

# Coppell Family YMCA Derby Day Frequently Asked Questions & Rules – 2020

## 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 two race event, with the fastest overall time coming in first.

The completion 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?

Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup> @ Coppell Family YMCA – Gymnasium / 146 Town Center Blvd, Coppell TX 75019

## **Sign-in / Weigh-in and racing times are as follows:**

Sign-In / Weigh-In	Race Starts
9:25 AM – 9:45 AM	10:00 AM

A scale will be placed at registration and check-in for you to check your car’s weight.

## 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 race.

## How do I register for the event?

You will be registered once you purchase your official car kit from the Coppell YMCA. You must sign up for the race time when you purchase your kit. On race day, you’ll simply must check-in, weigh your car, and someone will give you a race number and mark you off the pre-registered list. Please note that check-in for the 2 races will stop no later than 5 minutes before the actual race times noted above – **NO exceptions!**

## 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 be added to the race roster for the day. **The cost is \$15 per kit.**

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#### Any definitive “no-no’s”?

- 1) You should not sue a car from another previous derby day 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 Coppell YMCA. Yes, there are cheaper places to buy them, but your purchase is helping to offset the cost of the individual awards 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.
- 5) DO NOT USE SLOW SETTING GLUES ON RACE DAY! They will not set in time for the race and will end up dropping on the track. For last minute fixes, use super glue or hot melt glue ONLY.

#### Any hits for car construction?

- 1) DON'T START IT ON 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 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 “burn-out” from doing the car in one long haul. Find what works best with you and your child.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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 should be no higher than 3.5” tall. It must pass under the finish line bar which is 5” tall.
- 4) 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 bet the fastest. Build a car that your daughter/son will play with after this event is over. HAVE FUN!

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#### A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND REGARDING DERBY DAY

- 1) This is a Father/Child event. Please allow your children 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 must 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 the race. Your chance of winning the race will be very slim. A smile and a hug go a long way at this points. 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 graciously. If your child wins, there may be a 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 – volunteers run the race. 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) The goal on Derby Day is fore 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.
- 7) 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.