

Home & School Collaborative Pumpkin Derby

October 18, 2025

Derby Details

The Home & School Pumpkin Derby is a Ramp Race. Pumpkin Derby Cars will race 2 at a time down a ramp. The pumpkin that travels the farthest will be the winner of that heat. The winner of each individual round will move to the next round. The decision of the officials is final.

In the event both Racers cross the finish line and go to the end of the track, the Racer that reached the end first will be declared the winner of the heat.

In the event of a distance tie, the winner will be determined by the most forward point of the axle. In the event of an axle tie, the winner will be determined by the most forward point of the pumpkin.

Pumpkin Racers must complete the race on the axles. Toppling pumpkins will be disqualified.



Derby Rules

1. Craft your pumpkin racer using a single real pumpkin.
2. Insert 2 independent axles through your pumpkin and attach wheels. You may use your own supplies or purchase an axle and wheel kit at Adventure Zone, Mineola or Sorelle Farms, Mineola starting 10/1/2025.
3. Pumpkin Derby Racers cannot exceed 20 inches in width. (Track lanes are 24 inches wide.)
4. No pre-fabricated chassis of any type is permitted, i.e., skateboard, RC car, toy truck, etc.
5. No power assisted pumpkins, motors, batteries, fans, pyrotechnics, or explosives.
6. Derby pumpkins must be GRAVITY powered only.
7. The 2 axles may not be hooked together in any way.
8. Decorate your pumpkin to make it a crowd pleaser!
9. No pushing or “helping” your pumpkin racer at the starting line. Officials will keep a keen eye out for last minute shoves or any other trick.
10. NO CHEATING! Please be honest and fair. Don’t be tempted to be a cheater. The officials will have the “Cheater Beater” on hand to destroy any cheater pumpkins.
11. Derby is open to contestants of all ages. The only requirement is that you must be able to climb or be lifted to the top of the launch platform.

Best in Show:

We will be voting on which pumpkin is decorated with the most pizzazz! Voting will happen before the race. Be sure to decorate your pumpkin to win! Pumpkin must be dropped off at 10:00 a.m. for judging the day of the derby.

Pumpkin Racer Tips

- Larger pumpkins are not necessarily the fastest.
- The best way to build a fast racer is to make certain the axles are parallel so it rolls straight down the track. Many racers are eliminated because the pumpkin veers off course.
- Make certain your wheels spin freely.
- Make certain your axles are securely attached using nuts and washers.
- Make certain you have enough ground clearance.