

Lutheran Girl Pioneers, Inc.

## Insider Tips for Pine Car Derbies

### How to Increase Derby Participation in Your Caravan and Districts

Building and participating in pine car derbies teaches girls:

- Tool safety and use
- Woodworking
- Aerodynamics
- Design/painting/wood finishing
- Craft skills
- Sportsmanship

Pine cars can compete in speed or craft design. The top cars at caravan/district races can continue onto the International Race, competing against the best designed and fastest cars from all over the continent!

### How Can I Get More Girls to Participate?

- Encourage them! Excite them! If it's the "thing" everyone's doing, they will want to do it as well!
- Share information with parents the dates/sites of local, district, and international derbies!
- Show and assist beginning builders and their parents with how to design and build pine cars. Let experienced builders pass on their knowledge to new builders.
- Order pine car kits for your entire caravan. Include the cost of the kit in your registration fee. It's only \$3.75 per kit!
- Make pine car building be a meeting or hold a special pine car building workshop for your girls and their parents. This allows girls without experience or access to tools to be able to participate. This can be especially helpful for single-parent households!
- If you don't have tools, or knowledge, there may be woodworkers in your congregation who would be willing to assist your caravan either at church or at their home workshop! All you have to do is ask!

### District Derbies

- District Derbies provide for the natural progression from a caravan derby to a district derby to the international derby. No one goes out for a sport, plays one game, and advances to the championship game! A big part of any sport is the competition and advancement that is earned.
- District derbies allow girls one more opportunity to compete and perfect the cars they have spent so much time and effort building. Pine cars that have had more opportunities to complete and be perfected, for speed in particular, do better at the next level of competition.
- District derbies give Girl Pioneers families the opportunity to participate in bigger activities with other Girl Pioneers families from other churches in your area.
- District derbies allow smaller caravans, or caravans without access to a track, the opportunity for their girls to participate in derbies, see their cars race, and be more

competitive for speed.

- Depending on the size of your district, you may have the chance to advance more cars to the international level by holding a district derby.
- District derbies can be a fundraising opportunity for your district (concessions, mementos, etc.).

But, even with no district race, your girls can still advance to the International Derby! See the official LGP Derby Rules (found on our website at [www.lgp.org](http://www.lgp.org)) for the number of cars that can be sent from caravans without a district race.

### **No Track? That's Okay!**

Don't let no track stand in your way!

- Borrow one!
  - Is there another caravan near-by that will let you borrow theirs?
  - Is there another caravan near-by that will let you race while their track is up?

- Make your own track!

For a smaller group, a simple track is adequate! Homemade wood tracks with two or three lanes, even without a digital finish line, can still make for a fun race! Straight wood tracks with a simple divider between lanes and a simple manually lifted starting gate can be made to just lay and race down the incline of a hill or a flight of stairs. Many simple plans for making a homemade track can be found online.

- Buy a track!

If your caravan or district needs are small, a 2-4 lane track may be what you need! For larger groups, a six-lane track with more bells and whistles may be more appropriate.

How to afford the purchase of a track:

1. Ask for donations. Individuals in your congregation/ district may be surprisingly generous!
2. Hold a fundraiser. Chili dinners, car washes, and Christmas wreaths are incredibly popular!
3. Purchase the track with another caravan or district. Split the cost!
4. Charge a registration fee for every derby and use those fees towards a new track!

Still no track? No problem! Advance your girls in the craft category! Some caravans without access to a track are still very successful at both district and the international derbies by focusing more on the craft side of the competition.

### **Craft Designs Secrets You Must Know!**

The LGP Building and Design Specifications may differ from the Lutheran Boy Pioneers specifications! Be sure to use the Lutheran Girl Pioneers rules! This information is found on the LGP website: [www.lgp.org](http://www.lgp.org) under the Pine Car Derby icon.

Be sure to follow all rules so that cars are not disqualified! You want to be sure to advance cars that can compete and are not eliminated for rule violations before the derby even begins.

## COMMON CRAFT ERRORS THAT CAUSE DISQUALIFICATIONS:

The use of any of the following items are not allowed:

- \* Kits that were not purchased through the Girl Pioneers National Office
- \* Googly eyes
- \* Glitter (the loose kind; glitter paint/sparkle paint is okay!)
- \* Sequins
- \* Jewels
- \* Feathers
- \* Fabric
- \* Lego people as drivers
- \* Photographs
- \* Candy wrappers
- \* Weights on top of the car or used as part of the design

Cars need to be made from the original block of wood in the pine car kit. Additional parts of the design need to be made from the scraps left from the original block of wood. You cannot use:

- \* Other pieces of wood not from the original block
- \* Plastic
- \* Metal
- \* Dowels
- \* Screws, nails, etc.
- \* Toothpicks

## WHAT CAN I USE OR ADD THAT'S NOT IN MY PINE CAR KIT?

- \* Weight to reach 5 ounces (for speed cars)
- \* Any type of glue or wood glue
- \* Any type of lubricant for the wheels
- \* Any type of paint or wood finish, such as acrylic, water colors, spray paint, stain, varnish, and spray gloss
- \* Markers, sharpies, paint pens
- \* Stickers and decals

*Those items considered acceptable as stickers or decals are items that would be thought of as "traditional" sticker or decal made out of paper or plastic. Jewels, googly eyes, sequins, photographs, that are attached with glue or a sticker-type backing, whether you applied it or it was manufactured that way, are all considered what the object is and are not considered stickers.*

## **Insider Tips and Tricks**

- Lots of different finishes are available in spray paint form (and spray paint is an allowed paint!). Some spray paint finishes that are acceptable include glitter, sand, stone, metal, iridescent, and chameleon.
- For Sunbeams, you can have them decorate a beautiful car by having a base color in paint applied with spray paint and then have them decorate using markers, sharpies, or paint pens so they have more control in their lines and design.
- A clear spray gloss applied to the finished car can give it a look of "real" car paint or give watercolor or acrylic paint a nice shiny finish.

- A finish or top coat of some type can help to seal stickers or decals so that they don't come loose or detached.
- Saw dust or shavings from the pine car wood block can be used to create curls or spirals, or the look of sand or gravel that can be glued onto the car to add texture to your girl's design.
- Dremel-type tools can be useful in making fine design elements and rounded corners on the pine car.
- If you have any questions about what is allowed and what isn't, don't be afraid to ask the national office! Better to be safe than disqualified! International Derby staff will ask questions about the how the cars were made and crafted!
- Tires can be modified in any way as long as they are the original tires from your pine car kit that was purchased from the LGP National Office.
- Adult advice is recommended in the pine car building process, but please remember that the girls are expected to make as much of their pine car on their own as would be expected for their age. While Sunbeams would not be expected to use power tools and wood chisels, Trailblazers could with proper supervision. Everyone should be old enough to make their own design, copy it onto their block of wood, use sandpaper, decorate and finish their own cars.  
This is not a competition for the parents, so don't take over your girl's project!  
Cars made by Sunbeams should look like they were made by a girl in 2nd grade or younger.

The National Office hopes that all our caravans can participate in pine car derbies!  
Don't hesitate to call or email with any questions!

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