Cub Scout Roundtable Planning Sheet – 60 minute Format

**Topic:** Pinewood Derbies, Rocket Derbies, Rain Gutter Regattas

**Take Away:** Racing in a Cub Scout derby is great fun. You'll get to design your racing vehicle, work with a parent to build it, and see it perform on race day. Win or lose, you'll take pride in having done your best. When you race in a Cub Scout derby, you learn craft skills, the rules of fair play, and good sportsmanship—things you will remember all your life.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Time Allotted | Activity | Assigned To | Content Ideas | Notes for Media Team |
| 5 min | Opening Ceremony | Cub RT Staff or participants | Flag ceremony |  |
| 40 min | General Session (all) | Cub RT Staff and participants | Explain different types of derbies and competitions you can offer at a pack level.  Bring sample Pinewood Derby cars, rockets, and Rain Gutter Regatta boats. Consider showing short videos of derbies.  Guide a discussion with the packs on which derbies they do and how they conduct them. Exchange ideas for what works in one pack and might be the idea another pack needs.  Discuss how racing derbies supplement the Cub Scout program and how to conduct a successful event.  Share a list of packs which are willing to lend derby track equipment.  Discuss derby events offered at the district or council level.  Choose one of the activities in the resource section that leaders could offer at their pack and/or den meetings leading up to a pack wide derby. |  |
| 10 min | Q & A | Cub Scout RT Staff | Opportunity to answer any additional Derby/Regatta Questions |  |
| 5 min | Announcements and Closing | Cub Scout RT Staff | Pinewood Derby Conclusion (see Resource Information below)  Closing |  |

Resource Information

**Clothespin Racer Neckerchief Slide:**

Materials:

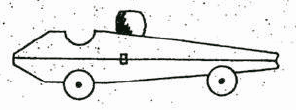
Spring type clothes pins

PVC pipe cut into 3/8 inch lengths, or pipe cleaners. If using PVC pipe, ¾” diameter pipe works well.

Small black beads (these are smaller than the normal bead size)

Markers

Hot glue gun



Directions

* Take apart a spring type clothespin
* If using a pipe cleaner, fold it in half and insert it between the two halves, where the spring was. Both ends of the pipe cleaner should be equal length and should come out of the back side of the “car.” No pipe cleaner should show on the front side of the car. Glue the pipe cleaner in place. Glue the flat sides of the clothes pin together. The pipe cleaner can be wound around the neckerchief to form a slide.
* Use small black beads as the wheels and glue them on one side of the car, toward front and back
* Glue on a colored round bead for helmeted driver's head
* If using the PVC pipe instead of the pipe cleaner, attach the ring on the back of the car, to form the neckerchief slide.
* Use markers to decorate the car.

[Source – BALOO’s Bugle, possible origination from Trapper Trails Council]

**Pinewood Derby Racing Song**Tune "Take Me Out To The Ball Game"

Take me out to the pinewood,   
Take me out to the crowd.  
Buy me some graphite and a sanding block,  
I don't care if I ever get back.

We will root, root, root for my racer,  
If I don't win you can say  
That I cut, sanded, and designed it myself  
in the Cub Scout Way!

B'gosh their starting the race now,   
I see my friend's in the heat  
He's standing there biting his fingernails,  
But I am sure that he'll never be beat!

For, We'll root, root, root for my den-mate,  
If he doesn't win we can say  
That he cut, sanded, and designed it himself   
In the Cub Scout Way!

The Scouts have declared a winner.  
And I am proud to say  
My racer, it got to the end of the track.  
And my den leader let me bring it back.

For a second heat in consolation  
Was my decision today  
But I cut, sanded, and designed it myself  
in the Cub Scout Way!

[Source – BALOO’s Bugle, possible origination from Trapper Trails Council]

**Race Day Jokes**

* Scout 1: What words would you write on an old jalopy's headstone?
* Scout 2: Rust in Peace!
* Scout **1:**    Did you hear about the wooden car with the wooden wheels and the wooden engine?
* Scout **2:**    No, I didn't hear. What happened?
* Scout **1:**    It wooden go!
* Scout **1:**    I've come to buy a car, but I don't remember the name. It starts with a "T".
* Scout **2:**    Sorry, we don't have any cars that start with tea. All our cars run on gasoline.
* Scout **1:**    Son, here are the keys to my magic car.
* Scout **2:**    Is it really magic?
* Scout **1:**    Yes, one speeding ticket and it will disappear!
* Scout **1:**    This is a ticket for speeding.
* Scout **2**:     Wonderful! When do I get to use it?
* Scout **1:**    What kind of shot do you give a sick car?
* Scout **2:**    A Fuel Injection

[Race Day Jokes taken from various issues of BALOO’s Bugle]

**Tips for pack activity:**

Have an example of a pine wood derby car, a regatta boat and a paper rocket. If possible have a track available, a rain gutter and a rocket launcher to show demonstrations of how each will work. Pinewood derby is very popular and some packs may not have experienced a regatta or a rocket launch. Create a display or handout using examples of racing brackets and schedules from several pack sizes. Each pack in attendance may share a best practice they use for racing.

**Why a Derby?**

Derbies are a great way for Cub Scouts to create a vehicle and race against their peers. They help the Scouts show creativity, learn skills, and show they can take the high road when things don’t go their way. Derbies are a great tradition for Packs to do each year. But where do you start?

**1. Encourage Scouts to actually build their own vehicle**

Whether building a Pinewood Derby car, a Regatta Boat or a rocket, the task is a life-changing bonding experience for parent and Scout. The Cub Scout isn’t — and shouldn’t be — expected to do it all alone. But what about when mom or dad (usually dad) takes on a little too much of the work? Make the task age-appropriate and let the parents know what level of effort and skill their Cub Scout should be able to do. Tigers might need more of a hand designing and making their derby vehicle. Webelos can be engaged in knowing the science and the skills needed to make a race winner.

**2. Plan a building workshop**

How do you ensure the Scouts have a hand in making their car, boat or rocket? What do you do if not all parents have a woodshop at home? Bring them all under your roof. Host a designated building workshop where parents and Scouts build their project together and parents bring tools to share. It’s fun, and it’s a great way for the less mechanically inclined to learn a thing or two. Some of the best workshops use the assembly line approach. Parents and Scouts go from station to station working on their project. When they’re done, they have a near-finished product ready for painting.

For more tips on planning one of these workshops, check out past articles in *Scouting* magazine.

**3. Hold side races for parents**

Try as you might to encourage a Scout-built project, there are still some ultra-competitive dads and moms out there. Harness that competitiveness into a race just for parents (and/or siblings). Some packs call these “outlaw” races. In other packs, the “outlaw” moniker is reserved for Scout-built cars that don’t meet the regular race requirements.

In some packs, these parents-only races are used as pack fundraisers. The entry fee — maybe $5 a race — goes into a pot, where the winners get a nice prize and the pack gets the rest to help offset pack expenses. In other words, everyone wins.

**4. Schedule smarter**

Create a tournament bracket that gives each Scout several races, even if he loses them all. Try ideas like double-elimination, lane-rotation and other formats that you can try. Scheduling is a decision for you and other Cub Scouters, but you have several options at your disposal. Elimination-style races, where the first across the finish line wins, are the most exciting for live viewers. But these may favor those assigned to “fast lanes” — flaws in some tracks or rain gutters where one lane is faster than others. Round-robin formats, where every car or boat races in every lane, are great for those with high-tech timing equipment to determine first through fourth. But it’s hard to tell who’s winning that way. The size of your pack may also influence how you set up your racing schedule. Refer to previous years to find a system that works best for your unit.

**5. Stagger arrival times**

If you know the Webelos race won’t start until 5 p.m., do the Webelos Scouts and their parents really need to show up at 3:30 with everyone else? Give parents specific, staggered arrival times to minimize waiting around. Also think about should you go old to younger, or younger to older. Think about how long you can keep a Tiger occupied while waiting vs. a Webelos. This comes in handy when determining if you will award trophies per rank. You could even hold several awards ceremonies — one after each division is finished — so that families can leave when their Scout’s racing category has concluded. Lastly do you want to plan a race where a winner takes all - a Tiger might beat a Webelos?

Ask yourself: Is it really necessary for every family to be there for the entire event? How can you accommodate families who may have Scouts of different ages. Remember to leave them wanting more.

**6. Giving siblings plenty to do**

Families usually bring siblings to the derby. To avoid chaos, it’s best to have something to help keep idle hands occupied. Set out a big container of Legos for the sisters and brothers of racers to enjoy during the derby. Distribute racing-themed coloring pages and colored pencils. Set up a game room with board games or maybe a TV with a video game system. Invite someone to run a face-painting station or make balloon animals. Whatever you do, be sure to offer something to keep those non-racers occupied.

**7. Make an event out of it**

A maximum of four Scouts will be racing at any one time. So what will Scouts and parents do between races? They can cheer on their fellow Scouts with songs and yells. They can purchase food at a concession stand — operated by a local Boy Scout troop or Venturing crew, perhaps. They can race their cars on a designated secondary track for practice and fun. If your event does not allow the car or boat to be touched once checked it, a secondary track could be used to allow boys who are not advancing to another round to continue the fun.

**8. Check the rule book**

Whether it’s cars, boats, or rockets, does your local council or district have special Derby rules and regulations? If so, you should adopt those same rules for your pack’s derby. Following the council’s rule book makes your winners eligible for district- and council-level derbies. And they ensure a level race field for all Scouts.

**9. Make memories, take pictures**

A derby will be over in a couple of hours, but the memories will last forever. That’s especially true if you take official race day photos of Scouts and their families. First, create a fun backdrop. It should include your pack flag, some racing imagery and the current year. Next, assign a volunteer to take the photos of the Cub Scouts with their racers and their parents. You could even do close-ups of each Scout’s racer. You can make the photos available on a photo site like Flickr for parents to download and post to Facebook for all the world to see. Be mindful of the BSA policies regarding social media.

Share these resources with the group

Cub Scout Derbies Page  
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/CubScouts/Activities/Adults/derbies.aspx>

Cub Scout Grand Prix Pinewood Derby Guidebook No. 33721

**Pinewood Derby Conclusion**

**Cubmaster**:  At the conclusion of our Pinewood Derby, I would like to say that we were all winners here tonight.

* Dad has more respect for his Scout whether he was a humble winner or a graceful loser.
* Mom was proud of her Scout whether she gave a hug of congratulations or comfort.
* The Scouts gained a better knowledge of competition; how to win, how to lose, how to be happy for a friend, who is taking home the trophy he himself wanted so badly.
* The leaders, in the pride they felt knowing that each of their Scouts had done their best.
* Building the car helped bring parent and Scout closer together.

**Cubmaster**:  Yes, there are only winners here tonight.  Thank you all for helping to make the pack go and the Cub Scouts grow.  Good night and congratulations to all of us winners.

[source BALOO’s Bugle]