

Seventh Annual Pinewood Derby at Cerebral Palsy of Westchester

April 12, 2019, Rye Brook, NY – Adaptive Boy Scout Troop 535 and Girl Scout Troop 1902 participated in their seventh annual Pinewood Derby at Cerebral Palsy of Westchester (CPW) on April 5, 2019. The event was sponsored by the Mid-Westchester Elks. Joining millions of Scouts across the country over the past weeks, the Scouts built, equipped and decorated their cars to be “fast and furious” and ready to race on an official Pinewood Derby Track. On competition day, three top winners from each troop were chosen, with the Boy Scouts winning the grand prize. Onlookers included students from CPW’s BRIDGE School, parents, staff, and day program participants. Everyone was excited to see who would win and the racers were thrilled with their trophies.

The first Pinewood Derby®, held in 1953 and publicized in Boys' Life in 1954, was an instant and enduring hit. The magazine outlined the rules and specifications for the track and car, which featured "four wheels, four nails, and three blocks of wood." The rules of the very first race stated: "The Derby is run in heats - two to four cars starting by gravity from a standstill on a track and run down a ramp to a finish line unaided. The track is an inclined ramp with wood strips down the center to guide the cars." The cars still roll that way today.

About CPW’s Adaptive Boy and Girl Scout Troops: Boy Scout Troop No. 535 was established in 2010 by Mid-Westchester Elks member Bob Sollazzo with youth from The BRIDGE School of Cerebral Palsy of Westchester. Shortly after, Girl Scout Troop No. 1902 was formed. The program allows youth with developmental disabilities of all kinds to participate in scouting programs and let them feel and do things like any young man or woman would do in scouting. The scouts are encouraged to explore and to be bold and adventurous. Current Troop Leaders include Jay Singer and Dana Fiorentino (Boy Scouts), and Rachel Mandell (Girl Scouts).

The Mid-Westchester Elks Lodge No. 535 was organized in 2009 and meets at the American Legion Post No. 1097 in Armonk, NY. For a number of years, Lodge No. 535 has adopted CPW as their major community project, including playing a formative and leadership role in CPW’s adaptive boy and girl scout troops. All over the world, Elks’ lodges promote neighbors coming together, families sharing meals, and helping children grow up. Elks invest in their communities through programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free, meet the needs of today’s veterans, and improve the quality of life.



Scout Leader Dana Fiorentino explaining the rules of the Pinewood Derby at Cerebral Palsy of Westchester.



CPW's Pinewood Derby 2019 Grand Prize Winners, standing with organizer Jay Singer of the Mid-Westchester Elks.



Girl Scout First Place Winner, with Scout Leader Rachel