

2010 Ratapult Information Sheet to Accompany Entry Form

Remember that there is an element of danger in being around trebuchets. They can misfire and behave unpredictably. Standing behind them is never a good idea. Use common sense and pay attention to what is going on around you.

Allow plenty of time to check in. Please be patient as rats multiply!

- **All check-ins will be at the Ratapult area** - corner of Merchant & Parker Sts.
- **Same Day Rats available for sale during festival.**
- **Launch check-ins** begin at 9:30 - both Sat & Sun. and continue thru launching.
- **Costume Contest check-ins** begin at 9:30 and stop at 10:45 both Sat & Sun.
- **Business Rat Launch** – Check in 11:45 Sat or 1:45 Sun. for a specific launch time.

Ratapult Schedule		
Times are approximate & subject to change. Who knows how many rats want to fly!		
Time	Saturday	Sunday
9:30	Check in for launch rats begins	Check in for launch rats begins
9:30 – 10:45	Rat Costume Contest check in	Rat Costume contest check in
10:00	Storm the Castle Competition	Storm the Castle Competition
10:45	Costume Rats Gather	Costume Rats Gather
11:00	Rat Costume Contest	Rat Costume Contest
12:00	Substitute Business Rat Launch	
12:00	Check in / Rat Seller Lunch Break	Check In / Rat Seller Lunch Break
12:30 -to done	Public Rat Launch begins	Public Rat Launch begins
1:30 - 3:00	Same Day Rat Launch begins	Same Day Rat Launch begins
2:00		Business Rat Launch
3:00	Kids Rat Hurling	Kids Rat Hurling

Public Rat Costume Contest

Check –In - At the Ratapult area from 9:30 – 10:45

Where will contest be? – Meet at 10:45 at the Red Carpet in the Ratapult area

When – Contest begins at 11:00 - Sat and Sun

Costume Contest Categories

1. Pairs – Rat and Handler costumes are coordinated
2. Home Made - created by you, sewed or made by you
3. Pre-Fab – doll clothes or other 'store-bought' clothes

- If there are less than 2 entries in a category, categories may be combined.
- Rat and fee are good for both days.
- Rat will be assigned a number at check in. Handler will get armband with number
- By categories, Handlers will parade their rats individually down the **catwalk** (shudder) – make that the red carpet!
- Rat must be named at check in. No last minute changes.
- Points will be given for originality, humor, and creativity. Remember this is a family oriented event.
- One prize in each costume category or combination of categories will be awarded each day. Honorary awards only will be given on Sunday to participating winners from Saturday.

- **If you plan on having your costumed rat launched**, you must provide your own stuffing. Rats must weigh no more than 2 pounds including costume and stuffing. Dried split peas work best. Please DO NOT use rice as it may be harmful to birds. Stuffing must be double bagged. Old nylon stockings work best. Seal securely with safety pins, velcro, or by lacing or sewing.

Public Rat Launch from Trebuchet & Sling-Shot Catapult

- Each contestant will have one launch opportunity from the new sling-shot catapult and one from the trebuchet.
- Same Day Rats are sold during the Festival, and will come with a numbered cape and are pre-stuffed. **The Festival will not supply stuffing for other rats.**
- Rats must weigh no more than 2 pounds including costume and weight stuffing. Dried split peas works best. Please DO NOT use rice as it may be harmful to birds. Stuffing must be double bagged. Old nylon stockings work best. Seal with safety pins, velcro, or by lacing or sewing.
- Rats with hard, sharp, or other 'hurt when they hit' parts will not be launched.
- Ratapult expert will place rat in machine and fire it. The longest distance within the 'field' determines winner.
- Rats that catch in trees, that land on roofs, or that hit spectators are disqualified. Roof rats are considered forever lost. No roof retrieval will be allowed.
- In case of a tie, another launch is required.
- The longest launch from the catapult and the longest launch from the trebuchet will get a prize each day. If one rat takes first on both machines, the trebuchet prize will be awarded to that person, and the runner-up on the catapult will receive the other prize. Winners from Saturday may not compete for prizes on Sunday. They may compete for bragging rights.

Same Day Rats (No costumes)

- Rats will be sold during the festival.
- Rats will include a numbered bib and weighted stuffing that will not exceed 2 pounds.
- Rats will be launched between 1:30-3pm (approximate times) on Saturday and Sunday. Sunday's Same Day Rat schedule may be interrupted at 2:00 by Business Rat launching.
- Rats will fly based upon check in time. Check in begins at 9:30am each day.
- Each contestant will have one launch opportunity on each machine.
- Ratapult expert will place rat in machine and fire them. Longest distance within the 'field' determines winner.
- Rats caught in trees, that land on roofs, or that hit spectators are disqualified. Roof rats are considered forever lost. No roof retrieval will be allowed.
- In case of a tie, another launch is required.
- One prize for launch will be awarded each day. (Longest Distance from EITHER machine.)