

# **DERBIES, DERBIES, & MORE DERBIES!**

**KAT RESSLER, PRESENTER**



# TYPES OF DERBIES

PINEWOOD DERBY, RAINGUTTER  
REGATTA, SPACE DERBY, AND MORE!

# PINEWOOD DERBIES

## PROS

- Fast Paced
- Exciting
- Can Race at District Level
- High Attendance
- Cars are free for Packs that have met their F.O.S. goals
- Great for parent – Scout interaction

## CONS

- A lot of planning
- More structured
- Loud



# RAINGUTTER REGATTA



## PROS

- Fun to do
- “Easy” project for all Scout levels
- Lots of variations for the activity
- Can be held outside or inside
- Kids love water!
- More intimate experience than the derby – kids can blow their own boats and walk up to the equipment

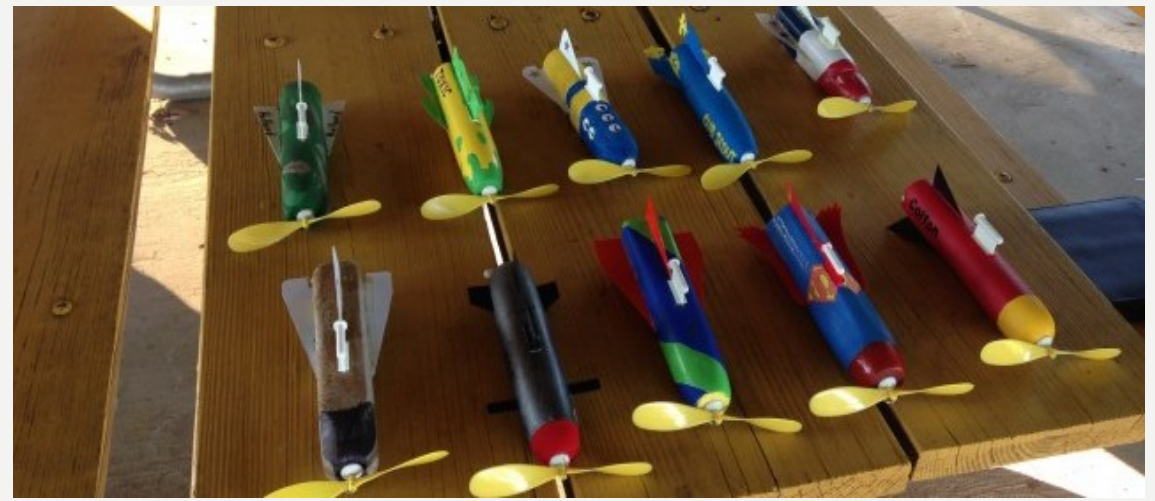
## CONS

- A significant amount of water can be spilled
- Amount of racers limited to amount of gutters you have
- Gutters can be heavy, cumbersome, and require larger vehicles

# SPACE DERBIES

## PROS

- Easy to theme
- Space is COOL! Ask Neil deGrasse Tyson
- Kids enjoy the propeller powered ships as opposed to blowing or gravity
- Can make the set up relatively simple or complex depending on the needs of your Pack
- Creative designs
- Detail oriented



## CONS

- Slower pace
- May need custom equipment for your meeting space
- May need extra rubber bands

# WHEN IN DOUBT, ERR ON THE SIDE OF FUN – ALTERNATIVE IDEAS

- Pool Noodle Regatta
- Veggie Regatta
- Recycling Regatta
- Bike Rodeo
- Rocket Launching
- Water Rocket Launching
- Train Races
- Sibling Races
- Promotional Activities – use related events to get Scouts excited
- Contingency Plans
- Add ons?



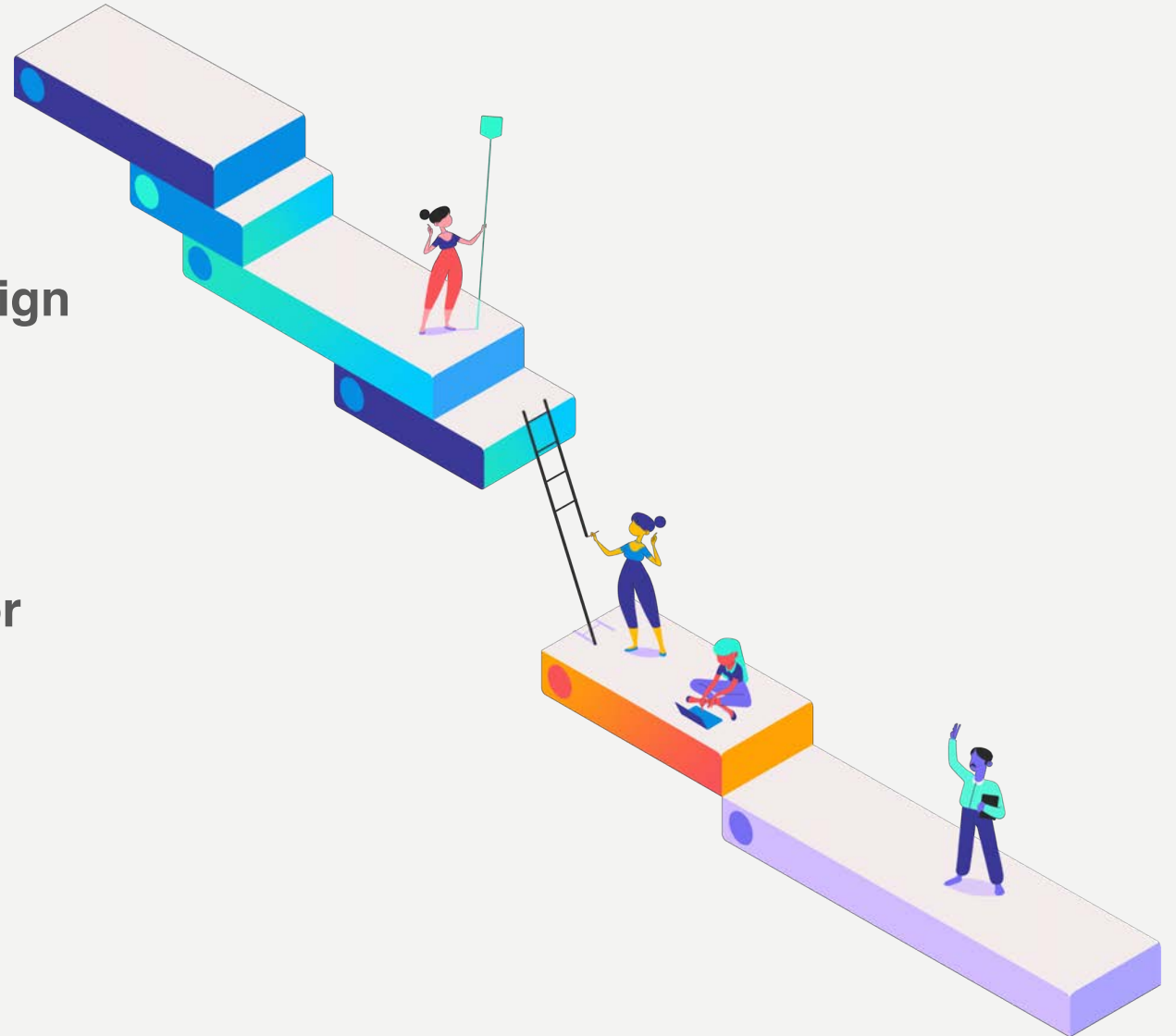


# **PLANNING AND PREPARING YOUR PACK FOR A DERBY**

**FAIL TO PLAN AND YOU PLAN TO FAIL**

# BASIC TIMELINE

- Annual Program Planning
- Choose and set Impound Date and location (if having one)
- Distribute Materials/Set up and design days/obtaining tools
- Check in
- Racing
- Activities for siblings and waiting or finished racers
- Prizes, recognition, etc.
- Post Race







# ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANNING

Choose and set a date  
for the event

Appoint a Coordinator/  
Den/Subcommittee  
(Contact Point)

2 minute review of Start,  
Stop, Continue

Choose and set date,  
get it on the yearly  
calendar

# SET IMPOUND DATE AND LOCATION (IF NEEDED)

- This is an excellent idea for a Pinewood Derby!
- Typically the weekend before race
- Prevents wet paint and other issues. Keeps areas clean
- Will need a decent sized garage with no car in it
- Publicize the date and make sure the leaders and parents are aware of it
- Weather considerations need to be factored in
- Are you offering work shop days? Painting days? These will all fall into this category
- If you or the volunteer want, be sure to theme these also. Perhaps the theme is seasonal over derby based – ex. hot cocoa, water, candy canes, and cookies
- Where will the extra people wait for the station to be open?
- How many stations?
- Who will help supervise and enable?

# DISTRIBUTE MATERIALS AND OBTAINING TOOLS

- Derby materials are available at the Chief Seattle Council Store. Some other specialty stores may have similar items for sibling use if needed, but set clear expectations of what the Pack will accept
- Be sure to communicate clearly with your Den Leaders AND Parents which tools are needed
- Often a Den work day is chosen, and then 1-2 make up days are held
- Coordinate the Dens rotating through the tools and returning them
- Arm yourself with any legacy materials and recommend tools you will need
  - You might need to borrow from other parents in the Pack (or talk with your committee about purchasing one)
  - You will find the right tools over the course of your tenure, while Regatta requires waterproof paint, a Pinewood Derby might require a band saw, and a Space Derby may require extra rubber bands

# CHECK IN AT THE MEETING

- Set up track, gutters, or hooks and strings: Do a dry run!
- Set up chairs for the audience
- Have an area for the scouts
- Have an area for the Cars/Catamarans/Space Ships
- Use cones, orange tape, or checkered streamers to mark off areas (or appropriate décor)
- Make sure you have enough tables
- Have several appointed adults to direct traffic
- Have people in place in advance of Scouts arrival if possible
- Have extra supplies on hand for the Scout who loses a wheel or needs a new sail – never worth tears!





**THE RACES!**





## **WHAT TO DO WITH WAITING RACERS OR FINISHED RACERS AND SIBLINGS**

Create and sign thank you notes for: veteran's, nursing homes, fire houses, police stations, hospitals, your charter organization

Paper airplane creation and races

Pre-planned games

Skit and song practice





## PRIZES AND RECOGNITION

Top 3 in each Rank – Medals

Segments

Specialty Patches

Trophies


Certificates

Show excitement for the STEM aspects as well as celebrating the winners

# POST RACE

- THANK EVERYONE FOR JOINING, BE SURE TO MENTION IT IS AN ANNUAL EVENT (if applicable).
- BE SURE TO THANK AND ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR CO-VOLUNTEERS
- TAKE ANY IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK AND ACKNOWLEDGE IT, RECORD IT, AND PARK IT
- CAREFULLY TAKE DOWN MATERIALS, PACK INTO VEHICLE (AND EVENTUALLY INTO YOUR PACK'S STORAGE SYSTEM). BE SURE EVERYTHING IS PUT AWAY CORRECTLY FOR YOURSELF OR THE NEXT COORDINATOR
- A COUPLE DAYS LATER, SEND OUT A SURVEY (OPTIONAL)
- CONDUCT A FULL START, STOP, CONTINUE VIA E-MAIL AND AT NEXT LEADER'S MEETING
- RECORD FINDINGS IN A BINDER, DRIVE, OR FLASH DRIVE TO BE REVIEWED AND USED THE FOLLOWING YEAR





# **WAYS TO THEME THE DERBY AND MEETING**

**THEMES MAKE THE MEETING MORE FUN!**



**Ready to Race!**

**Pinewood Derby**



**Best way to fly – by cape!**

**Space Derby**



**ALWAYS host with Big Smiles!**

**Raingutter Regatta**

## **COSTUMES**

Should be encouraged – helps the Scouts fall into their imaginations easier

Leaders and Scouts alike can wear these costumes, leaders should be modeling – BIG smiles!

Should match event but use creativity – A Scout is thrifty

If things get out of hand, have a box to have participants add pieces of their costumes that are distracting or inappropriate

Communicate expectations to parents clearly, encourage them to participate in costuming

Pinewood Derby	Raingutter Regatta	Space Derby
Life is a Highway (Cars Soundtrack)	Ain't Gonna Rain No More	Rocket Man (Elton John)
Drive my Car (Beatles)	Baby Shark	Fly Me to the Moon (Frank Sinatra)
Riding in my Car (Woody Guthrie)	My Bonnie	2001 Space Odyssey (Theme Song)
Cars (Gary Newman)	Steamboat Bill	The Final Countdown (Europe)
Greased Lightening (Grease)	Row, Row, Row your Boat (regatta style)	Space Oddity (David Bowie)
Little Deuce Coup (Beach Boys)	There's a hole in the Bucket	Ghost Chickens in the Sky
On the Road Again (Willie Nelson)	Down by the Bay	The Grand Old Captain Kirk
Greased Lightening	Rock the Boat	Blowing in the Wind

# SAMPLE MUSIC PLAY LISTS

# PROPS, DECORATIONS, AND CUBMASTER MINUTES

## **Sample Props:**

Picture frames out of cardboard for racers

Thrifty costume stations

## **Sample Decorations:**

Orange Cones

Checkered Flags

Models from the past

## **Sample Cubmaster Minute:**

The Little Engine that Could

STEM related





# SNACKS



# SKITS, RUN ONS, AND DEN YELLS

- Done at the Den Level, but provide examples for Den Leaders
- Can be created during “build” meetings or worked on separately
- Approve skits and run ons in advance – Scouts are silly!
- Creates the culture of the event
- Gets kids more involved in the theme and therefore the races
- Provides more activities for filler times

Example Skit: ALIEN Alien comes in - traditional "take me to your leader" routine etc. When taken to leader the alien says, "Stop singing, Ging Gang Goolie -- it's our national anthem..."

Example Joke: Scout 1: Why do astronauts see the doctor right before they blast off? Scout 2: To get their booster shots!

Example Den Yell: “Den Five Den Five, We Can’t Wait to Drive!”



# **LEAVING A DERBY LEGACY**

**ENABLING THE PACK TO CONTINUE  
GROWING THE EVENT**



# YOUR DERBY LEGACY

- Legacy tools – binders, papers, flash drives, google drives – shared tools – create or update with info from start, stop, continue
- Store things properly in the correct places with clear labels
- Have an assistant – train the next generation of leaders
- Reset the timeline and make sure it's followed until you pass the job off the next year





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# Q & A

OPEN DISCUSSION

**THE EVALUATION  
CODE FOR THIS  
SESSION IS 9757**

USES THIS CODE AT [SEAPTC.ORG](https://seaptc.org)