



Pumpkin Derby

At the Woodbury Fall Fest

What's a Pumpkin Derby?

A fun-spirited event like no other! The highlight of the Pumpkin Derby is a unique, side-by-side race featuring handcrafted, decorated Pumpkin Racers in a funky, hilarious, suspenseful, and dramatic display of American ingenuity. Excitement builds as Pumpkin Racer contestants battle head-to-head for the coveted Pumpkin Derby Championship Trophy. We also award a prize for Best Decoration and Design.

What's a Pumpkin Racer?

Pumpkin Racers are made to conform (more or less) to the Phoenixville Pumpkin Derby Rules. The Official Rules state in part that a Pumpkin Racer must be made from one pumpkin or fall gourd with independent axles and wheels attached. Pumpkin Racers 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 race track at all. A well-crafted Pumpkin Racer 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 Racer underdogs who somehow manage to come up with a victory over a seemingly superior opponent. Despite their different appearances, all Pumpkin Racers (except Cheaters!) are given an equal opportunity to participate and advance toward victory.

Does Anyone Ever Cheat?

In two words – **OH YEAH!** However, our vigilant Race Officials make sure everyone plays by the rules – fair and square. If a Race Official determines that a Pumpkin Racer is in violation of the Pumpkin Derby Rules, it is immediately declared a cheater! The penalty for entering a Cheater Pumpkin Racer is 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 Racer will be smashed to bits for all to see and cheer. The Head Race Official will not smash a person's Pumpkin Racer without their permission. All Cheater Pumpkin Racers will be put off to the side and will participate in a Cheater Race before facing destruction.



Who, What, When?

The Pumpkin Derby is for youth and adults. Pumpkin cars may be built by individuals or groups – a family, a club, a troop, a class etc. Due to limited space, only 1 Pumpkin Racer entry per person. Children under 16 should be assisted and registered by an adult.

The derby will be held **on Main Street** near St. Theresa's Church, in Woodbury, CT with races **starting at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 27th**. Contestants should **Check-in between 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm** at the Pumpkin Derby Information Table. Pumpkin derby cars must be fully assembled and ready to race at check-in.

REGISTRATION:

Registration forms available online at the Town Website (www.woodburyct.org) or on Race Day at the Pumpkin Derby Information Table– **FREE**.

All entrants must check-in on race day at the Pumpkin Derby Information Table no later than 3:30 pm with your completed Pumpkin Racer.

Be sure to give your Pumpkin Racer a creative Title/Name.

DECORATION & DESIGN JUDGING:

Pumpkin Racers competing for the Best Decoration and Design category will be displayed prior to the race from **2:30 – 3:30 pm** to be judged based on design, detail, creativity, and originality.

Pumpkin Derby cars must be made from 1 pumpkin or fall gourd.



Official Pumpkin Race Rules



The Official Pumpkin Race Rules have been established to promote fair play and inspire good old-fashioned American Ingenuity.

All Pumpkin Racers must design and race their Pumpkin Races according to these few important rules to ensure that the Pumpkin Race is fun and 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.
- **RULE #4** NO EXPLOSIVES or PYROTECHNICS.
- **RULE #5** No pushing or "helping" your Pumpkin Racer on the starting line. Our Race Officials have seen it all - the last minute shove, the hidden thumb flick, the early release, the remote control chassis, etc. etc. See Rule #6.

RULE #6 NO CHEATING. Feel great about being honest and fair. Don't be tempted to be a Cheater Pumpkin. Use the honor system and obey the spirit of these rules. Our Race Officials will have a keen eye and the Mallet-O-Justice ready to bring a Cheater Pumpkin down.