

# **Girard Pumpkin Festival**

## **Pumpkin Chuckin' Categories and Rules**

### **Two Classes of Chuckers**

#### **Class 1: Compressed Air**

Compressed air only. No chemicals or explosives allowed. All components must have at least one check valve. All equipment must follow manufacturer's guidelines.

#### **Class 2: Mechanical**

Any mechanical device. This includes centrifugal, catapult, trebuchet or human powered. All chuckers may use power winches to load and cock devices.

### **Rules**

1. Must have fun.
2. Must be responsible for your own safety.
3. No wadding of any kind.
4. Must have more fun.
5. All pumpkins must leave chucker intact.
6. Any chucker that chucks a pumpkin out of the field of play will be allowed one hour for spotters to find the carcass.
7. Every team must have a captain. Captain must be over 18 years old.
8. Must have more fun.
9. Team members may be of any age (except for the captain). However, for every youth team member 18 and under, there must be one adult team member.
10. No part of the chucker will cross the firing line.
11. All decisions of Judges are final.
12. Must have more fun.
13. Pumpkins will be provided. Any pumpkins brought in by teams will weigh 8-10 lbs. and may not be altered. All pumpkins must be in natural state.
14. All entries must pay an entry fee and sign a liability waiver.
15. All entries will receive one (1) Pumpkin Festival Official T-Shirt. Additional t-shirts available.
16. No whining, crying or belly aching will be allowed.
17. Must have more fun.

### **Safety Rules**

1. Hoses must be in good operating condition. Chafed or cut hoses must not be used. Any manufacture recommended safety equipment designed for any type of coupler must be used.
2. Make sure all sections of your cannon barrel are properly secured so that they will not separate and will stay stationary. Make sure you do not pinch or collapse your barrel when using aluminum barrel. All cannons not using an actuated valve powered by air or some other mechanical device must have a spring loaded normally open valve. The use of Plastic Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) will not be allowed for the use of air cannon barrels in the fire line up, due to the safety hazard of this type of pipe. This pipe is for the use of liquids not compressed air the manufacture of the pipe states it is unsafe to transport air in PVC pipe no matter what schedule you use.
3. Aluminum barrels suspended by cables must have the cables anchored to a substantial. Plastic coated cable will not be allowed.
4. All machine captains and teammates are to follow Girard Pumpkin Festival Pumpkin Chuckin Committee Rules or you will be penalized or disqualified, depending on the nature of which rule is broken. There will be ZERO TOLERANCE for those who break safety rules.

5. All portable air storage vessels used to fill their cannon must be stood up right and secured to a stationary device. No tanks or vessels may be stored lying down on the ground or transported lying down in any vehicle. Every vessel must have a safety cap on it when not in use. All nipples, fittings, manifolds, or airlines must be capable of handling the pressure of air on them.
6. All catapult and trebuchet machines must have a safety strap or mechanism to hold the throwing arm or boom in case of early fire when loading. You are responsible for making sure everyone stays clear behind your machine, in case of a misfire. Personnel handling ropes or cable should wear.
7. Inspect all hydraulic lines each time you cock or lift your machine. Make sure winches can handle the load and cables are in good condition. Make sure your release mechanisms are heavy enough to handle the load. Make sure you have an automatic brake or a dog lock on winch or cocking device. Tie-downs on cannons should not be directly to the barrel. All cannons must be secured to prevent upward recoil.
8. Only 1 Team spotter will be allowed on field per team and must remain out there until released. All spotters on motorized vehicles will operate their vehicles at their own risk.
9. Backstops will be required for any machine that can fire backwards. Any machine inspected on the field or approved in advance, as "not able to fire backwards" will be exempt from this requirement. Machines marked for backstops that fire without one will be disqualified from the chunk. This includes anytime they fire while on the field.
10. Any machine found to have structural defects (weld fractures affecting the pressure vessel, load beams, firing pins, any load bearing members, supports or support subsystems) will be banned from chunking until repaired and re-inspected by a member of the safety committee.
11. All team captains must sign a statement stating that they have received, read, and understand the rules of the Girard Pumpkin Festival Pumpkin Chuckin Committee. This sheet will be on the field and given to the judges, if it is not signed, you do not chunk.
12. Compressed air machines must have a bleed off device (valve) to allow for safely removing the air if the machine cannot be fired. This device should be installed such that it does not blow directly to the dirt or face level to prevent Eye injury. If it is exposed to the body level it should have a shield installed to deflect the air. Air Lines must have a Check Valve near the machine end of line.
13. Machines may not chunk until the Girard Pumpkin Festival Pumpkin Chuckin Committee inspects and approves them to be safe. Any alterations after being inspected will require another inspection to be able to fire.
14. Hard Hats and Eye Protection to be worn by all fire line personnel in pit when firing.
15. Each Machine must have Fire Extinguisher mounted to machine and First Aid Kit in plain view and clearly marked for all people to see, but not on machine.

**2009 Girard Pumpkin Festival Pumpkin Chuckin  
REGISTRATION FORM  
Saturday, October 10, 2009**

Name of Pumpkin Chuckin Machine: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approximate Chucking Distance (Needed for "van-hitting" placement)** \_\_\_\_\_

Firing Line area limited to team members only. Please list your team members for Fire Line Passes.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

**Entry Fee is \$20.00. Make checks payable to Girard Chamber of Commerce.**

Entry fee is non-refundable. Returned checks are subject to a \$25.00 return check fee.

**Mail Entry Fee and Registration Form to:**

Girard Chamber of Commerce  
P. O. Box 92  
Girard, Illinois 62640

**Any questions should be directed to:**

Mike Cowden  
cell: 217-891-1289  
email: [mjcowden@royell.org](mailto:mjcowden@royell.org) or [mjcowden@gmail.com](mailto:mjcowden@gmail.com)

**Entry Fee and Registration Form to Be Received Before October 1, 2009**

# **Girard Pumpkin Chuckin Agenda**

## **Saturday, October 10**

**9am – Noon**

### **Chucker Set-up**

This year, a van will be strategically placed for target chucking. Chuckers will be set-up for maximum opportunity to smash pumpkins against this van.

**1pm – 3pm**

### **Pumpkin Chucking for Distance and Accuracy**

Two hours will be given each team to chuck pumpkins for distance and accuracy. Time will be given each team to show-off your chucking ability.

**4pm – 4:30pm**

### **Public Viewing of Chuckers**

The public will be invited into the Chucking area to view your chucker up-close.

**4:30p – 5pm**

### **Final Pumpkin Chuckin Round**

For all teams interested in participating, the public will be given the opportunity to purchase a pumpkin to be chucked by their favorite chucker.

**5:00p – 5:15p**

### **Plaques Awarded**

This year, plaques will be awarded to...

1. The Team with Longest Chuck
2. The Team with the Most Accurate Chuck
3. The People's Choice Chucker
4. The Team who Traveled the Longest Distance to the Girard Pumpkin Festival
5. The Team Who Had the Most Fun