

Pinewood Derby suggestions;

#1 rule of Pinewood Derbies is to remember the purposes of the event. They include:

- Scouts working closely with their parent(s) on a project they will never forget.
- Scouts learning to work with simple hand tools.
- Scouts being creative.
- Scouts being proud of their accomplishments.

Notice, no where did we mention winning, or dads alone building a car.

Suggestions:

- Run the races by dens. Scouts compete against Scouts their own ages. Small groups make your Derby more manageable. You have more winners. Also if you have a large Pack and Derbies in the past have been mayhem, you can stagger den's times to show-up, compete, and depart.
- Tell parents of your goals and expectations. Involve them so that they understand more about what Scouting and this event is really about.
- Don't just race those cars. Another event that can be popular is a "Park Your Car" contest. Set-up a large shuffleboard style area, with points marked in each zone. The Scout then takes three tries to gain the most points. This is another way to have more winners.
- Make your own Pack trophies, one for each Scout. Here's how: use scrap wood to make risers and glue Velcro on the top. After the competitions, attach the other side of the Velcro to the bottom of the car and mount it to the trophy base. A Scout's car then becomes part of his trophy. Woodburn or paint 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place on the riser. When that trophy and car are on your mantle, Grandma won't care whether it was the fastest, or the best parked, and neither will the Scout.
- Make sure that you have enough categories so that no Scout gets less than a third place riser. Sure you have fastest, park your car, best use of the theme, best looking...
- Have a different theme each year. Try "movies", "fast food", or "anything but a car". You'll be surprised at the imagination of Scouts and their parents.
- Take pictures of each Scout and his parents with their car. Present them at your Blue and Gold or use them as place cards. The photo will be priceless in years to come. Assign a new parent the role of Derby photographer.
- Recognize the Derby with a display in the school, or church where you meet. It may attract new Scouts and will remind former Cub Scouts of the great times they had. A good action photo should also be sent with an article to your local newspaper. This will reinforce to your community that your Pack is where the action is.