



ROTARY CLUB OF WAITAKERE

Making A Difference In Our World

P O Box 104-017 Lincoln North, Auckland 0654

www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz



School Starting Steps

This project is not just about winning a trip to the finals in the USA, but provides the means for young boys and girls to learn and put into practise a completely new range of skills. The competition is considered to be a primer for motor sport racing and as such is supported by NASCAR in the USA.

A successful team often has:

The Principal	To support it
The Secretary	To promote it
The Teacher	To run it
Parents	To do the work

- First a team needs to be assembled, usually under the guidance of a teacher, parent help or caretaker.
- Four drivers need to be chosen and at least 4 back up drivers / crew. Ages and weight limits can be found on the AASBD website www.aasbd.com. Some intermediate schools choose their drivers from Year 8 and their support crew from Year 7 for continuity in the following year but this is up to each individual school.
- There needs to be access to a car with a trailer or people mover to transport the derby car to the event, scrutineering and practice sessions.
- The derby cars are all identical "stock cars" with no special tools required for assembly.
- This event is suitable for girls and boys.
- The finished cars are completed to a high safety standard with safety helmets provided

I have seen some schools have a competition to see who takes part and the finished decorated cars usually hold pride of place in school foyers and in sponsors' showrooms.

- The first requirement of participants is to use the Internet to download the rules and assembly instructions.
- An assembly DVD is provided in the kitset.
- School art / computer graphics classes get involved with the cars' decorations in conjunction with the sponsor.
- Teams assemble the kitset allocated - sometimes at a parent's home - sometimes as part of a school lesson.
- The rules and instructions are very comprehensive and most queries can be handled with a little parent guidance or by Internet correspondence.
- Regular newsletters are sent out by email to all involved to keep everyone "up with the play".

The time frame for the whole event is very short:

- Final teams selection by mid February
- Cars assembled by first week in March
- Practice sessions from then till race day
- Scrutineering and drivers safety briefing on a Thursday 10 days before the Derby

Meeting every Wednesday evening. 6.00pm – 8.00 pm
Starling Park Sports Club 34 Glen Road, Ranui
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- Race day usually on the third Sunday of March
- The winners of the local event in Westgate go on to finals on the North Shore soon after

The Westgate event starts at 9.00 am through to about 3pm with School stalls, entertainment, rides, displays, go kart exhibition etc

There are lots of prizes for a range of achievements by teams, schools, cheerleaders etc with biggest prize going to the Most Impressive School.

Help with sponsorship would be appreciated and often parents are keen to be involved in this way. The cost to sponsor a whole car is \$3000 plus GST and is often split up between several sponsors. Rotary will arrange sponsorship if no one from the school community comes forward.

- The kitset and spares are provided by Rotary funded by The Trusts Community Foundation.
- Schools and sponsors are expected to provide sponsor's signage and painting of the car
- Rotary provides the numbers and official sponsor logos
- Mentors are available if help is needed

This event is our club's main fundraiser for the year. All proceeds go to Rotary approved local and international projects with the emphasis on Waitakere Youth projects. In the past our club has supported:

- The Improving Schools Attendance Programme (supplying all their vehicles)
- The Bethels Beach Surf Patrol training boat
- Outward Bound
- Spirit of Adventure
- Youth Enterprise Scheme
- Police Blue Light projects
- And many other projects within our community

If a school wishes our Derby Director can attend a school meeting and do a small presentation of the project to any group who is interested.

Videos, photos and articles on the event are available on our website www.soapboxderby.co.nz and also on DVD if required.

Kerry McMillan
Rotary Club of Waitakere City
Derby Director

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