

Youths compete in Pine Car Derby in Reading

Saturday November 5, 2016 12:01 AM

Reading Eagle

READING, PA

With the intensity of race drivers competing in Reading's Duryea Hillclimb, scores of youngsters took part in the annual Pine Car Derby at the Third & Spruce Recreation Center in Reading.

The Reading Recreation Commission, a nonprofit partnership between the city and the Reading School District, organized the Friday event in the center's gymnasium.

Heather Boyer, the program supervisor, said the derby kicks off the center's after-school program, which provides academic and recreational activities.

Kids in the Boys Adventure Club fashion race cars and test their skills against competitors on a 22 1/2-foot inclined raceway.

About 40 boys from Third & Spruce and 11th & Pike recreation centers participated in the derby, said Camille Stock, the commission's chief development officer.

The boys were coached by Jeremy Lebo of Third & Spruce and Adonis Fleming of 11th & Pike. The program is similar to the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby in which boys create race cars from a block of wood, plastic wheels and metal axles.

"Building a race car gives boys a chance to use their imagination," Boyer said, noting the popularity of the race. "They build something, and they get a sense of satisfaction from completing it."

The Blue Mountain Region chapter of the Sports Car Club of America sponsors the Pine Car Derby. The chapter, which sponsors the Duryea and Pagoda hillclimbs in Reading, also provided officials, the track and funds to support the derby.

Rich Rock, one of the sports car club volunteers, said the derby provides a positive experience for boys who participate.

PHOTO GALLERY - **Reading Eagle: Harold Hoch**



Reading Eagle: Harold Hoch | The SCCA Blue Mountain Region car club sponsors the Pine Car Derby annually at the Third and Spruce Recreation Center. Jose Fabre, 9, places his entry on the track Friday.



Reading Eagle: Harold Hoch | The SCCA Blue Mountain Region car club sponsors the Pine Car Derby annually at the Third and Spruce Recreation Center Friday. The feel of a racing environment was provided with the addition of flags and banners.



Reading Eagle: Harold Hoch | The SCCA Blue Mountain Region car club sponsors the Pine Car Derby annually at the Third and Spruce Recreation Center. SCCA racer Merlin Miller of Ontelaunee Township served as the starter for the races. Pine Car Derby Photo by Harold Hoch 11/4/16



Reading Eagle: Harold Hoch | The SCCA Blue Mountain Region car club sponsors the Pine Car Derby annually at the Third and Spruce Recreation Center Friday. The children react to the finish of their cars.