



The [Cardboard Boat Race](#) is an educational outreach activity organised by the [Institution of Mechanical Engineers](#) (IMEchE) in partnership with the [Plymouth and Devon Schools Sailing Association](#) (PDSSA). The purpose of the event is twofold:

- 1) To inspire young people to choose a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) by presenting these subjects in a fun and interactive way
- 2) To promote the local Area Committee of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the activities of the Plymouth and Devon Schools Sailing Association

The event is open to the general public and will take place on Commercial Wharf.

The cardboard boat race itself (£20 entry fee per team, advance registrants only) and will take place between 10:00 and 17:00 on **11 September** at [Commercial Wharf](#), Plymouth, PL1 2NX.

## CARDBOARD BOAT RACE

This headline event never fails to attract a crowd and it is one of the flagship events of Plymouth's Ocean City Festival.

This year we have doubled the number of teams. We will be holding a 'pre built' race in the morning and a 'Build on the day race' in the afternoon.

In teams of 2-6 people (max. 30 teams), participants compete to design, build and test a boat made from cardboard and sticky tape. All of the necessary equipment and materials are provided, but participants must 'buy' it from a shop with the 'Monopoly money' allocated to each team. There will be a prize for the most economic boat!

To test their boat, at least 2 participants from each team must sail it around a course in the harbour (alongside Commercial Wharf). The aim is to make it from the slipway to the Mayflower Steps and back without sinking...!

Qualified instructors from the PDSSA will provide safety boat cover, buoyancy aids, and wetsuits.

There will be prizes for the best design, best endurance, best sinking, and more!

Upon arrival, participants will have 30 min to design their boat, with assistance from engineers. There will then be two and a half hours of build time before the racing begins! The teams will begin in 3 waves, one hour apart. The first wave of ten teams will start at 10:00 and it is anticipated that the event will finish by 17:00.

Spectators will be able to watch the action unfold from the elevated footpath along Commercial Road, which provides an ideal viewing gallery. Professional engineers will be on-hand throughout the day to explain what it means to be an Engineer – it's not what most people think!

Food will be provided by The Boathouse Café. Cardboard is kindly supplied by DS Smith packaging.

For more information, please contact the event organisers:

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**Event website:** [nearyou.imeche.org/cardboardboatrace](http://nearyou.imeche.org/cardboardboatrace)