

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Off to the races! Skills Ontario launches new Junk Drawer Races program

**Ontario (October 15, 2021)** – Skills Ontario has launched the Junk Drawer Races, a new competition program where students from grades 2 to 12 can compete in curriculum-based, skill-developing contests. As a not-for-profit organization aiming to empower Ontarians to explore skilled trades and technologies, Skills Ontario is thrilled to deliver yet another fun, unique program for youth.

With a Gravity Powered Robot Walker Race (for grades 2-3), a Cardboard Car Race (for grades 4-5), a Paper Glider Competition (for grades 6-7), a Hydraulic Crane Challenge (for grade 8), and a Cardboard Hovercraft Race (for grades 9-12), youth are given the opportunity to try a hands-on approach in their exploration of skilled trades and technologies. With emphases on topics such as flight technology, design, systems in action, and more, youth can participate in teams up to four to build and race their structure in an attempt to advance from the regional level to the province-wide championship level. This program is entirely virtual and projects can be submitted online, allowing for more inclusivity and accessibility across the province. The contests encourage that students use common items found around the home and/or classroom, as well as recyclables, in order to promote sustainability and for there to be little to no cost for youth to build their projects.

“We’re thrilled to be delivering yet another series of activities to inspire youth to explore skilled trades and technologies,” says Ian Howcroft, CEO of Skills Ontario. “We welcome young people to participate in this fun and engaging contest series. There are amazing opportunities in the skilled trades and technologies, and through programs like these, we’re proving it to youth.”

Skills Ontario’s team built the Junk Drawer Races program while adapting it from last year’s Paper Glider Competition, which was held in place of the in-person Cardboard Boat Races. The organization continues to strive to be creative, inclusive, and innovative through its virtual delivery.

Skills Ontario’s Junk Drawer Races program is funded by the Government of Ontario. Registration for regional competitions closes on November 16, 2021, and only educators and school board contacts are to register students. One team per contest per school may enter. All information, such as important dates, contest scopes, and more, can be found at [skillsontario.com/junk-drawer-races](https://skillsontario.com/junk-drawer-races).

Skills Ontario has been delivering programs and events since 1989, and continues to reach youth and aim to inspire them to explore skilled trades and technologies. The organization has found great success through its programs and initiatives, and continues to deliver programs that connect education, experience, and employment to Ontarians.

## About Skills Ontario

Skills Ontario has been growing a portfolio of programs to inspire and engage youth since 1989, including presentations, career exploration events, competitions, summer camps, and Young Women’s and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit workshops and conferences. To see how you can partner with Skills Ontario and help make a difference in the lives of Ontario youth, visit [skillsontario.com/get-involved](https://skillsontario.com/get-involved).

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