



Artpark


CLAY THROW DOWN

High school students will work in teams to complete a series of fast paced ceramic challenges!


MAY 22, 2025
9AM TO 1:30PM
ARTPARK



CONTACT DAN LYNCH FOR
MORE DETAILS:

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**REGISTER
NOW!**

OVERVIEW



The Erie 1 BOCES Clay Throw Down is modeled after the Feats of Clay Event in Syracuse, New York.

The Clay Throw Down is open to teams of high school ceramic students. Teams must include one teacher and ten students. Teams will work together to compete in a series of ceramics challenges as outlined on the Details pages. Challenges will include a Cylinder Stack, Mug Production, No Hands Throw, Blindfolded Throw, Pot Put, and Coil Building. Each team will be assigned a judge who will monitor and score the group. The team with the most points will receive the 2025 Clay Throw Down Ceramic Trophy and be responsible for creating the 2026 Trophy.

In addition to the event, each participating school may also submit up to 5 pieces of artwork to display in the Artpark Art Gallery. The work will be on display from May 9, 2025, through May 22, 2025 with a gallery opening on May 9, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.



SCHEDULE



9:00 to 9:30 AM - Arrival and load in

9:30 to 9:45 AM - Teacher Meeting

9:50 to 10:00 AM - Cylinder Stack Challenge

10:20 to 10:30 AM - Mug Production Challenge

10:50 to 11:00 AM - No Hands Throw Challenge

11:20 to 11:30 AM - Blindfolded Throw Challenge

11:30 AM to 12:15 PM - Pot Put Challenge Rotation,
Cleanup, & Lunch

12:15-12:45 PM - Coil Building Challenge

1:00 PM - Awards

1:15 to 1:30 PM - Dismissal



TO BRING



Each team **MUST** bring the following items:

- Electric Potters Wheel (use a rolling cart or a couple strong students to carry it!)
- Water Bucket
- Sponge
- Wire Tool
- Extension Chord
- Blindfold/Bandana
- Money to purchase food and drink or a bagged lunch

Each team **MAY** bring the following items:

- EZ up Tent (10x10 suggested) for shade/protection from weather
- Carboard to wedge on
- Towel to dry off/extra clothes
- Drinks/Snacks
- Scale for clay



DETAILS



Each team will receive 125 lbs. of clay that will be distributed on the morning of the competition. Schools may NOT bring their own.

Each team will also be provided with a table.

The following point system will be used for each event. In the event of a tie both teams will be awarded the same amount of points.

- 1st Place – 7 points
- 2nd Place – 5 points
- 3rd Place – 3 points
- 4th Place – 2 points
- 5th Place – 1 point



All events are designed to promote teamwork, problem-solving, and fun. Good sportsmanship is essential for all participants, and inappropriate or unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated. Embrace the spirit of the day, have fun, and don't be afraid to get a little dirty! Teams are encouraged to dress up and decorate their tent!

We understand that the competition can feel intense at times. We kindly ask all participating teachers to ensure their teams are familiar with each challenge and their rules before the event begins. If you have any questions, please reach out so we can address them in advance. Our goal is to minimize conflicts, encourage good sportsmanship, and focus on what truly matters—celebrating the high school clay community through a fun and exciting competition!

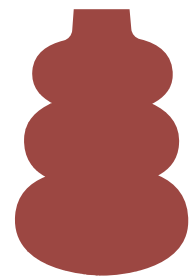
Event #1 – Cylinder Stack

Clay: 1 New box (50 LBS.)

Time: 10 minutes

Team Members: 4

Task: As a team, throw the tallest hollow cylinder stack!



- Clay spheres may be prepared prior to the start of the event.
- Each team member must throw on the wheel in sequential order.
- The cylinders must be stacked in the 10 minute time frame.
- Cylinders do not need bottoms/foot.
- The cylinders can be blended together to attach but not manipulated to increase the height in any way.
- At the completion of the stacking, team members must step away from the construction and the stack will be measured. Any stack that falls prior to all stacks being measured at the highest point is disqualified.
- Tallest hollow stacks wins!
- Wire tool and sponge are the only tools allowed.

Event #2 – Mug Production

Clay: 50 LBS - Wedge & use clay from cylinder stack

Time: 10 minutes

Team Members: 4

Task: As a team, throw as many mugs (with handles!) as you can in 10 minutes.



- Clay spheres may be prepared prior to the event after all teams have been judged for Event #1.
- Each team member must throw on the wheel in sequential order.
- Team members may assist in cutting and moving the cylinders/mugs to the table, as well as attaching the handles.
- The mugs must be completed with coiled handles and set on the table within the 10 minute time frame.
- Each 'mug' must be 4 inches in height containing a bottom.
- The opening of the mug should be wide enough to fit a paper towel roll.
- When judging is complete, set aside 12 unaltered mugs for the Clay Throw. If you did not complete 12, construct more as time allows.

Event #3 – No Hands Throw

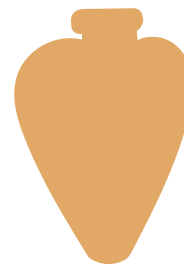
Clay: New ½ box (25 LBS)

Time: 10 minutes

Team Members: 4

Task: Using no hands and no tools, throw the tallest/widest vessel.

- Vessel's height plus width wins (total inches). Length + Width = #
- Clay may be set on the wheel prior to the event and slapped into a sphere prior to the start. Once the event starts, **NO HANDS** or tools may be used to throw the clay. A team member may use a sponge to drip water and keep the clay wet.
- The team should work together to throw the vessel.
- Judges will measure the tallest and the widest sections of the pot when completed.
- The finished product cannot be squeezed into an ellipse shape to increase the diameter of the rim. If so, the narrow point will be measured.
- You cannot manipulate the piece after it has stopped spinning.



Event #4 – Blindfolded Throw

Clay: 5 lbs - wedge from previous event

Time: 5 minutes

Team Members: 2 (1 throwing & 1 assistant)

Task: While blindfolded, throw the tallest hollow cylinder.

- Tallest hollow cylinder wins. Form **MUST HAVE A BOTTOM**
- One student will be designated to throw the 5 lb. piece of clay as tall as they can.
- The assistant is allowed to help the thrower without touching the clay by communicating, adjusting wheel speed and dripping water on their hands with a sponge.
- At the end of the time, the judge will measure and then cut open the vessel to see that it is hollow all the way through. Any part closed from collaring will have the measuring stopped there.



Event #5 – Pot Put

Judged by individuals assigned to station - not the team judge.

Clay: 12 mugs saved from mug production. Each player has 3 mugs to toss. They **MUST** resemble a mug shape - not balled up

Time: schools rotate in alphabetical order and do so during lunch/ clean up time.

Team Members: 4

Task: Taking turns, throw (actually throw - not on the wheel!) your mugs to land in trash cans to earn points.

- Most points wins
- Must throw mugs. **CANNOT** ball up the clay.
- Each of the 4 members will take 3 tosses in succession.
- There will be a 1 point can @10 ft, a 2 point can @ 20 ft and 3 point can @30 ft.

Shot variations and points:

- Mugs that land and stick on the rim count for full points.
- Mugs that land and fall off to the **OUTSIDE** of the bucket do not count.
- Mugs that land on the rim and fall inside the bucket count- even if a piece remains on the rim.
- Each mug toss is scored before the next one is tossed (i.e.: if a mug lands on the rim and sticks it counts for full points- if the next one is thrown and it knocks the last one off it does **NOT** change the points)
- Rim of the buckets should be cleaned before a new school throws!



Final Event #6 – Coil Building

Clay: 1 New box -50 LBS

Team Members: All

Time: 25-30 minutes

Task: As a team, build the tallest hollow coil structure.

- **BOX MUST REMAIN UNOPENED UNTIL THE START OF THE EVENT.**
- **All team members may roll on concrete, cardboard or tables and build at the discretion of the team.**
- **No tools are allowed for this event- hands only!!! (cutting tools may be used)**
- **The event is to have all teams strategize for the tallest form - this means it can be made up from any variation of coils including vertical coils. The form does not need to consist of completely circular connected coils throughout**
- **At the end of the event, team members must step away from the structure.**
- **Any vessel that falls prior to all the teams being measured will be re-measured to the tallest section. You may use your team to block the wind but NOT hold up the structure.**
- **It is essential that teams ONLY use the new 50 lb box of clay. Clay from prior events cannot be added and will result in disqualification in the event.**
- **Tallest hollow structure wins**

