

Coppell / Cross Timbers YMCA Derby Day

Frequently Asked Questions & Rules – 2012 Official

What is “Derby Day”?

Derby Day is pinewood derby car racing! Your kids build wooden cars with plastic wheels that, propelled only by gravity, race each other down a set of tracks. This is a four race event, with the fastest overall time coming in first.

The competition itself is only a part of the experience; the construction of the derby car is a special achievement for the kids, allowing them to display their creativity, craziness, and style with these unique creations. This is not a “circle-centered” event, but rather a dad/child one. Each competitor races against a random opponent, who may or may not be from your circle.

When is it? Where is it?

Friday January 13th and Saturday 14th at **Mikes Hobby Shop in Carrollton**
1201 N. I-35E
Carrollton TX 75006

Registration and racing times are as follows:

Groups	Registration Starts	Race Starts
Race 1	5:00 – 5:55	6:00pm
Race 2	6:00 – 7:00	7:15pm
Outlaw Race	7pm – 7:55pm	8:00pm

A scale will be placed at the Mikes Hobby Shop for you to check your car’s weight.

Car building Clinic dates (free to those that have already purchased car kits)

Please show up at Mikes Hobby Shop with your car kit only. All tools, paint etc will be provided upon arrival, as well as on-site professionals to help with any derby questions / building you may have. No experience is needed for these build days.

Dec 29th 5pm – 8pm
and
Jan 5th, 9th and 10th 5pm – 8pm

Is this event only for dads and kids?

No—this is a YMCA event for the whole family to enjoy! Bring mom and the other kids to watch the races.

When is registration?

You will be registered once you purchase our official car kit from the Coppell or Cross Timbers YMCA. On race day, you’ll simply need to check-in, weigh your car and someone will give you a race number and mark you off the pre-registered list. Please note, registration for the 2 normal races will stop 5 minutes before the actual race times noted above.

Where do we purchase the derby car kit?

All derby cars participating in the race MUST be purchased at the YMCA. If you do not, your name will not be added to the race roster for the day. The cost is \$12 per kit.

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Outlaw Race / Rules:

The outlaw race will begin at 8pm. This race is for dads and kids. Outlaw cars are \$20 per entry and cars must be legal height, length and width for the track (7"l x 2.75" w x 5"h). Cars may weigh up to 8oz (however the lighter the better), and may be propelled by whatever you wish. Exotic axles / wheels, micro-ball bearings and various lubricants may also be used during this race only. A special award will also be given to the winner of this race.

What are the rules & guidelines for derby car construction?

A copy of the rules is below. However, the "official" rules are on a sheet provided with your derby car kit (which, with the exception of the trophy categories, govern in the event of a conflict). All core car components (wood, axles, wheels) must be those that were supplied with your kit from the YMCA.

How much should a dad get involved in the car construction?

Obviously, dad must use any tools that common sense dictates children should not use. Fathers should do any cutting/sawing of the wooden block. But your daughter/son should be responsible for the decorating of the vehicle, and when possible should determine the shape you cut it.

What should a car look like?

Whatever your child's imagination dictates! A small example set of cars we've seen in the past are: teepees, fire trucks, race cars, school buses, arrows, pencils, trapezoids, slides, and in some cases, the original block of wood simply painted (or not!) with the wheels attached.

What are the categories for the trophies / medals?

All participants will receive a medal. There will be 1st – 3rd place awards for the fastest cars for each set of races.

What happens on race day?

We are using the volunteer services of Mike's Hobby Shop. This will be the second year to run this event at Mikes for our program. You will check-in on site, weigh your car to ensure the max weight of 5oz, and then just sit back and enjoy, his program is all computer based. There will be a scale at the Y's front desk as well as one at Mikes Hobby Shop, all week to weigh the car for your personal use. In addition, Mike will also allow anyone to test their cars time on the official derby track at any point leading up to race day. Cost is \$1 per car per day to use the track.

Who runs and judges the event?

Volunteers predominantly run Derby Day. Helper circles assist in the setup, registration, judging, awards, teardown, etc. Although Mike has a great operation, several hundred kids and dads coupled with even the best equipment can occasionally make things chaotic. As such, please be patient. Everyone is trying their best and wants every kid (and dad) to be happy.

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Where can I get weights?

Small weights are typically attached to the cars to increase their overall weight. These can usually be found at craft stores such as Mikes Hobby Shop, Michaels, MJ Designs, Hobby Lobby, etc. You can also use washers from the hardware store and or fishing weights.

Any definitive “no-no”s?

1. You should not use a car from another derby race. The main point of this activity is for you and your child to enjoy time together in the construction of the car. The race itself is secondary. If you’ve got a “fast car” from another event, please keep it at home.
2. You must purchase a new kit from the YMCA. Yes, there are cheaper places to buy them, but your purchase is helping to offset the cost of the individual medals and patches that every child will receive.
3. You cannot attach anything to the axles or wheels. Nothing can be added to the axle except the wheel itself (no beads, washers, etc.). Nothing can be attached to the side of the car surrounding the area around the axle (for example, a washer).
4. No frowns are permitted on the race premises. Again, the race is secondary to an enjoyable time between dad and child.

Any hints for car construction?

1. See Car Clinics on 1st page for car building dates. All clinics will be held at Mikes Hobby Shop in Carrollton.
2. DON'T START RACE DAY MORNING! These cars are fine, well-honed machines that require years of professional design. Okay, that's stretching it a little. But the construction may take more time than expected. Cutting the wood and putting on the wheels can be only one step. Young, creative minds often add to the design as construction progresses. Some people have found that it works well to construct the car in a few short sessions (cut out one day, paint the next, decorate another). This allows time for glue and paint to dry, and helps avoid a “burn-out” from doing the car in one long haul. Find what works best with you and your child.
3. Cars can weigh up to but not more than 5 ounces. History shows that heavier cars are typically faster. You can use graphite or a lubricant on the axles. Some people sandpaper the axles. Since weight is typically the most effective speed enhancement, the 5 oz weight limit is strictly enforced.
4. Be aware there is a height constraint. A bar is across the top of each track at the start with a vertical clearance of 4-3/4”. Your car can be no higher than 3.5” tall. It must pass under the finish line bar which is 5” tall. (This rule also applies for the outlaw race)
5. There are lots of web sites with information on car building, but don't obsess about the car speed. Only a handful of cars out of the many participants will be the fastest. Build a car that your daughter/son will play with after this event is over. Have fun!

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DERBY DAY RULES

Derby Car kits must be purchased from the Coppell Family YMCA

Dimensions: & Weight:	The car must weigh no more than a maximum of 5oz. The length of the car must not exceed the original length of the wood block. The width of the car cannot be more than the width of the axles in the kit. The height of the car may be no higher than 3.5".
Axles:	The four pin or 2 solid axles in the kit obtained from the YMCA must be used. Axles may be lubricated graphite or oil, and may be polished.
Wheels:	The four official wheels in the kit obtained from the YMCA must be used. The car must have two wheels on the front axle and two wheels on the back axle. The wheels must be retained on the axles by means of the parts supplied with the kit. No other parts which affect the relationship of the wheels to the axles may be used. Wheels may not be modified (other than sanding). You may not affect the width of the wheels, or paint or attach anything to the wheels.
Integrity:	All parts of the car must be used in their proper positions when the car crosses the finish line. It may not have parts that move with respect to other parts of the car when racing (no moving weights). Decorations or trim that are loose or move back and forth are not to be confused with moving weights.
Chassis & Body:	The wooden block contained in the kit purchased from the YMCA must serve as the chassis of the car. No car parts from previous Derby Day cars are allowed.
Race #'s:	Will be assigned when you check your car in.
Energy Sources:	No force(s) other than gravity may contribute to the forward motion of the car. This means no moving parts other than the wheels.
Check-In:	Once your car has been checked in, you no longer have access to the car until your car has been eliminated.
Decorating:	Only the children in the program are allowed to paint and decorate the car.

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DERBY DAY RULES (cont)

A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND REGARDING DERBY DAY

1. This is a Father/Child event. Please allow your child to be part of the total process. Show them the kit and ask for their ideas, color, shape, style, etc.
2. Obviously if your child wants their car to look like a grand prix racer, you will have to operate the power tools. But tell them to draw what they want on the block of wood and you then cut it with the power tools. But also let them help in the sanding process and other things they can do.
3. REMEMBER - Your attitude will dictate how your child reacts if their car gets beaten in a race. Your chance in winning every race will be about one and two hundred. A smile and a hug go a long way at this point. Sometimes it is the dad that is disappointed and needs a simple smile and a hug.
4. Winning graciously is just as important as losing. Keep in mind the same statistics for winning. If your child wins, there may be two hundred others who didn't. Teach your child how to respect those whose cars may not have performed as well as others.
5. Be patient - the race is run by volunteers. While everyone is trying their best, no one works for NASCAR and the track quality is somewhat less than the Texas Motor Speedway. Sometimes mistakes happen. The "race crew" will do everything possible to try to correct the situation.
6. Races are judged by the most sophisticated computers of our time—the human brain. Therefore, judgment calls may not always be in your favor. Again, be patient and understand that everyone is doing their best. Aggressively pursuing an argument with one of the judges sets a poor example to all kids. Dads acting like jerks will be promptly decapitated and their heads required to stay in a bag of ants until after the event.
7. The goal on derby Day is for everyone to have a good time. It is a very festive and high-energy day. Another great chance to strengthen the love and trust between you and your child.
8. The goal of Derby Day is for a child and father do something fun together. Simply building a car together and watching it roll down the ramp achieve a victory. Therefore, everyone is a winner and will receive a participant medal.