

Kids, parents race to build relationships

■ Participants race self-built cars on computerized track

By Signal Staff

More than 150 participants ages 5 to 9 and their parents pitted their self-built racing cars against each other on a computerized track at the Santa Clarita YMCA Pinewood Derby.

The cars picked up speed as they sped down the four-lane track past timing devices that determined first-, second- and third-place racers Jan. 25 at Saugus High School.

"While the computer decides who wins the race," said Jane S. Albin, executive-director of the Santa Clarita Valley Family YMCA, "each of the kids who are participating are winners."

William Yumbar won the kindergarten division, Ellie Likes won the first-grade division, Natalia Shapiro won the second-grade division, Bryce Fenenbock won the third-grade division, and Cameron Likes won the open-class division.

Natalia Shapiro's car won the

prize for the fastest car overall.

The Pinewood Derby demonstrates the effectiveness of Y-Guides, or groups of parent-child pairs, Albin said.

The Y-Guide program encourages parents and their school-aged children to strengthen their relationships through activities that are challenging and enjoyable, such as volunteering in the community, attending weekend campouts and other community-driven events, Albin said.

YMCA's programs strive to develop strong kids, strong families and a strong community. It offers school-age childcare, parent-child programs, swim lessons, activities for seniors, and camping.

The YMCA phone number is (661) 253-3593.

Courtesy Photo

James Haight watches intently as Brady Ballentine perfectly places the cars on the track at the Santa Clarita YMCA Pinewood Derby on Jan. 25 at Saugus High School.

