

Spring Fling

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Spring is a great time to have an event at the park. This could feature father/son competition or emphasize families as spectators. If you can get a set of portable bleachers, this really helps make this a special event.

Here is a typical schedule for a Spring Fling competition:
2 groups, 1-3rd graders, 4-6th graders:

1-3rd Graders:

Group	7pm	7:15	7:30	7:45
1st grade	slippery slide	egg toss	sling shots	3-pt shoot out I
2nd grade	3-pt shoot out I	slippery slide	egg toss	sling shots
3rd grade	sling shots	3-pt shoot out I	slippery slide	egg toss

4-6th Graders:

Group	7pm	7:15	7:30	7:45
4th grade	slippery slide	egg toss	sling shots	3-pt shoot out I
5th grade	3-pt shoot out	slippery slide	egg toss	sling shots
6th grade	sling shots	3-pt shoot out I	slippery slide	egg toss

Notice that the activities for the younger boys are simpler and easier. It is good to have some (or most) of the activities different for each group as the older boys like to think of themselves as 'grown up'. So challenge them!

In the aforementioned schedule, the two groups (1-3rd, 4-6th) are completely separated. This works well for large groups, but requires lots of adult help (Hint: this is often a good time to find new leaders: ask some men to come run an event and see how they enjoy it. If they enjoyed it, they might be candidates for becoming a leader in your clubs).

Of course, if you have a small group (ex. 8 boys, grades 1-6th) then the following schedule would be better suited to your needs:

Group	7pm	7:15	7:30	7:45
1-3rd grade	3-pt shoot out	slippery slide	egg toss	sling shots I
4-6th grade	sling shots	3-pt shoot out	slippery slide	egg toss

Generally, we have someone with each division (ex. 1-3rd, 4-6th) that keeps track of the time and blows an air horn or whistle about 2 mins before the event is scheduled to be finished, then blow the air horn three times when the boys need to move to their new event.

Ties need to be avoided. There is not enough time to hold up a whole group while you let 2 boys shoot again (for example). Often, you can take their second best score (if they tried 2 or more times) and use it to break the tie. Or you can compare their best arrow (nearest to the bull's eye), etc. If all else fails, just toss a coin. This is not a million dollar affair. Just treat it as a game.

Awards: I like to give outdoor type things: pocketknife, compass, magnifying glass, several kinds of flashlights, etc. (just go to WalMart and look in the camping section - there are lots of neat gadgets, mostly for less than \$5). A really neat way to give these awards is to announce 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Then have 4 different items on the table (ex. compass, knife, flashlight, and fishing lure). Give the 1st place winner his choice of any of the 4 items. Then the second place finisher gets to choose from the 3 remaining items, and the 3rd place finisher chooses from the remaining 2 items. The advantage of this system is that each has a choice and it is difficult to predict which of the items is most desirable. For example, the 1st place finisher may already have a good pocketknife, but he really wants the compass. Quietly pick up the 4th (unclaimed) item and use it next year.



Here is a list of activities that I have done in the spring:

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| BB gun shooting | Sack races |
| Basketball shooting - 3pt. shoot out | 3-Legged races |
| Darts/Balloons | Egg toss |
| Archery | Soccer golf, use boxes on side for 'holes' |
| Sling shots | Slippery slide (water) |
| Frisbee golf, score tosses as strokes | Water pistol - candle shooting |
| Stomp rockets (get at hobby store) | Egg on spoon races |
| Cracker chew, and then whistle, race | Washer toss into holes in the ground |
| Water carry relay using cups to fill a bucket | Water balloons |
| Blindfolded race using ropes between trees | Horseshoe throwing |