

- November 15th, 2026 — Check in starts at 1:00pm, Drop starts at 1:30pm
- Sykesville Fire Station – 6680 Sykesville Rd. On the field next to the pavilions.
- Open to all Scouts - Cub Scouts • Scouts BSA • Venturers
- Units can do multiple pumpkins (one from each pack, den, patrol, scout, whatever works)
- Teamwork is encouraged
- No fee for participation but you have to provide your pumpkins and materials
- Come with your contraptions built and ready. Make them in advance.
    - Important note – no parachutes allowed.
- Awards for devices that best protect the pumpkins and to those with the best engineering.
- Bring your camp chairs/blankets to spread out in the field to watch the drop.
- Team Name/Pumpkin Name will be asked when dropping off your pumpkin on STEM Day.

Get your unit thinking about STEM in a fun way! Have them work together as a team to come up with a way to protect a pumpkin from damage from a very high fall. This is much like the egg drop events you've probably seen in the past, except much larger! And remember, the bigger they are…

Full rules are on the next page. Questions can be sent to chris@kriegers.org.

RULES

- Judges will determine if the pumpkin "survived" the fall. They will also rate the innovation in the design. Decisions are final.
- **The Judges will follow the "daylight rule", meaning if light can shine from outside to inside the pumpkin then it is "broken."**
- Pumpkin must range from 8-12 inches in diameter and **must be orange in color**. **No small pumpkins allowed.**
- ATTENTION – RULE CHANGE – ATTENTION
    - **Pumpkin and protective structure weight is limited to 25 pounds.**
    - **Maximum total size of the pumpkin protective contraption is 24 inches by 24 inches by 36 inches.** The firefighters have to be able to lift the devices while standing precariously on the lift, so heavy and oversized devices put them at risk.
- There will be multiple drops, probably at heights of 50, 75, and 100 feet (exact heights determined on drop day).
- After each drop, your device will be opened and the pumpkin will be examined.
- If your pumpkin survives a drop, the same device and same pumpkin are dropped again at the next height.
- The inside of the pumpkin may not be altered (no freezing, hollowing or adding chemicals).
- No styrofoam packing peanuts (real peanuts or other biodegradable materials are OK)
- Styrofoam in general is allowed but discouraged as it tends to make a mess.
- Pumpkin enclosure must free fall (no bungee cords or ropes from firetruck to pumpkin).
- Pumpkins will be dropped by a fire fighter, no participants can drop the pumpkins
- No hard materials (which include but are not limited to wood, metal, PVC pipe, or glass) are allowed; however, soft garbage cans are acceptable (but note size restrictions above).
- No liquids are allowed (this includes oils)
- Pumpkins may be painted for decorative purposes. They cannot be painted with reinforcing coatings or paints.
- **No bungee cords with metal hooks are allowed**. Tape and rope can be used to hold containers shut.
- No electrical sources are allowed. No rocket engines are allowed.
- Protective structure around the pumpkin must be designed so that it does not cause any damage to property or people
- ATTENTION – RULE CHANGE – ATTENTION
    - NO PARACHUTES ALLOWED. The firefighters are having too much trouble launching parachutes safely. No parachutes. I'm sad too, but they were getting dangerous. No parachutes.
- Please keep the safety of participants & observers in mind at all times.
- The judges will have final say on whether entries are viewed as safe to be dropped. Judges will disqualify entries with heavy, sharp, or protruding parts. These decisions are final.
- **Each team is expected to dispose of or take with them anything they brought (including device, pumpkin remains, supplies)**