

1965 All-American Soap Box Derby

Clinic Guide



clinics keep entrants building

For several reasons, many boys who enter their Soap Box Derby never compete on race day. They either feel the job is too difficult; lack the proper tools, guidance, encouragement or stimulation; or do not have a place to build their racers. The Soap Box Derby Clinic is an effective way to solve these problems and to help more boys complete their racers.

Essentially, the clinic is a classroom where Derby entrants, their friends and their parents learn about the Derby, the official rules and the construction of Soap Box Derby racers. Step by step, the boys are shown how to build their own gravity-propelled cars. They are taught wood-working techniques and the correct use of tools. Through the clinic, Derby interest is kept high during the most trying time of all—the construction phase.

With properly run Soap Box Derby Clinics as a part of your local Derby, your city is well on the way to having a high percentage of competing entrants, fewer disappointments and a far more successful race.

clinic committee

The Clinic Committee is responsible for the significant job of planning, staffing and operating all Soap Box Derby Clinics. The Chairman of the Clinic Committee should select his personnel with an eye toward manual arts aptitudes and an ability to work easily with groups of inquisitive and questioning Derby entrants.

Times, dates and locations for all clinics will be set by the Clinic Committee. This information should be given immediately to the Promotion Committee so that each clinic session receives the proper amount of publicity to assure strong attendance. This year a window easel is being supplied to further promote your clinics.

All members of the Clinic Committee must be *thoroughly* familiar with the official 1965 Soap Box Derby rules and be prepared to answer boys' questions about them. Request a member of the Inspection Committee to be on hand during all clinic sessions to clear up any questions about the rules that might arise. *All 1965 rule revisions must be carefully reviewed at every clinic session. Special attention should be given to existing racers to assure they coincide with the new rules.*

personal contact subcommittee

A new clinic subcommittee headed by the Director of Personal Contacts will follow the individual progress of the boys, calling on them in their homes to offer advice and encouragement. The suggested procedure is to have one subcommittee member assigned to four or five boys, checking on their cars at least five times during the building period. This follow-up program is designed to reduce the number of Derby dropouts.

clinic kit

In recognizing the growing need for clinics, the All-American Soap Box Derby, Inc., has developed a Clinic Kit which makes it easy to produce an informative and helpful program. The kit contains slidefilms designed to stimulate enthusiasm and show boys how to build a qualifying racer.

No special mechanical knowledge is needed to set up a clinic program around these films.

The slidefilms illustrate such construction steps as the layout of the floorboard, rigging of steering and brakes, mounting bulkheads and axles, body construction and many other elements. Also included are detailed instructions for organizing, promoting and conducting comprehensive Derby clinics based on the use of the kit's slidefilms.

The official Soap Box Derby Clinic Kit is available without charge, on a loan basis, to all Derby Directors who definitely plan to have their Clinic Committee hold clinics.

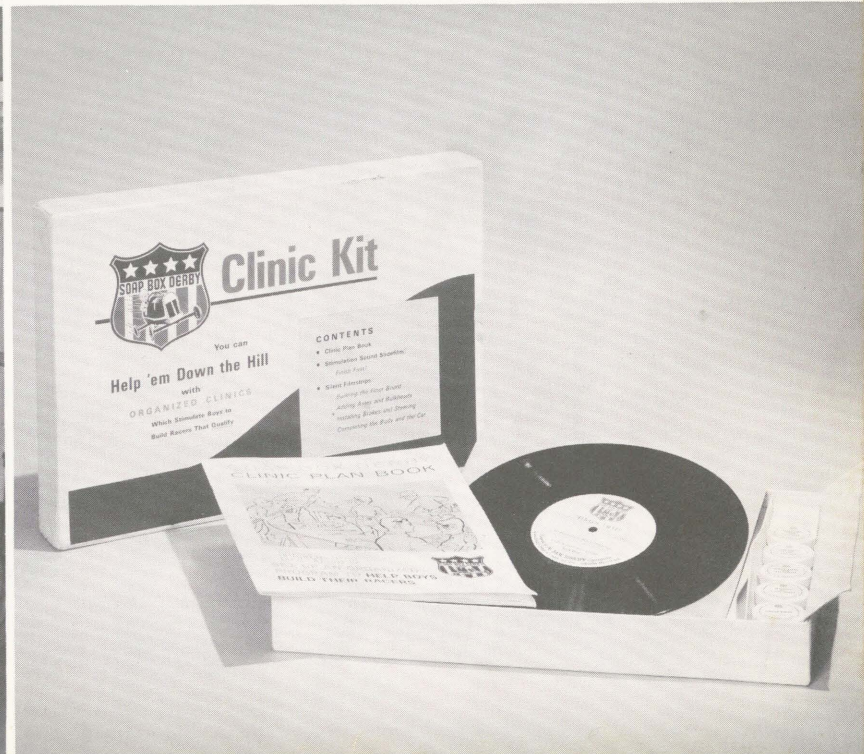
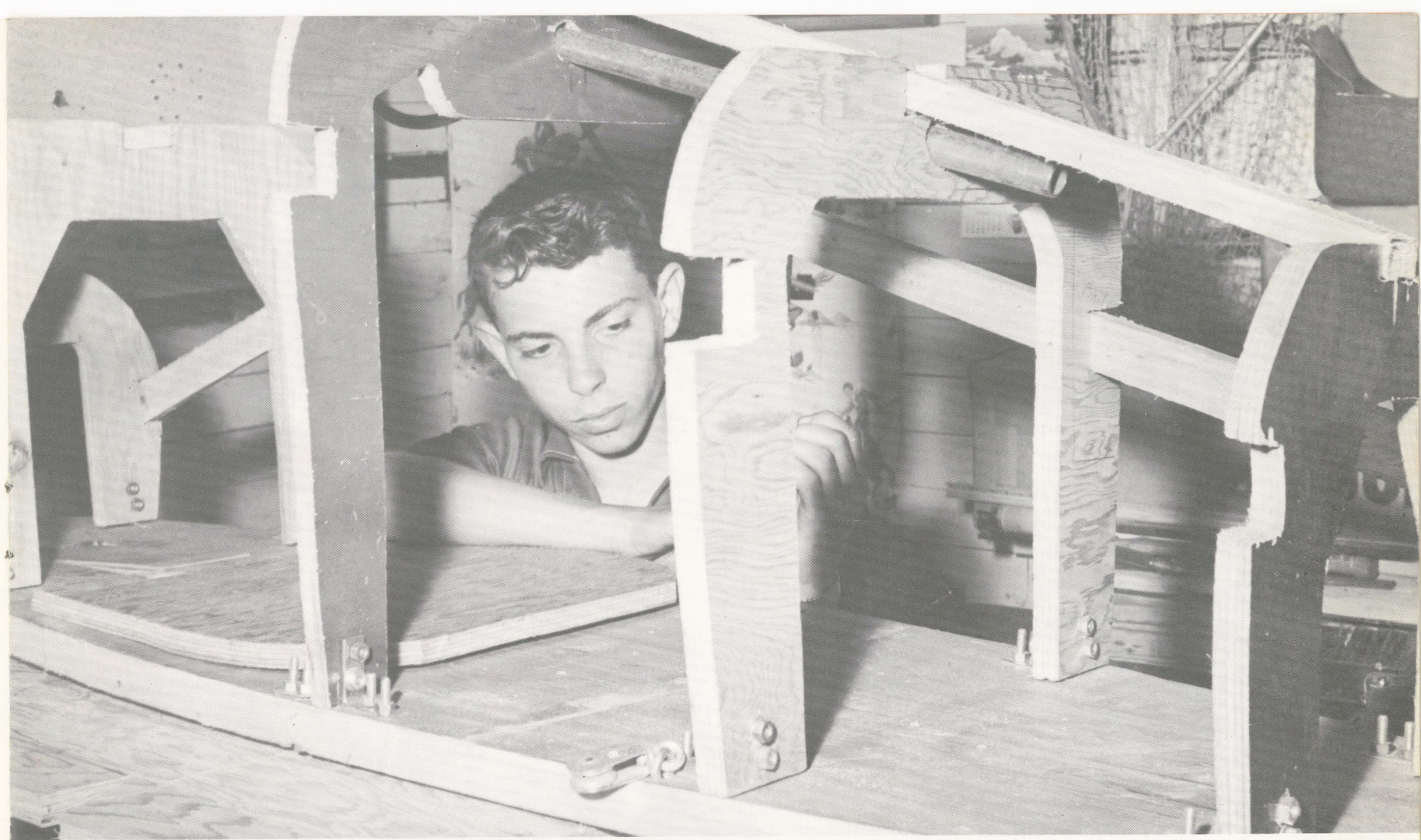
Because the supply is limited, orders will be filled on the basis of date received.

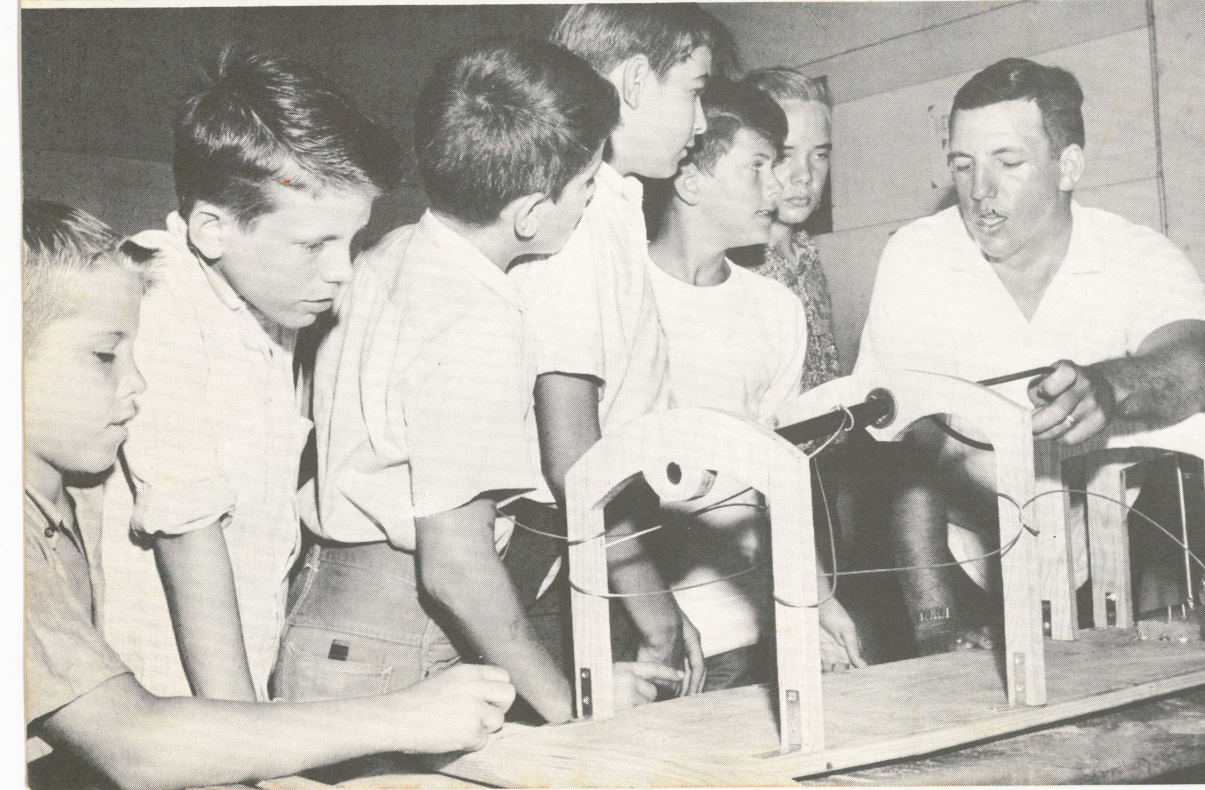
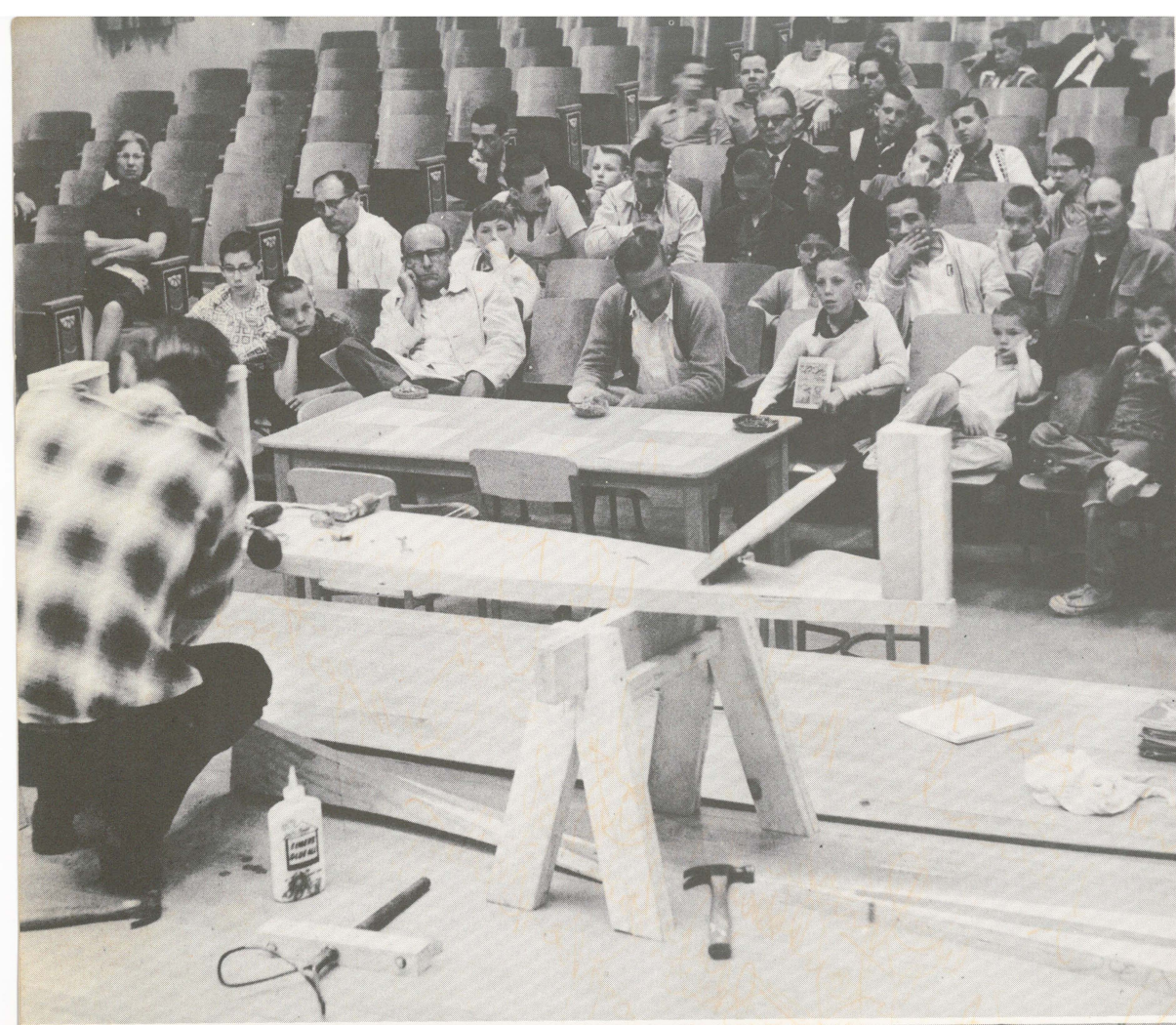
To order your Soap Box Derby Clinic Kit, send your request to: All-American Soap Box Derby, Inc., General Motors Building, Detroit, Michigan 48202.

*Upper: Many boys need the added assistance offered at clinics.
Wausau, Wisconsin.*

*Right: Frequent committee meetings mean a well run clinic.
Washington, D.C.*

Far right: Clinic Kit can be used without special skills.





suggested clinic schedule

In using the Soap Box Derby Clinic Kit, the number of clinics can vary from one to as many as five or six. The suggested number of clinics is four. These should be spread out over at least one month's time, preferably six weeks so the boys will have time to complete the work covered by one clinic before attending the next one. It is important that the series of clinics be planned and announced well in advance of their actual date. Sending announcement postcards is an effective way to remind boys of upcoming clinics. Be sure that your clinic program is completed at least one month before your scheduled race. This gives boys time to make any changes in their racers.

1st clinic

Go all out to promote your first clinic. A good turnout will assure strong and steady attendance for the remainder of the clinic series. Door prizes (usually model kits or woodworking tools), soft drinks, sandwiches, cookies and favors will help draw entrants to this, the initial and most important of your clinics. The date and time for the first clinic might be best selected if all entrants were asked, when they sign up, what day and time would be most suitable for them to attend clinic sessions.

Begin the first session with the sound slidefilm *Finish First* to impress the boys with the importance of starting right. Then follow up with the first construction slidefilm *Building the Floorboard*.

2nd clinic

Continue all methods of promotion used to gain attendance for the first clinic. Lead off the instruction with a review of

the opening clinic to help set the stage for the second session pertaining to axles and bulkheads.

By this time, a question and answer period will be needed to help the boys with problems on car construction. Remember, your committee **MUST** know the rules. An error in rule interpretation at this stage may cost a boy his right to race.

3rd clinic

Information covered by the third clinic slidefilm deals with the installation of steering and braking systems. These must be installed correctly and safely. Stress the need for safe steering and braking to all the boys. Be prepared for an extended question and answer period because the boys' enthusiasm will be building rapidly as their cars take shape. Here again, careful study of the 1965 Rule Book will be valuable to you and the boys.

4th clinic

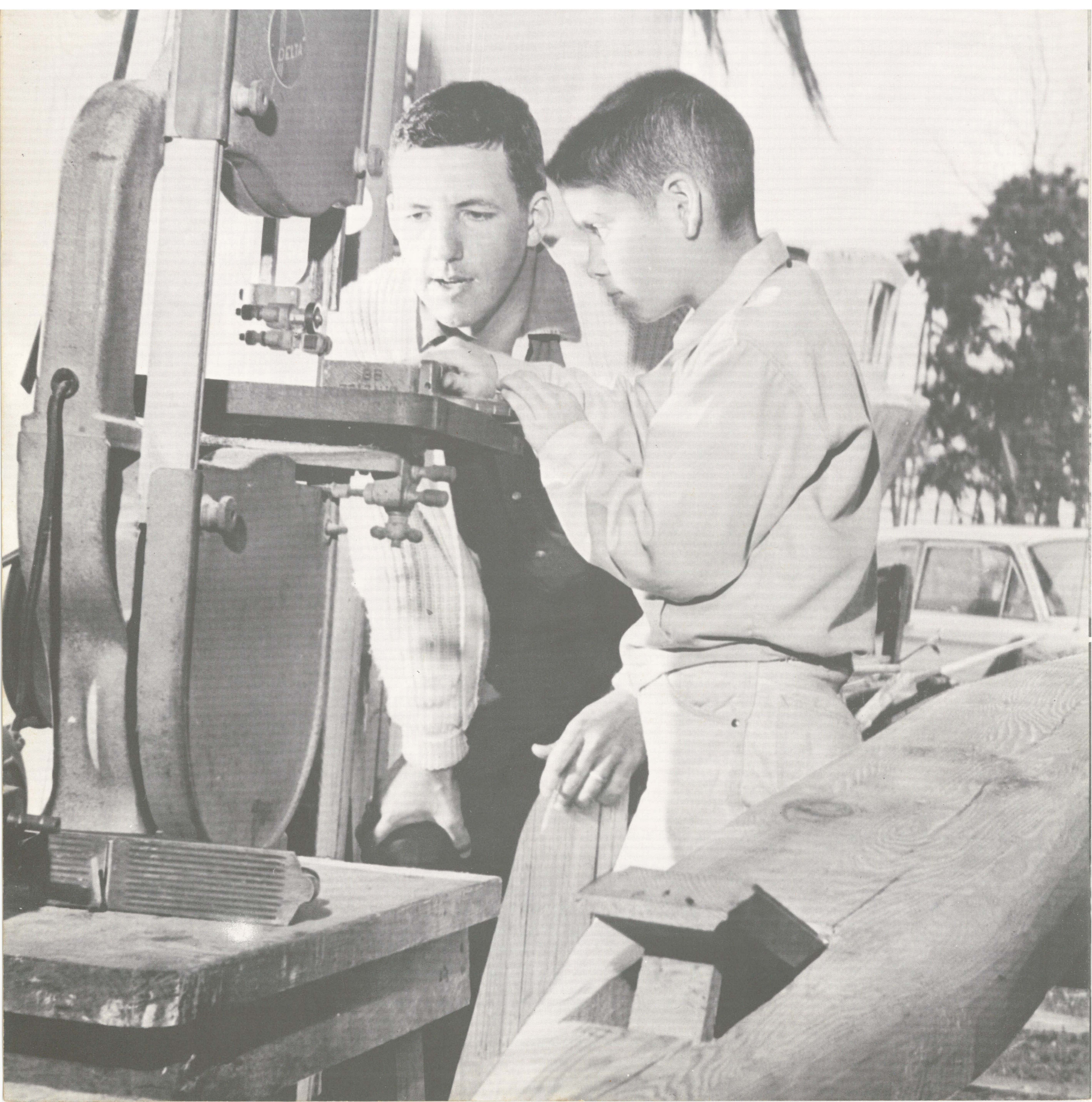
This should be the final clinic session, covering the completion of the car. The awarding of prizes for the best attendance during the clinic program should be the finale. After an instruction and question and answer period, have a member of the Inspection Committee give a talk on the importance of having followed the rules. Then inform the boys when final inspection will be held. Stress the need for safety and fair play. Wish them the best of luck in the race and thank them for having attended the clinics.

Upper left: The first clinic covers building the floorboard.
Dallas, Texas.

Upper right: Second clinic teaches axle and bulkhead construction.
Omaha, Nebraska.

Lower left: Third clinic includes steering and braking system coverage.
St. Petersburg, Florida.

Lower right: Fourth clinic should put boys well on the way to completing their racers.
Wausau, Wisconsin.



committee summary

The Clinic Committee is an integral part of every Derby. It helps to insure that a large number of entrants will be at the starting line on Derby Day. As Chairman of the Clinic Committee, strive to produce a lively, interesting series of clinics for your local Derby. Your clinics can be a lot of fun . . . for both the boys and your committee. And the fruits of your clinic program will be seen on race day when the boys come down the hill.

Have a member of the Inspection Committee who is thoroughly familiar with the rules attend all clinics. He should check all racers at different stages of construction to make sure they are built according to the rules. This will prevent any need for last-minute revisions and repairs. *Also, impress on boys using previously built racers the necessity of checking 1965 rules, especially the revisions.*

Impress upon your committee personnel that they, too, must know the rules as stated in the Official 1965 Soap Box Derby Rule Book. Racers which do not qualify according to the official rules will not be allowed in the local Soap Box Derby or the All-American. Careful inspection of the racers during construction as well as after completion will keep the boys from experiencing the disappointment of being disqualified.

*Men with woodworking skills make the best clinic instructors.
St. Petersburg, Florida.*

clinic checklist

1. Have you ordered the Official Soap Box Derby Clinic Kit?
2. Did you select your committee members with the job and the boys in mind? (A manual arts instructor would be helpful.)
3. Has the Clinic Committee's function been explained to each member of your committee?
4. Have you defined each committee member's area of authority and responsibility?
5. Have the dates, times and places of your clinics been selected?
6. Is a member of the Inspection Committee scheduled to attend each clinic session?
7. Has the Promotion Committee been advised of your clinic plans, allowing plenty of time for advance publicity?
8. Did you notify your guests, speakers and other specialized people of your needs and requirements?
9. Have you arranged for door prizes, refreshments and gifts?
10. Are all tools and materials needed during clinics on hand, including projector and screen?
11. Are you holding rehearsals before each clinic to insure that the presentation will be polished?
12. Are your instructors enthusiastic during clinic presentations?
13. Are instructors stressing safety during each clinic?

14. Are all questions being answered to the boys' satisfaction?

15. Are the date, time and place of the next clinic announced at the end of each clinic session?

16. Have you assigned an able man as Director of Personal Contacts?

organization chart

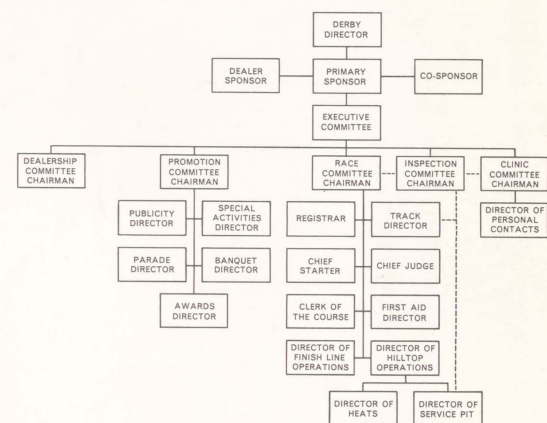


table of contents

clinics keep entrants building.....	page 2
clinic committee.....	page 2
personal contact subcommittee.....	page 2
clinic kit.....	page 2
suggested clinic schedule.....	page 5
committee summary.....	page 7
clinic checklist.....	page 7

