Dear Contraption Builder,

Thank you for joining us for the F.A.T.XX! We look forward to seeing your creation on November 24. Please read through the following guidelines before moving ahead with your contraption.

1. Your link in the chain reaction should be no wider than 2 feet, and no longer than 6 feet, should use no chemicals (small amounts of baking soda and vinegar are okay), no plug-in electricity (batteries and low-power DC okay), and use no more than a cup of water.

2. Your link’s action must be repeatable, so please test your chain reaction before bringing it to the event.

3. Please have your reaction last AT LEAST 30 seconds and end in LESS THAN three minutes. It’s a great idea to give your audience time to enjoy your event, be it funny, playful, clever, whimsical, or elegant. This is our 20th year (XX in Roman numerals) so our theme is Twice As .... you might consider making your contraption last 2X as long or have it run twice, for example!

4. ALL links must be connected using a single string pull. Again, your reaction must begin AND end with a string pull. Please be sure that it takes no more force than the hanging weight of a golf ball moving 1” to start your link and ends by pulling a string AT LEAST 1” with enough force to lift a golf ball. Note – this is a different requirement than in prior years.

We encourage you to be creative about this year’s theme, Twice As .... Your link could be twice as slow, twice as tall, have components that need to be triggered twice to run, or your ball could pass through the components twice. Let your creativity flow as you explore how your reaction will be 2(X)!

Good luck! We look forward to seeing your fantastic creation at the Friday After Thanksgiving Chain Reaction on Friday, November 24th!

For more information, contact Jennifer Novotney at 617.324.7313 or novotney@mit.edu