



Answers to Frequently Asked Questions RE: AWANA Grand Prix

“When is the 2018 AWANA Grand Prix competition?”

The 2020 FBC AWANA Grand Prix is scheduled for **Friday night, March 27th**.

Check-in/Weigh-in begins at 6:00 pm.

Racing begins at 7:00 pm.

(Hobbytown of Frederick will be providing and managing the track and timing equipment for this year’s race.)

“Can we invite a non-AWANA friend to participate this year?”

YES! Please do! The AWANA Grand Prix could be a fun way to get your friends interested in joining AWANA in the future!

“Where do we get our car kits?” Car kits can be purchased in the AWANA office. There are two basic racer kits available from the AWANA office: a pre-cut kit and a wood block kit. Extra wood, including an extra Grand Prix wood block that is glued to the first block to allow for additional carving options, is allowed, as is any other thing a clubber might want to add to his/her basic design for styling as long as weight, height, and width limits are not exceeded. Wood block kits are \$5.00 each. Pre-cut kits are \$7.00 each.

“What are the competition categories for the AWANA Grand Prix?” AWANA clubbers will compete for awards in the SPEED competition in 3 divisions: Puggles/Cubbies/Sparks; T&T; Unlimited. There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophy for each division. The DESIGN competition will include all participants with 2 categories: racecars that are shaped like vehicles AND racecars that are shaped like something other than a vehicle. There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophy for each of these categories.

“What is the basis for the design judging?” There will be two separate categories in the Design Contest: Cars and Non-Cars. (The Non-Car category could include a carved banana or tube of toothpaste or dolphin, etc.) The design judging is based on the following criteria: 1) Level of effort (difficulty of design, complexity) 2) Woodworking (smoothness of finish, difficulty of cut) 3) Complexity of Painting (Details, stripes, numbers, etc.) 4) Originality or model authenticity (creativity) 5) Subjective Intangibles (judges like it/WOW factor).

“How much help should a parent provide to a clubber in the creation of an AWANA Grand Prix racecar?” The goal of this AWANA event is for a parent, older sibling, or family friend and a younger AWANA clubber to take on the Grand Prix racer project together. There is **NOT** a requirement that the child must do all the work on their own-- nor even most of it. The amount of work contributed by the parent and clubber is something to be determined by each individual Grand Prix team. The hope is that everyone involved will have FUN creating a car together.

Are there any instructions on how to create a Grand Prix race car? Yes. If you would like detailed instructions on how to build your Grand Prix racer, a good reference is an article by Boy Scout Master

George Weissgerber, Sr., entitled ***“Pinewood Derby Tips-2001.”*** This article can be reviewed in the AWANA office or can be e-mailed to you for your reference at home.

“Can we use pre-cut kits or pre-cut pieces from hobby stores or other vendors?” In order to make the judging process as fair as possible, pre-cut designs and wooden pieces from other vendors are not permitted. All cutting, other than the basic AWANA pre-cut design, needs to be accomplished by the adult/child Grand Prix race team. Accessories other than pre-carved wooden pieces may be added to the racecar creation.

“Can we replace the AWANA wheels for wheels purchased from another vendor?” All racers are required to use the AWANA wheels provided with the kit. Instructions on how to modify the wheels to increase speed potential are available to view at the AWANA office or can be e-mailed to you as an aid in preparing your racer (***Pinewood Derby Wheel Preparation.***)

“Do the wheels have to be placed in the marked axle holes?” The axle holes marked on the wood blocks are optional. Different holes can be drilled to accommodate differently carved cars. However, the track is designed with a set width, a set distance between racers, and a raised area between the wheels to keep the car on its path; therefore, if you choose to use custom drilled holes, the placement of the wheels need to still allow the car to travel down the track. There will be a Go-No-Go box available in the AWANA office on Wednesday nights (and at the check-in table the night of the race) to confirm that your car will work on the track.

“Is polishing/sanding of the wheels permitted?” Polishing/sanding of the wheels of the racers is permitted.

“Is a car allowed to be raced with only 3 wheels?” Yes, a 3-wheeled racer is allowed to race, but the wheels must still fit on the track. A center wheel will not work; the raised track that runs beneath the car will not accommodate a wheel that is not properly distanced from it. Some racers remove a wheel to reduce friction. The car therefore is not really a 3-wheeler, but simply a car with one wheel missing. Doing this requires that the car be extremely well-balanced.

“Is graphite allowed to be applied to the wheels of the cars?” Graphite may be applied to the wheels of the racers, but the application needs to occur outside of the building in the pit stop area to prevent staining of the floor.

“What are the weight requirements for the car?” The weight requirements for the car are – the car must weigh 5 ounces or less. There is no minimum weight requirement, however racers desiring to be competitive should weigh as close to 5 ounces as possible. Food scales are the easiest way to check your racers’ weight as it progresses; a scale will be available in the AWANA office on Wednesday nights for weight checks. A final weight check will need to be made at check-in the night of the race; come early enough to make adjustments to your racer prior to the race. Any car over 5 ounces will need to be reduced to 5 ounces prior to racing. Tools will be available to make simple adjustments. (Monitoring the weight of your car as you build it is highly recommended. In the past, occasional cars have arrived weighing 7-10 oz, and have needed major adjustments before being allowed to race. This is a clubber crisis when it impacts their car’s design 😞.)

“How can you add or subtract weight from the finished car?” To subtract weight from a finished car, a dremel or drill can be used to remove wood from the bottom of the car. To add weight, flat weights can be glued to the car, being sure that any weights on the bottom of the car will not rub on the track and impede the car’s progress. The surest way to avoid having weights interfere with the track is to dremel or drill out a portion of the bottom of the car and glue the weights into the carved-out area. (Weights set towards the back of the car tend to increase the potential speed of the car.)