

## Pack 712 - Getting Started Pine Wood Derby

### Coaching Guidelines for Parents:

We realize that the skills of the seven year old boy are not to be compared with those of a ten or twelve year old boy. We recognize, respect, and appreciate the skills of each boy's age level in building his derby car.

Parents, in helping your son build his car:

Get him started early to avoid last minute rushing and this allows him time to do his best.

- Help him understand the rules and good sportsmanship.
- Assist him in choosing a design that he can do with minimum assistance from you.
- Help him trace the design on the wood.
- Guide him in the use of the tools he will use in shaping the car. Remember, power tools are not the only tools available. If you need to cut it out because he is unable to, or safety is a real issue, do so. Otherwise, allow him to do what he can.
- Have him sandpaper the car to as smooth a finish as he can.
- Have him paint the car. He can use acrylic paints with a brush. \*\*As he matures and gains more fine motor skill control, he will pay more attention to the shape, design, smoothness, and finishing of the car. He will be able to compare his own gain in skills year to year by looking back at what he, himself, has done in past years.
- Help him feel that this is a joint project (so as not to overwhelm the younger boy) with HIM doing most of the actual work.
- Yes, this requires one on one time on your part, but he will remember this long after the race is done.
- Understand: Him doing his best (and yours in guiding) is as important as having the fastest model. Winners are those who do their best.

\*\*\*Your son may be able to complete some requirements or electives from his Wolf, Bear, or Webelos Book in building his car – so check it out with your son.\*\*\*

The internet has many sites with advice on building fast cars, please make sure they comply with Pack 712 Pinewood Derby rules before trying them on your car.

