

IOWA

The mice are having a great time on their road trip, but they are getting a little bored with their car. Luckily, they have arrived in Dyersville, Iowa, home of the National Farm Toy Museum. It is also the home of the Ertl company, famous for making detailed, small-scale models of tractors and other farm equipment. Maybe they will make an elaborate vehicle just the right size for the mice!

Challenge: Build a functioning vehicle for the mice with lots of special features.

Time: Part One: You will have 6 minutes to design and build a new vehicle for the mice that has several different elements. It should be big enough to carry at least one mouse across the floor. No sliding!

Part Two: You will have 1 minute to demonstrate the qualities of your vehicle to the appraisers.

Part Three: Save your vehicle for the next Instant Challenge.

Materials: several small toy mice (like cat toys) (the “mice” riders)
six assorted lids from small food containers (like yogurt or margarine)
six mailing labels
six file cards
six coffee stirrers
two sticks of modelling clay
one sheet of plain paper
one foot of string
one elastic band
colored markers (may not be included in the solution)
scissors (may not be included in the solution)

Scoring: 15 points if the vehicle can carry a mouse
15 points if the vehicle can roll across the floor
up to 50 points for the innovation of the vehicle design
up to 20 points for positive team work