



GRAND PRIX INFO

An Awana Grand Prix (using cars similar to a pine car derby) is an excellent event to reach parents and other family members of your clubbers.

Families that become involved in constructing a car for the race will be enthusiastic in wanting to participate in the event. The opportunity for a gospel presentation at this time is the main reason for drawing them in and when coupled with time to meet and talk to parents in an informal setting, your church can go a long way into turning a fun event for the clubbers into an outreach for ministry.

1. WHEN TO HOLD THE RACE

At a time convenient for your church and community: a club night, a Friday night, or on Saturday or Sunday; anytime that fits your clubbers and their families

2. THE DATE IS SET, WHAT'S NEXT

Four to six weeks prior to your race, you will need to make Awana car kits available to interested racers. When ordered from the Awana catalog, your "kit" will include a basic block of wood with slots for the axles and a set of four axles and wheels – requiring that everyone purchase and use only these supplies will level the playing field and keep the race competitive.

3. ORDER TROPHIES AND/OR RIBBONS

Grand Prix trophies are available through Awana. They may be customized for either speed or design awards. You will need to decide how many age groups you will have and how many sets of trophies you need. Participants can be divided by Awana clubs, Cubbies, Sparks, T&T, etc with an "Open Class" for everyone above a certain age, or by Clubbers and Adults. The number of speed trophy sets (1st, 2nd, & 3rd place trophies) you wish to hand out will determine the number of groups your participants will be divided into.



4. ARRANGE FOR YOUR SPEAKER

Remember that although you want to present the gospel to the adults in the audience, the presentation must be appealing to the clubbers and not exceed their attention span.

5. HOST A WORKSHOP

You will have families that do not have the necessary tools or skills to successfully build a car. Look for people from your congregation who can bring tools and woodworking knowledge to a car workshop one to two weeks in advance of the race. Their job will not be to “make” everyone’s car, but to assist parents in using the available tools to achieve the desired results.



6. FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR RACE DAY

On the day/evening of the race, you will need:

1. To check in the cars as they arrive. A digital, postal-type scale works well for checking that the cars are at or below the 5 ounce limit. Some churches also check for correct width and length to ensure that cars will not interfere with adjacent lanes when racing.
2. To have a check-in list with all participants first and last names and assigned car number so you will have an accurate list of who will be participating in the race.
3. A table(s) to serve as the “pit” where cars can wait for the race once they have been checked in and passed inspection.
4. An announcer who will read the names of those in each heat of four cars and announce who wins each heat
5. Someone to “start” cars, making sure they are placed correctly on the track and working with the announcer to begin each heat
6. Design judges (if you are awarding trophies/prizes for design)



Wisconsin Awana Ministry Team Grand Prix Specialist

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Beginning with the 2006-2007 Awana year, I have been available to assist Awana churches with their Grand Prix races. The aluminum track and electronic timing equipment I use belong to the ministry of Roy Koopman, Awana Missionary for Central and Northern Wisconsin. I do not charge a set fee for coming to your church, I only ask for a gift to assist with my travel cost.

What I offer to your church:

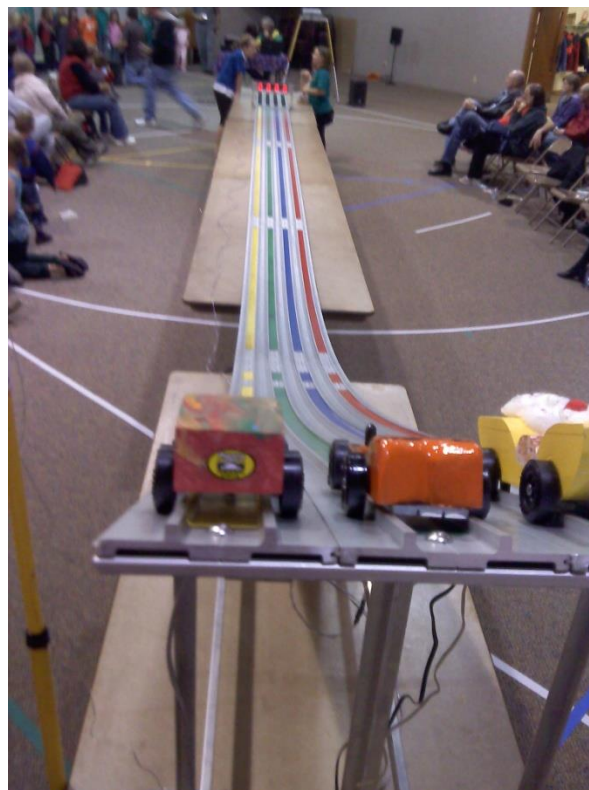


1. A top quality, four lane aluminum race track with electronic timing system that captures individual car times to the ten thousandth of a second.
2. A computer-generated race built on the foundation that all cars entered race four times, once on each lane in random heats generated by the computer program. The times for the four runs are collected and totaled by the program with the shortest total time in each age category determining the winner.
3. Racing information for each heat, projected on a screen or wall, which includes who is on which color lane, the elapsed time for each car, the car's place in that heat (1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th) and each car's time converted by scale to miles per hour. Also included are the names of the racers in the next heat so they can be ready to go.
4. Complete participation of all ages at all times during the race as the computer program tracks the racing category of each participant while randomly racing various ages in all heats. You will not wonder what to do with the youngest participants while another group is racing.

5. A total race time of approximately 1 minute times the number of car entries. A 40-car race will take approximately 45 minutes plus whatever time you allow for your speaker and presenting trophies and awards. Check-in should begin about 1 hour before the expected race time.

6. Complete set-up and take-down of the track and equipment. I request access to your church approximately 1 ½ hours before race time to ensure you will have the smoothest possible race.

7. All electronic equipment needed for the race, including a multimedia projector and screen and a portable sound system. We can provide all equipment or utilize whatever is available in your race location.



8. Answers to questions that arise as you plan this exciting event for your Awana club.

For Further Information

GrandPrix-software-central.com

In addition to the software I use (Grand Prix Race Manager), this site offers race decorations, digital scales, inspection gauges, car carrying trays, workshop supplies, and more

GrandPrix-race-central.com

This site is dedicated to providing race coordinators and leaders with ideas, information, and resources to help stage an exciting and fair race