (including height of onager lever)

Building Materials: wood, twine, rubber bands, springs, nails, screws.

Judging criterion: The onager must work.

Its wheels must support a neutral judge moving the machine a minimum of 5 feet to the shooting line each time the machine is used.

The winner will be chosen for its ability to throw a wet cotton ball (to be evenly weighed and provided by a judge) the farthest distance.

In the case of a tie for distance in Rounds 1 and 2, the tied entries will reshoot 3 times using one cotton ball.

A tie in Round 3 will be addressed according to the aesthetics of the entry, since so much of the heritage of the Roman culture is also its architectural values (beauty, design, style).

-the aesthetics of each onager should reflect school colors

- the aesthetic judging will be done by the team judging convention art projects

Competition procedure:

- The contest is limited to one entry per school
 - The results of the contest will contribute to sweepstakes points
 - The goal is to award 1st through 5th places
 - Round 1 – each entry competes by shooting three (3) times and choosing the best of their three attempts; top 8 winners proceed to next round
- Round 2 – top 8 entries again get three shots each and choose the best of their three attempts; top 5 entries proceed to next round.
- Round 3 – top 5 entries get ONE shot to determine 1st through 5th places