

Pinewood Cars

By Alex Watanabe



A tradition in Cub Scouts is Pinewood Derbies which have been a fun way for dads and children to work together. Kids and dads make a car out of wood, nails, and wheels in a kit and race the car down a ramp against other cars.

Then, they give out awards after a few races. After flipping through my father's photobook, this photo of my family after a Cub Scout Pinewood

Derby stuck out.

First in the picture is “Pop Pop”, my grandfather. He’s unrecognizable because he has darker hair, is thinner, and is wearing a combination of clothes that wouldn’t be worn today. The

man holding the awards is my great-grandfather. He died before I was born. According to my

grandparents, his life was extraordinary. After World War II and being unfairly held in an imprisonment camp,

he decided to create a fruit packing company which was only successful because of his trustworthiness

and hardworking attitude. He occasionally visited my

grandparents’ house and this was one occasion. Between the two is my dad, who is holding his

Pinewood Derby car which won 1st place for speed and workmanship. Just like my dad, I won

first place in the speed category with my car this year. We also both went/go to Pinewood

School, went/go to Pack 501 for Scouts and were/are growing up in Los Altos.



This photo is important to my family history because it allowed me to learn more about my ancestors and their traditions that have been passed down to me. I will try to continue these traditions with my children and hopefully they will continue to pass them down to theirs. Inspired, I decided to also take a photo of me, my dad, and my grandfather.

