Describe It, Build It

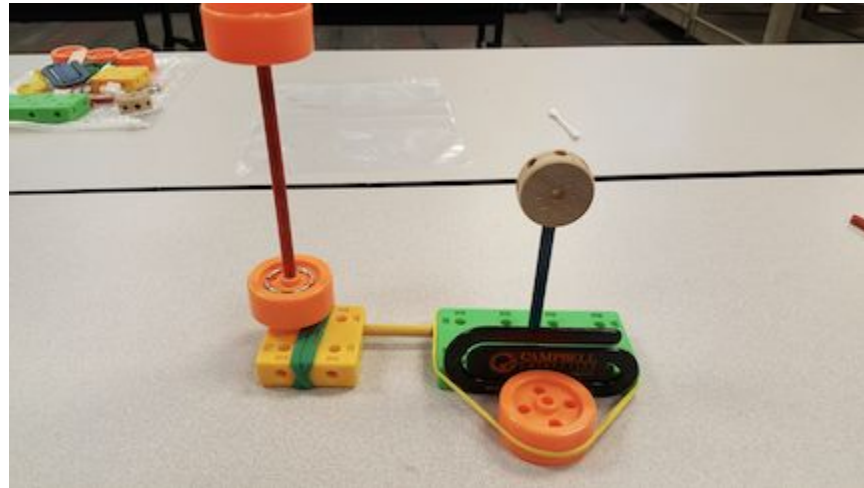**NORTH CAROLINA
SCIENCE OLYMPIAD**

What is this Event?

Inspired by the events of Apollo 13 when the NASA engineers had to describe to the astronauts how to build a filter with parts they had in the capsule, this event helps students because clear and concise writers and engineers who can follow those technical directions.

NORTH CAROLINA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

What does this look like?

For an in-person tournament, the "Describers" will go into a room together, look at some sort of abstract model and write directions for their partner. Those are handed off to the Builders, who have a bag of supplies and try to follow their partner's directions.
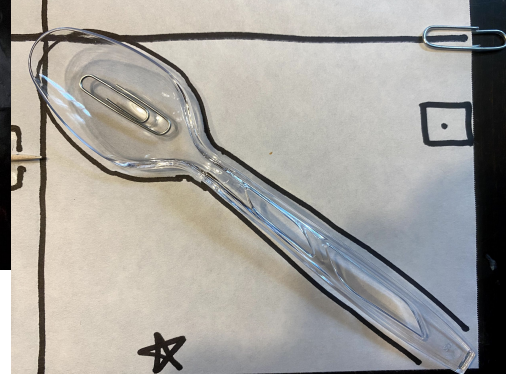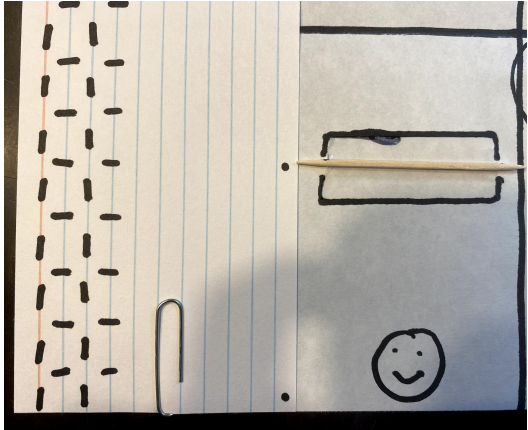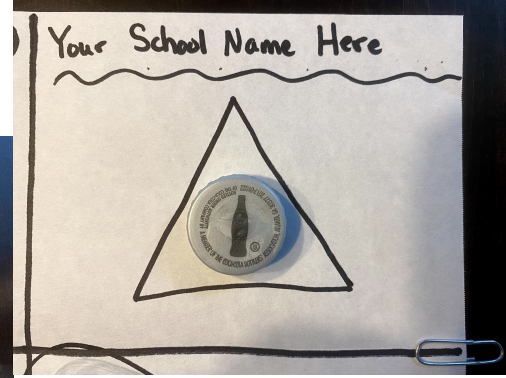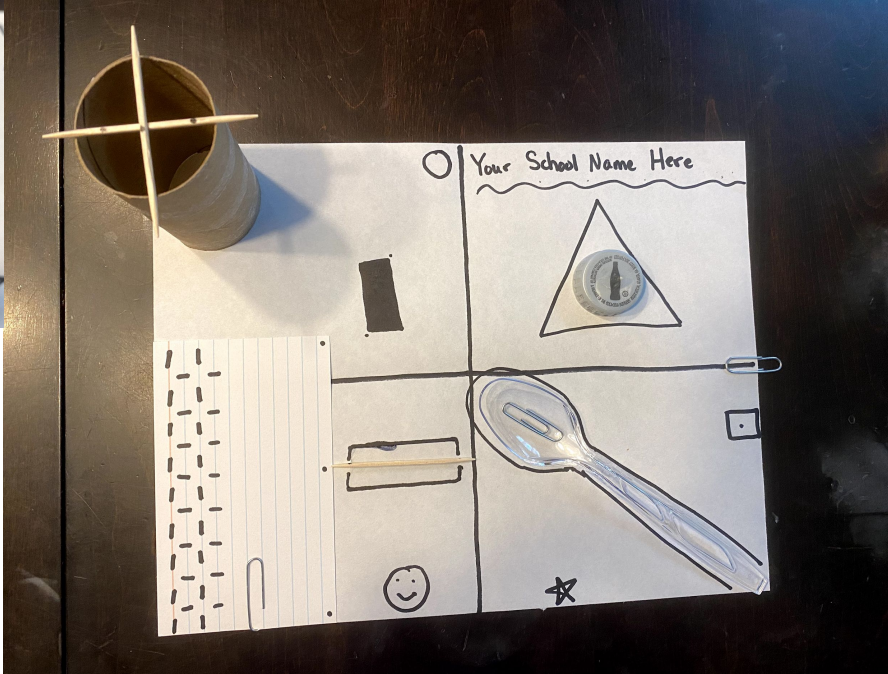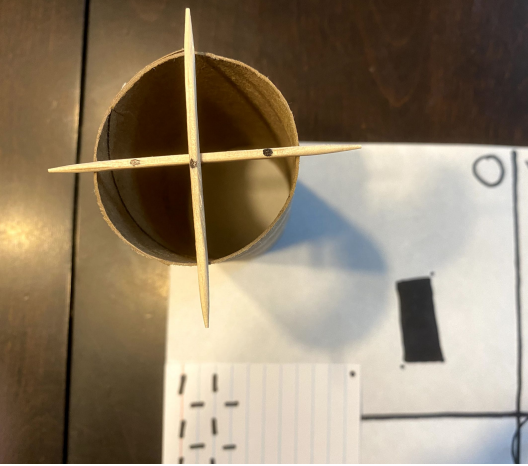
What does this look like?

For a virtual tournament, the "Describers" will log in to a Meet or Zoom room together, look at diagram on the screen and write directions for their partner. Those are handed off to the Builders, who need to have a bag of supplies from this list and try to follow their partner's directions. The coach will then take an overhead picture of the model and submit it for the students.

*Coach responsibility: make sure that the Describer sees the model on the screen and the Builder is somewhere else!

Describe It, Build It Model

How to train for Describe It, Build It

This event is about practice. There is no content to learn, these 2 students must just get good at describing things and understanding what those directions mean.

Virtual tournaments - get the supplies and have someone on the team build a model(this is a great "alternate" or "manager" job if you have extra students) and then time both the describer & the builder to help them get used to that timed component. Then let them talk through what they got wrong "I thought you meant…."

In-person tournaments - do the same thing, but with lots of random supplies

Pro tips

- This is a great event for everyone on the team to try at an early meeting
- Your describer must have legible handwriting
- Provide lined paper for writing
- Siblings can be the best partners….or the worst.