

RA CONGRESS HANDBOOK



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LouisianaBaptists.org/RoyalAmbassadors

R.A. PINWOOD DERBY RACES – GENERAL INFORMATION

This popular event is offered for our Royal Ambassadors strictly as a fun activity. The spirit of competition should never cause the disappointment of losing to mar the fun of participating in the event.

There will be three categories of competition: fastest (the traditional race), best design, and most unusual. Each grade will be a separate division. For each category, trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place.

REGISTRATION

All registration will take place in Room H of the Activities Building. Upon arriving at Congress, please obtain Derby Car registration materials from Room H. This will include 2 cards for each boy: one card (the “racing card”) to be carried by the boy during the race, and another card (the “master file card”) to be kept by the judges. Please fill out both cards completely and return them to Room H. **Cards will be available only until 8:50 AM Saturday.**

AT DERBY CAR REGISTRATION LOCATION

1. Your car will be checked for correct dimensions and weight.
2. A number will be assigned to your car. This will be indicated by a sticker on your registration card and car. **Be sure the first digit** matches the school grade of the boy who owns the car, i.e. Car Number - 1xx = Grade 1; 2xx = Grade 2; 3xx = Grade 3 etc. (This number will be written on your master file form) **It is the COUNSELOR’S responsibility to make sure all cars are registered for the boy’s proper grade.** Be sure you check the number before leaving derby registration area.
3. Once turned in, cars will be kept and secured by registration officials until race time. Cars **will not be released to ANYONE** until after race. (Room is locked overnight.) ANY ALTERING of car IN ANY WAY after number is attached and car weighed in will result in **automatic disqualification**.
4. You will receive the boy’s race card to hold. This is your record of having a car in the race Saturday. **DO NOT LOSE IT!** Without it you **cannot** participate. Your Derby Registration card will also be stamped at Missionary Sessions. Without this stamp you will not be able to race. Your card must have three (3) different missionary stamps on it.
5. The master file form will be kept by registration officials for their records.
6. Boys must race each round unless previously eliminated. Race officials will keep track of which boys have raced, and those refusing to race will be scored a loss.

BEST DESIGN AND MOST UNUSUAL CARS COMPETITION

All cars entered in competition must meet all requirements and specifications for derby cars. That is, any car entered, even if only for Best design and or Most Unusual awards, must meet weight and dimension specifications.



RACING SPECIFICATIONS

- 1. WIDTH:** Overall width shall not exceed $2 \frac{13}{16}$ "
- 2. LENGTH:** Overall length shall not exceed $7 \frac{11}{16}$ "
- 3. HEIGHT:** Height shall not exceed $3 \frac{1}{4}$ "
- 4. WEIGHT:** Weight shall not exceed 5 ounces. No loose material of any kind is permitted in the car. The car may be hollowed out and built up to the maximum weight by the addition of wood or metal only, provided it is securely built into the body or chassis.
- 5. Wheel bearings, washers, and bushings are prohibited.**
- 6. SPRINGING:** The car shall not ride on any type springs.
- 7. DETAILS:** Details such as steering wheel, driver, decals, painting, interior detail are permissible as long as these details do not exceed maximum weight of car.
- 8. ATTACHMENTS:** The car must be freewheeling with no starting devices.
- 9. WHEELS:** Only those wheels and axles that come with the car kit may be used. The only sanding, grinding, lathing or any other reduction method allowed to wheels and axles is to be done for the sole purpose of removing casting marks or burrs. ANY OTHER REDUCTION TO ANY WHEEL/AXLE OR PART THEREOF WILL CAUSE DISQUALIFICATION. Further, Louisiana uses only the "narrow wheels" that come with the official car kit. No other wheels, including "Boy Scout wheels" may be used.
- 10. INSPECTION:** Each car must pass inspection by the official inspection committee before it may compete. The inspectors have the right to disqualify those cars that do not meet these specifications. ALL DECISIONS of officials are FINAL.
- 11. No part of the car may extend past the starting line. This includes a concave leading edge or a front end raised above the starting post. Any car which fails this requirement will be disqualified. The car may race backwards if legal backwards.**

RACE ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE

- **HEATS:** All races will be run on a system of elimination by heats. Timing of contestants shall have no bearing in determining heat or final winner. (It should be understood that the same contestants will probably compete against each other again in later heats.)
- A boy competes until he has experienced two (2) losses at which time he will be eliminated.
- Races will begin at 1:15 P.M Saturday
- Tracks will be numbered by Division (Grade) so boys should stay near the track that they will race on. One track will be for Lads (grades 1-3) and another track for Crusaders (grades 4-6)
- Boys for a particular division may and likely will be called while other races are ongoing. For instance, all boys in grade 2 will be called together before the end of the grade 1 race, so that as soon as the grade 1 races are over the grade 2 races may begin. Thus, it is important for boys to pay attention to all announcements.
- When a boy's division is called, he should proceed to the division gathering point and present his registration card to the official when asked.
- The official will retrieve the boy's car (remember that all cars will still be with the officials).
- Once the preceding grade's races are completed, the official will lead the boys to the track, where they should form a single-file line.
- The boy will place his car on the track.
- The boy will then proceed to the finish line of the track.
- Boys are cautioned NOT TO STEP OVER THE TRACK. Stepping over the track will result in immediate disqualification of the boy.
- **STARTING:** Cars must start by gravity from a standstill, at the starting line on the track. No pushing or any other type of special help is allowed.
- Any car that leaves track on first run, there is no contest. Race is to be rerun and lanes switched. If same car leaves track on second run, contestant automatically loses.
- **FINISH:** The car whose nose is first over the finish line is the winner
- After the race is over, be sure the official at finish line punches or otherwise marks the boy's card if he experiences a loss. When a boy experiences his second (2) loss, he is eliminated from the competition and the finish line official will give him his derby car.
- Awards are handed out after the completion of each division's race.



Parents, family, and friends of contestants must stay outside of the roped off area. If unauthorized persons enter the racing area all operations will be stopped until the person or persons return to their proper area.

DERBY CAR REGISTRATION CARD INSTRUCTIONS

Below is the Pinewood Derby Registration Card. You will need to print a copy of this for EACH person that will race a Pinewood derby car at Congress (print one for each counselor racing as well).

Please print this card on **CARDSTOCK** since it will be handled a lot at Congress. Bring these cards with you to Congress already filled in with the name, church, city and grade of boy. (Fill in both sides of card) This will save a tremendous amount of time when registering your cars. **DO NOT FILL IN THE WEIGHT!!** We will weigh the cars in the derby car registration room when you arrive.

Remember, once you register your cars with the officials, **YOU CANNOT TOUCH THE CAR AGAIN UNTIL AFTER RACE TIME!!**



LOUISIANA PINEWOOD DERBY REGISTRATION EACH CAR ENTERED <u>MUST BE RACEABLE</u>		LOUISIANA PINEWOOD DERBY MASTER FILE CARD							
<div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 60px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">CAR WEIGHT</div>	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 60px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">CAR WEIGHT</div>	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 60px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">CAR NUMBER</div>							
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NAME _____		NAME _____							
CHURCH _____		CHURCH _____							
CITY _____		CITY _____							
GRADE 1 2 3 4 5 6 (CIRCLE ONE)		GRADE 1 2 3 4 5 6 (CIRCLE ONE)							
<div style="background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold; padding: 2px 10px;">MISSIONARY STAMPS</div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">1</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">2</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 40px;"></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				1	2	3			
1	2	3							
<u>YOU MUST PRESENT THIS CARD TO PICK UP YOUR CAR AT RACETIME!</u>									
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RA SOAP BOX DERBY



Soap Box Derbies began in Dayton, Ohio when a news photographer was asked to cover a race of boy-built cars in his home community. The newsman liked the idea so well that he promoted it throughout the country.

The goals for the Soap Box Derby are to teach youngsters some of the basic skills of workmanship, the spirit of "doing your best" and the perseverance of continuing the project to its end.

To make this event one that most anyone can enter, participants cannot spend more than \$200.00 on their car. Hopefully, most of the cars will be from recycled parts. If anyone purchases wheels, plywood, etc., and donates it to the cause, that amount is still considered in the \$200.00. If items denoted have been lying around (leftover from other uses), they can be considered as recycled and not included in the \$200.00.

CAR AND RACE SPECIFICATIONS

1. **WEIGHT LIMIT:** Car and boy combined cannot exceed **300 pounds for Crusader driven cars** and **200 pounds for LAD driven cars.**
2. Cars must have four wheels. The outside of the left wheel to outside of the right wheel must be 40 inches or less. Maximum wheel base is 6 feet.
3. Braking system is ESSENTIAL. Braking must be to both rear wheels simultaneously — independent braking seems to be dangerous in the speed event.
4. **CAR HEIGHT:** for every inch of axle height, the width from outside of wheel to outside of opposite wheel must be 4 inches.
5. **TO CHECK YOUR CAR:** Measure from the ground to the center of the axle. Multiply the number by 4. This gives you the minimum outside to outside width of the wheels.
6. **EXAMPLE:** The car has a 14 inch wheel which measures 7 inches from the center of the axle to the ground. 7 inches x 4 inches = 28 inches. The car must be at least 28 inches from the outside of the right wheel to the outside of the left wheel. (If the wheels are 36 inches wide, the car is well within the requirements.)
7. This rule will greatly reduce the chance of a rollover.
8. Maximum width of wheels is 40 inches. This is due to the width of the starting ramp.
9. The car must be able to start only by the force of gravity from an eight-foot ramp (sheet of plywood) elevated 16 inches (two concrete blocks) on one end. Make sure your car clears the ground enough to do this.
10. All cars must have bodywork without loose, sharp, or dangerous parts. The car must be enclosed to the point that the driver cannot fall out.
11. Occupants should wear: Helmets and shoes (no sandals). Motorcycle or batters helmets are better than bike or skating helmets.
12. Steering must be done by driver's hands. Foot steering is dangerous in the speed event.
13. Once the race begins all ballast (weight) must be permanently secured to the car.
14. No motors, etc., allowed. The car must start and continue to roll only by the force of gravity.
15. Build your car with any wheels, brake system, steering and body. For a winning car, work on style and weight distribution. Cars will be grouped by wheel size 10" and under, over 10" to 14", over 14".
16. Expenditures per car must not exceed \$200.00 the first year. An additional \$100.00 may be invested in the car the second year. Thereafter, the total amount invested in the car must be less than \$300.00. Recycled parts are encouraged. Documentation of where parts were obtained and cost should be available to the race officials on day of registration, if requested.
17. A "Medical Release Form" must be completed. Each driver must have this form when he registers at the derby.
18. **ALL SOAP BOX DRIVERS MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE DRIVING THE CAR BEFORE ENTERING THE CONGRESS RACE.**
 - Each chapter may enter **one** Soap Box Car. The car may be raced twice. Once with a LAD driver and once with a CRUSADER driver. If so desired, the wheels can be changed out to small wheels for LADS and big wheels for CRUSADERS.
 - Awards will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place winner in each division (fastest Lad, fastest Crusader) and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd most unusual.

ROYAL AMBASSADOR RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Men's Ministry of the Louisiana Baptist Convention is seeking Lad, Crusader, and Adult Leader of the year nominations. **These awards are presented each year and must be submitted at least 10 days prior to Congress.**

LAD (1ST-3RD GRADE) AND CRUSADER (4TH-6TH GRADE) OF THE YEAR:

Lads and crusaders can be nominated by RA leaders from their church. RA leaders must submit a written nomination and should address the areas listed below. Recipients of the awards will be selected based on the following:

- Weekly attendance to chapter meetings and other events their RA group holds
- Number of Bible verses memorized
- Leadership qualities based on their age level
- Character qualities observed based on the RA Pledge

LEADER OF THE YEAR:

The RA Director, Pastor, or any RA Leader can nominate someone for RA Leader of the Year. Written nominations should address the areas listed below. Recipients of the awards will be selected based on the following:

- Leadership qualities
- Shares the gospel with his group
- Willingness to assist in church RA activities
- Set an example for RA's to follow

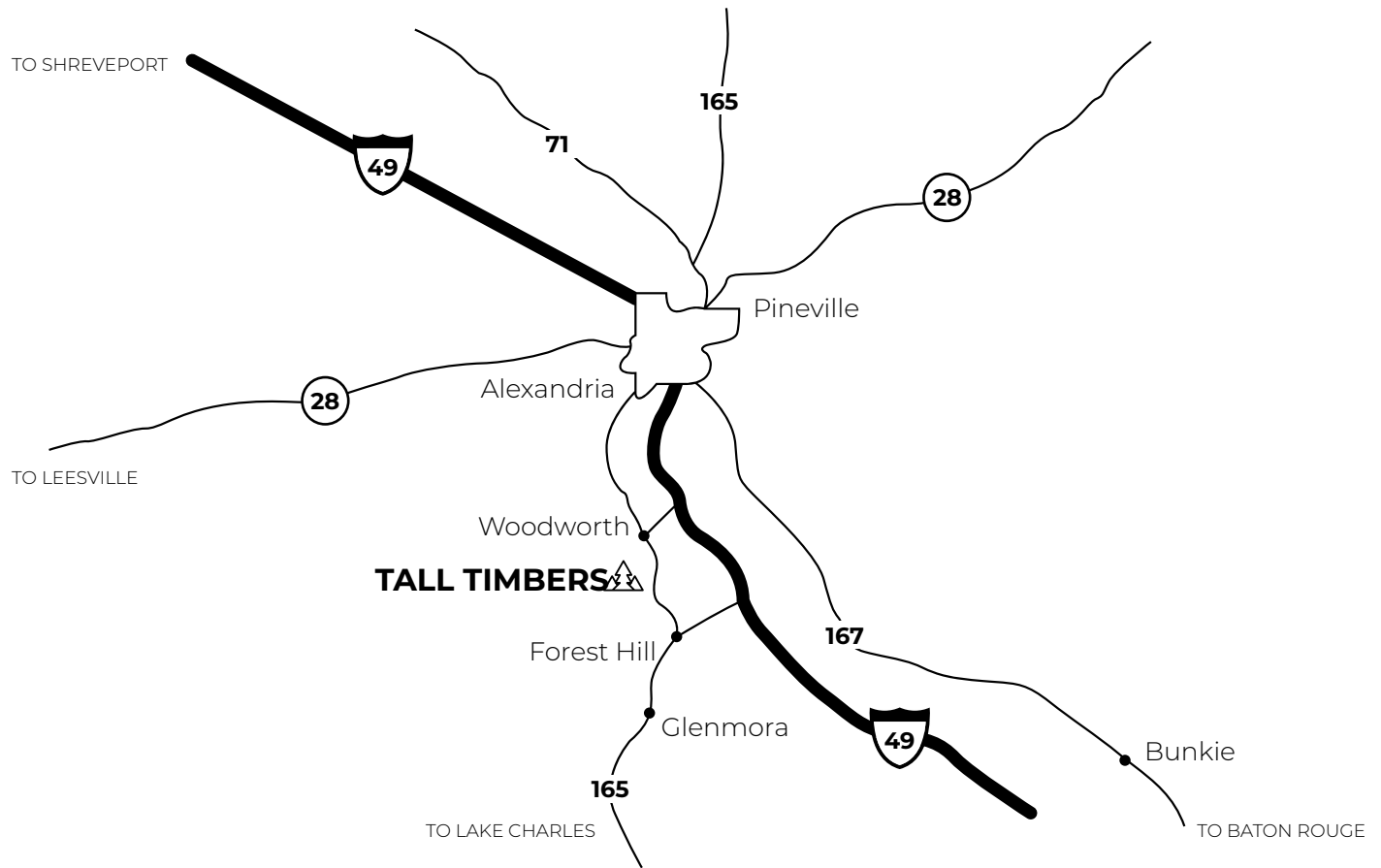
Mail Nominations or email to:

Louisiana Baptist Convention

Men's Ministry
P.O. Box 311
Alexandria, LA 71309

Email: Stan.Statham@LouisianaBaptists.org

DIRECTIONS TO TALL TIMBERS



FROM BATON ROUGE

Travel west on I-10 to I-49. Travel north on I-49. Take exit 66. At top of ramp, turn left across overpass onto Highway 112. Stay on Highway 112 for 6 ½ miles. Turn right (north) on to Highway 165. Tall Timbers is 4 miles on left.

FROM ALEXANDRIA

Travel south on Highway 165. Approximately 3 miles south of Woodworth, Tall Timbers will be on your right.

Or, drive south on I-49 to the Woodworth exit (73). Turn right at end of ramp. Travel west on Robinson Bridge Rd. for approximately 2 miles. Turn left (south) onto 165. Tall Timbers is 3 miles on the right.

FROM LAKE CHARLES

Travel east on I-10 to Highway 165. Travel north on Highway 165. Tall Timbers is 4 miles north of Forest Hill on the left side of Highway 165.

MAP OF TALL TIMBERS

