

Wacky Science: Balloon Powered Race Car



Supplies Needed:

- Tape
- wheels (CDs, bottlecaps, other round objects)
- axles (wooden skewers, pencils, straws, etc),
- Straws, balloons, rubber bands, duct tape, scissors, binder clips, prize
- Open floor space for campers to test out their Balloon Powered Race Cars

Set Up:

- Each table will have a few campers and the supplies listed above. Campers are free to use any and all supplies they choose.
- Create a “racetrack” in the open space using masking tape by making two long lines of tape with a finish line

Instructions:

- Take a moment to welcome campers to the Build and Design Portion of the Raceway!
- Explain to them that the goal is to design, construct, and build a Balloon Powered Race Car using the items at their table. The car that goes the furthest will win a special surprise!
- Give the Campers 20 minutes to use the supplies to construct their Balloon Powered Car.
- In order to construct the “balloon engine”, Campers will unscrew the cap of the water bottle, place a straw through the opening and a hole cut in to the middle of a side of the bottle, then tape the balloon opening around the straw.
- When they are ready to “drive” their constructed Balloon Powered Car, the campers will blow up the balloon using the straw.
- Once all of the Balloon Powered Cars are built, create a fun race atmosphere and one by one have the Campers launch their car down the racetrack.

Wacky Science: Balloon Powered Race Car



- Award the car and the camper that travels the furthest with a special prize!
- To finish, ask Campers what the following questions to get them thinking how they could have improved their Car:
 - What would you have done differently to your car?
 - Why do you think your car went as far/not as far as it did?
 - Do you think a lighter car or heavier car would go further?

