

Chip Challenge

2003 Rule Changes

(1) Registration Form

The biggest change for the Chip Challenge this year is the School Registration Form. All schools wanting to participate in the 2003-2004 Chip Challenge must complete a registration form and mail it to me. All forms must be postmarked by September 5, 2003 to be eligible for the competition. I will set up the Chip Pals and mail information to all the participants by the end of September 2003.

(2) Mailing Procedures

Two versions of the Chip Challenge Rules are available on the Chip Challenge page of my website at <http://sciencespot.net/Pages/chipchall.html>. Chip Pals must agree to use the same version (A or B) and the same mailing service if they want to compare their final results!

Version A: Individual Package Option

This is the same procedure used by many of the schools last year. Each package is mailed individually using the cheapest option available through the United States Postal Service or other mail service. All packages for this option must be wrapped in mailing paper and sealed with tape.

Version B: Combined Packages Option

Rather than mail each package individually, this option allows you to place all the packages in a large box. The box will need to be big enough to allow the packages to move freely. Most schools use this option when mailing with a specialty service, such as UPS or FedEx. You could also use the United States Postal Service. All packages for this option only need to be sealed with tape. Students do not need to wrap them in mailing paper as required for Version A.

(3) Materials

As stated in the rules, outer packages (the outer box or container) must be made of 1-ply cardboard and not 2-ply or reinforced cardboard! PLEASE make sure your students use the appropriate cardboard. The type used for cereal boxes is acceptable, while the heavy cardboard for jewelry boxes or reinforced cardboard used for packing boxes is not acceptable! Also the students are not allowed to add materials to the outside of their packages except the materials need for packing (paper and/or tape).

Metal and hard plastic materials have been added to the list of "do not use" materials. Materials made of wood or glass have been on this list for years. Hard plastic materials, such as those cute Pringles containers for lunch boxes, are not acceptable. Bubble wrap, plastic wrap, ziploc bags, or other plastic materials of similar thickness would be allowed.

(4) Entry Forms

As required last year, every team must write unpacking directions! You will need a Chip Challenge Entry Form for each team/package. The download also includes a School Information Form that needs to be completed by the teacher/sponsor and mailed with the individual entry forms. .

(5) Opening Packages

Every year I receive quite a few e-mails from teachers who were concerned that the opening of the packages was not well supervised! If you are going to allow the students to open the packages, have the

groups go one by one rather than all at the same time or have several teachers or parents help supervise the process. I usually have the students read the directions for me and I open the packages in front of the entire class. We do not open another package until the score sheet has been completed!

(6) Responsibility

By participating in the Chip Challenge, you agree to accept all responsibility associated with this project. In addition, you must agree to the Chip Pal requirements outlined on the School Registration Form! I hate to resort to the “I pledge to be a good Chip Pal” line, but each year we end up with a few bad Chip Pals. In the end, it’s frustrating for the teachers to deal with a bad pal and the kids end up having a bad experience - one school never did hear how their packages scored!

If you have any questions or concerns, please send me an e-mail at ttrimpe@sciencespot.net. Thanks!

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