FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
BLOCK KIDS

What is Block Kids? The Block-Kids Building Program is a national building program competition that is sponsored on the local level by NAWIC chapters and other organizations. The award-winning program introduces children to the construction industry in an effort to create an awareness of and to promote an interest in future careers in one of the many facets of the industry. The competition involves the construction of various structures with interlocking blocks. Local winners have their projects submitted to Regional Competition and one semi-finalist's project from each region is entered in the National Program competions. National prizes are awarded to the top three projects.

When and Where is this year's competition? NEW LOCATION (again)! We have outgrown our previous competition space. This year's Block Kids event will be held at Metro Community College's Industrial Technology Center, Room 120 on Saturday, March 22nd at 10:00 AM. This is at their South Omaha Campus off of 29th & Q, park at the east end of the parking lot, near the "Industrial Technology Center" sign.

Who can participate? The program is open to all elementary school boys and girls in grades 1-6. Younger siblings will have to wait until they are in first grade to participate.

Do we need to bring our own legos? No, NAWIC supplies all the legos and any other accessories that are needed for the contest. No one is allowed to bring his or her own legos to the contest.

Do we build the project at home and bring it to the contest? No, the contest is held so that children can all build together at the same time for one hour maximum. Some children finish quickly and others take the full hour to build.

Are specialty pieces provided, such as doors/windows? No, specialty pieces are not allowed and therefore not provided. Kids can use three of the following additional items: A small rock, string, foil and poster board. These items will be provided upon request.

How much does it cost? IT IS FREE…….totally free for the children. We sponsor the contest to introduce the world of construction to children in hopes that when they choose a career, they may want to become an engineer, contractor, electrician, welder, estimator, etc.

Can parents stay to watch? Yes, we encourage you to stay and watch your children participate. Parents are not allowed to help at all and must stay away from the construction zone during the hour of building. We provide chairs around the construction zone for your convenience. After the winners are announced, parents and others can walk around and see all the projects and take pictures.

How do you get on the mailing list? Everyone that participates in the contest is invited first for the following year. We encourage everyone to bring a friend too. Hopefully by word of mouth, the contest becomes well know. You can also e-mail us to be added to the list for next year.

How many legos can be used? A maximum of 100 legos but no less than 25 legos must be used in the project.

What if the bag doesn't have the right size or color? There is a supply house set up at the contest where children can exchange their legos for the same number of legos. We staff the supply house with several volunteers to help them pick out the right piece.

How are the projects judged? We ask volunteers from the community to donate their time to come and judge the projects. Some do it every year and we recruit new judges each year too. They have two forms that must be used and then all judges decide on the winners collectively.