



CRESCENT VALLEY ROBOTICS TEAM 955

CORVALLIS, OREGON

Car wash notes from July 2011

TO DO:

- **Late spring:** Contact AutoZone and reserve 2 or 3 Saturdays from 10-4. Ideally, the dates would be at least 3 weeks apart.
- **2-3 weeks before each car wash:**
 - Send an e-mail to all team members and parents asking for volunteers for time slots. You will need at least 3 parents and 12 students per time slot; This will make 3 teams and allow for 3 cars to be washed at a time, and 3 people out with signs. Less students would allow for 2 cars to be washed at a time, or less signs out.
 - Call parents directly to solicit volunteers. This is an easy thing for new or inexperienced parents to do, and gets the parent interacting with the students and other parents.
 - Direct a student leader to call some of the incoming freshman or other 'less visible' students to come and help out.
 - Make 3-4 signs that say "CAR WASH CV Robotics" in big bold letters. If a parent works at HP, these can be printed at the Oasis given one week notice.
 - Make or print a large banner that says "Thanks for supporting CV Robotics" to put on the wall so people know who they are supporting
 - Get ~75 brochures to give to customers as they pay us.
- **1 week before each car wash:**
 - Send a reminder, and ask for additional volunteers to fill slots
 - Send out an announcement email to all students, alumni, parents, etc. announcing the car wash. Mention any future dates as well. Encourage everyone to forward the e-mail to family and friends.
 - Solicit people to bring the items below. Keep track of who promises to bring each item to be sure it's all covered. Spares are encouraged.
- **2 days before car wash:** remind people to bring the items they committed to bring, each person should bring a water bottle and sunscreen. Solicit or arrange to borrow any additional items that may be needed. With a bit of planning, the only car wash item that will need to be purchased will be soap.
- **Day of the car wash:** Adults should decide on how to wash the cars (windows first, from the top down, etc) and explain it to the students on their team. Many students have never washed a car before, and will need training.
- **Note:** Kids and adults that are covering 2 shifts (going from 10 am to 2 pm) will need lunch; limit it to this group only to keep expenses down. Cirello's pizza is handy. All other kids should either eat after they leave at noon (the 10-12 shift), or before they start at noon (the 12-2 shift).

TO BRING:

- 4-5 large buckets (You can buy 5 gallon buckets from Osborn pretty cheaply)
- 12 or more washing rag or, mitts
- 6 large towels for drying windows
- 2 scrub brushes for washing wheels
- 1-2 Long-handled brushes for washing roofs
- 1-2 Footstools
- 2-3 garden hoses of 25 feet or more with hand sprayers
- 2 extra hand sprayers
- 1 large bottle of car washing soap (purchase this, approx \$4-5)
- Two Y-adapters so that we can run multiple (3?) garden hoses.
- Banner/poster to put up on the brick wall that says "Thanks for supporting the CV Robotics Team"
- Brochures about Robotics to hand to customers when we collect the money.
- Large potable water jug for ice water
- Cash box – to be staffed by a parent at all times.
- Nice to have: canopy (staked down) and 4-5 chairs for customers to sit in the shade. Perhaps the parent with the cash box can sit there and talk up robotics. Have some brochures available as well (with a paper weight!).

NOTES

- Organize teams of 1 adult and 3-4 students for each car; Adult rinses and does quality control.
- 2-3 students should be out with signs at all times.
- Do not accept bottles and cans in lieu of money; they are a pain to deal with after a long hot day.
- Two adults should count money together.

Volunteers

Ideally, you need a minimum of 3 adults and 12 students per time slot. This breaks down as follows:

- 3 students are out waving signs
- 3 teams, each consisting of 1 adult + 3 students

Each team will work together to wash one car. Strive to staff for 3 teams; this will allow for more cars to get washed during rush times (early morning, after lunch), customers won't leave because of the wait time, and it will allow downtime for kids to eat & drink.

"Cut & Paste" this table into an e-mail as you get volunteers, people will sign up when they see that other people are signing up.

		Prep + 10-12	12-2pm	2-4 pm
Team 1	Adult			
	Student			
	Student			
	Student			
	Student			

Team 2	Adult			
	Student			
	Student			
	Student			
	Student			
Team 3	Adult:			
	Student			
	Student			
	Student			
	Student			

July 2011 notes:

- Made \$600, washing 2 cars at a time nearly non-stop. We lost some customers that didn't want to wait to get their car washed during the 'rush times" (10-11, after lunch). We also had several people that came at 3:55 when we were washing the last car, and we turned them away. Everyone was burned out at that point. We could've made another \$100-200 pretty easily with more students and going to 4:15.
- There were enough students present to wash 2 cars at a time for the 10-12 shift, but no one showed up for the 12-2 shift. Some kids (4-5) stayed for 5-6 hours. More kids showed up at 2.
- Didn't have enough students to have 3 signs out + 6 students washing cars. Often had only one sign out.
- Had enough students, adults and supplies to have 2 cars being washed at a time.
- 2 families bought pizza and soda for the kids mid-day (no receipts submitted?). Other parents brought cookies mid-afternoon.