

THE AWANA GRAND PRIX

Why have a Grand Prix race?

- * Present the Gospel!
- * Build relationships among adults and kids.
- * Provide adults with opportunities to serve.
- * Teach kids craftsmanship and attention to detail.
- * Promote good sportsmanship.
- * Have FUN!

Who will be involved in the race?

Racers

- * Decide who is going to race and split into race groups: T&T, Sparks, Teens, Adults
- * Cubbies can race match-box cars.
- * Consider having an “open” or “unlimited” group.

Race Staff

- * Race Commissioner – Arranges all the details. Find someone who is organized and excited.
- * Workshop Coordinator - Coordinates the workshops, gives advice about building cars, and runs the Pit Area on race day.
- * Master of Ceremonies - Announces the races, keeps things moving. Enthusiasm is a must!
- * Gospel Speaker – Provides a short, clear presentation of the Gospel, appropriate for both the spectators and the kids.
- * Speed and Design Judges - Should not be related to any racer, if possible.
- * Check-in Judges - Makes sure the car complies with the rules to keep the competition fair.
- * Pit Crew, Starter, Computer Operator, Sound Man, Photographer, Videographer
- * Greeters to welcome people; have the pastor present to meet visitors.

What resources do we need for our race?

- * Car kits and track expenses should be covered by the entrance fee, or by the church. Some clubs sell food and snacks to help cover costs.
- * Scale – Weight is critical to a car’s performance, so the scale should be accurate to at least 0.1 ounces. A postal scale works well.
- * Pit Area, for last minute fixes and to adjust weight.
- * Track: Should we buy, build, rent, or borrow? If building, start well in advance of the race and use good materials. Check your track’s condition before the day of the race.
- * Electronic finish lines are helpful. You can buy assembled timers or build your own.
- * Software – A variety of software is available. Most software includes race management, chart generators, sound effects, and race planning.
- * Supplies - Awana provides inexpensive kits. Hobby stores, hardware stores, and websites are others.

When should we schedule Grand Prix activities?

- ✳ Your initial announcement should include the date of the race and when car kits will be available.
- ✳ Workshops - At least 2 are recommended for those that need help and/or tools.
- ✳ Time Trials - Allows racers to test cars on the track. Schedule this event shortly before the race; you can also do early car check-in.
- ✳ Race Day - Set a timeline for Car Check-in, Opening Ceremonies, Design Judging, Racing, Gospel Message, and Awards Ceremony. Racing should be between 1 to 1.5 hours to keep everyone's interest.

Where can we have our race?

- ✳ You will need space for the track, tables for the cars, a repair table, and room for spectators.
- ✳ Workshops can be at the church or a home. Working on cars can get messy.
- ✳ Elevate the track on a stage or tables, if possible, to make it easy to see.

How should we run our race?

- ✳ Keep it Fun, Fair and Organized.
- ✳ Workshops assist and advise the racers and their adult partners in building the car. The racers should do as much as they are able to do. Provide sample designs (photos and/or templates) to spur ideas. Have a scale and weights available. Use fishing weights, washers, or screws.
- ✳ The rules that come with the kits are a starting point, but are not sufficient. Many samples are available on the web.
- ✳ Try to do an early check-in to make race day check-in faster. Have a secure place to keep cars.
- ✳ Check-in inspectors need to apply the rules and be consistent.
- ✳ Make sure racers have lubricated their cars; we want their cars to finish. You can use soap or hand sanitizer.
- ✳ There are many different methods to schedule your race: Single/Double/Triple Elimination, Perfect-N Series, Stearns, Lane Rotation, et al. The goal should be to give each racer an equal opportunity to win.
- ✳ Make sure spectators understand the process. You can post the schedule where all can see and use a projection system or TV if available to display results.
- ✳ If at all possible, the racers should be the only ones to handle the cars. This keeps them involved.
- ✳ Awards can be given for speed and design. Trophies, plaques, certificates, and medals are options depending on budget.
- ✳ Other Possible Awards – Best of Show, Most Creative, Most Colorful, Best Gas Mileage (slowest car), etc.