

## Middlebury Pack 6 Pinewood Derby F.A.Q.

### **Did you have fun?**

The Pinewood Derby is run with the following goals in mind: to have the scouts design and build a car they will be proud to race, to give the scouts a chance to learn about tools and how to safely use them, to experience an exciting race day and a chance to work on good sportsmanship, and above all- TO HAVE FUN!

### **How are race placements calculated?**

Our pack uses a computer program that is linked to the timing system of the Pinewood Derby track to calculate the place of each car in each race. Each scout's car is entered into a database upon passing weigh-in. The program sorts that database by den for our derby day races. The computer program takes the number of cars in each den and designs a set of heats for that den. The heats are arranged so that each car in the den will race the same number of times (usually two or three) on each lane of the track. Every time a car races its time in that heat is recorded. At the end of the heats for the den, the times from all of the heats that a car raced are added together. These totals are then ranked from the lowest amount (fastest overall time) to the highest amount (slowest overall time). The first, second, and third place trophies go to the first, second, and third fastest overall times in the den. The calculations are all made by the computer and there is no human judging involved.

### **My car placed first or second in all of its races, why didn't I get a trophy?**

If the heats set by the computer place a scout's car in heats with cars that are, on average, slower than his, it is entirely possible to have him win most of his heats, yet come in somewhere in the middle of the den overall.