

MEMO

TO: PC Staff
RE: 6th Annual Pumpkin Race
DATE: Monday October 14th
TIME: 5:30-7pm

READY, SET, GO!

Gather your family and friends and get your little pumpkins to The Park Centers 6th Annual Pumpkin Race. Enjoy this spectacle where creativity runs wild and cheaters never prosper. You can make your own Pumpkin Racecar and feel the thrill of competing in the fun-spirited Pumpkin Race or just join the crowd to watch the races. **Free and fun for the whole family!**

BECOME A PART OF THE TRADITION

Debuting at The Park Center in 2013, this event brings families and our community together for a celebration of creativity, ingenuity, diversity and play. This race is hailed by residents, city officials, business leaders, and as one of the best community traditions ever held!

People of all ages and abilities enjoy the thrill of participating in the race. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to enter the race as the event is much more thrilling and light-hearted than it is competitive.

RULES

Our rules are to assure fair play and inspire good old-fashioned American creativity. Design Pumpkin race-cars according to the rules to ensure that it is fair for everyone.

RULE #1 Craft your Pumpkin Race-Car using a single pumpkin.

RULE #2 Insert two independent axels through your pumpkin and attach wheels to the axels. Spice up your racer with style.

RULE #3 You may not attach your pumpkin onto a pre-fabricated chassis of any kind (skateboard, stroller, Tonka truck, etc., etc...) A.K.A. The "Anti-Stealth" Rule. If you do attach the pumpkin make sure to race it in the "Cheater" division.

RULE #4 NO EXPLOSIVES or PYROTECHNICS.

RULE #5 No pushing or "helping" your Pumpkin Racer on the starting line. Our Race Officials watch for the last minute shove, the hidden thumb flick, the early release, the remote control chassis, etc. etc.

RULE #6 NO CHEATING. Use the honor system and obey the spirit of these rules. Our Race Officials have a keen eye and the **Mallet-O-Justice** ready to bring a Cheater Pumpkin down. **Does anyone ever cheat?** In a word - Yes. However, our vigilant Race Officials make sure everyone plays by the rules - fair and square. If a Race Official determines that a Pumpkin Racecar is in violation the Official Pumpkin Race Rules it is immediately declared a cheater! The penalty for racing a cheater Pumpkin RaceCar is instant destruction by a large wooden mallet administered by the Head Race Official. It is important to note that several race entrants routinely enter "cheater" pumpkins with full knowledge that their Pumpkin RaceCar will be smashed to bits for all to see and cheer.

You may enter the race as a "Cheater".

The Legend of the Cheater Pumpkin. It was the night of all Hallows Eve. 1955 when the very 1st Murray Park Center Pumpkin Race twisted the tradition of the Pinewood Derby. They were hypnotized and spellbound by the good-spirited fun and hilarious competition!

Unfortunately, their Pumpkin Racecar "Hell Squash" suffered an unfortunate loss in its first heat. However, we took it in stride and vowed to return the next year with "the Winning" Pumpkin Racecar.

True to their word we returned with bright beams of hope in our eyes and new and improved Pumpkin Racecars with straight axels and better wheels.

After much consideration we threw our principles (you know- sense of morality, fair play, and stuff like that) out the window. We dreamt up a pumpkin Racecar design so sinister that it would surely secure them certain victory... **by cheating.**

We raced the next years Pumpkin Races with "The Cheater Pumpkin." Orchestrated cheating seemed to be the only option. In the starting line craziness the referee forgot to conduct his pre-race inspection. We were able to race our Cheater Pumpkin Racecar on to victory through several qualifying rounds and into the finals. Both kids and adults cheered uncontrollably and "The Cheater Pumpkin" soon became a favorite.

Everything was going according to plan until the referee realized "The Cheater Pumpkin" was a cheater. The children in the crowd began to chant "CHEAT-ER!" "CHEAT-ER!" and then "SMASH IT!" "SMASH IT!" Motivated by the crowd the referee smashed "The Cheater Pumpkin" into a million bits with his "Hammer of Justice". The crowd cheered as the referee rested the Hammer of Justice on his shoulder and stared coldly at the cheating pumpkin. **AND** so it goes.....

What are Pumpkin RaceCars?

Pumpkin Race-Cars are made to conform (more or less) to the Official Pumpkin Race Rules. The Official Rules state in part that a Pumpkin Race-Car must be made from a carved pumpkin with two independent axels and wheels attached. Pumpkin Race-Cars come in all different shapes, sizes and speeds. Some are elaborately decorated and ready to race. Others appear as if they can't make it down the rac- track at all. A well-crafted Pumpkin Race-Car can easily cross the finish line first, or it can catch an unfortunate break and come up short. One never knows. There are always a few mighty Pumpkin Race-Car underdogs who somehow manage to come up with a victory over a seemingly superior opponent. Despite their different appearances, all Pumpkin Race-Cars (except Cheaters!) are given an equal opportunity to participate and advance toward victory.

How to Create your own Pumpkin Race-car

Be sure that you understand how to build a "legal" Pumpkin Racecar. There are only a few simple rules to follow, so let your imagination run wild.

A bigger or heavier Pumpkin RaceCar is not a faster Pumpkin RaceCar. Rarely does the biggest win. The best way to build a fast RaceCar is to make sure the axles are *parallel* so it will roll straight down the track. Many racers are eliminated because their racer veers into the side wall before it crosses the finish line. Check to make sure they are parallel before every race.

Make sure all of your wheels spin freely! Duh!?!

Be sure your RaceCar has enough ground clearance! The race takes place on a track with bumps and dips. Be sure your RaceCar is high enough to clear them.

Have fun making your RaceCar! Pick a theme and be creative. Often, the crowd favorites are the

most fun and creative ones. If you can't win, then lose with style