

Grandview Cub Scouts Host Successful Pinewood Derby

GRANDVIEW, WA – Grandview’s Cub Scout Pack 643 recently hosted a successful Pinewood Derby at the Grandview Community Center, bringing excitement, joy, thrills and laughter to all who attended.

The Pinewood Derby is a long-time Cub Scout activity in which the participant builds a race car from a provided kit consisting of a block of wood, wheels and axles. The participant designs and constructs a car that is within the race specifications.

“Due to a variety of reasons, the Pack had not conducted a Derby for a couple of years, but made it a priority this year, said Chuck Hultberg, the group’s Cubmaster.

The Pack invited their brother and sister Scouts BSA Troop 643 and girls-only Scouts BSA Troop 644 as well as the local Girl Scouts to join in the races.

After weighing-in the cars and checking to make sure they met race specifications, as well helping fix “mechanical” problems, the cars were entered into one of three race categories. Those categories were grades K – 5, grades 6 – 12 and adults (referred to as the “geezer category”).

Cars are raced down a slope and across a long straight stretch to cross a finish line that uses an infrared device to determine the winner for that heat. “I am sure glad we have the infrared finish line,” said Jim Davidson, Committee Chairman for the local Cub and Troop units chartered to The American Legion. “The most feared job in the Pinewood Derby is being the finish line judge,” he joked. “Parents get upset pretty easily when they think you made a mistake, but the infrared finish line has eliminated that.”

The winner of the K – 5 age division was Isabella Espinoza. Second place went to Anna Olmstead and third to Kayanna LaFever.

The winner of the 6 – 12 age division was Reed Jenks. Second place went to Grace Binfet and third to Maelynn Lehman.

The “Geezer” division race was won by Elena Olmstead. Second place went to Debra Lehman and third to David Bruinekool.

In a final Grand Champion race, Isabella Espinoza took the title. Elena Olmstead took second place and Reed Jenks came in third.

Certificates were presented to all winners by Robert Gates, Commander of Fred E. Hayes Post 57 of The American Legion. The Post charters Pack 643 and Troops 643 and 644.

“This was great fun,” said Hultberg. “We hope to make it a community event in the future.”

Grandview’s Troop 643 and Pack 643 are the oldest operating units in the community. The Troop has been around close to 100 years. The Pack, in its current form, has been around for around 40 years. The girls-only Scouts BSA Troop 644 was formed this year.