

# CAR SMASH – HOSTING ONE SAFELY

So what exactly is a car smash? A car smash is an event-based fundraiser where individuals pay a nominal fee to strike an old car with a sledgehammer for a designated amount of time. For instance, you could allow each individual to take a swing at the car with a sledgehammer for \$5.00 for 1 minute.

To further promote school spirit, oftentimes, the old, wrecked auto is painted with positive slogans promoting the charity cause, for instance, "take a swing at fighting breast cancer."

Partnering with the university/college is a critical first step to ensure an event like this can take place and you become knowledgeable of the campus policies/resources.

The following checklist will help an organization execute a successful event.

## SUPPLIES

- Table/chairs for registration
- Eye protection
- Face protection
- Hand protection
- Sledgehammer with a fiberglass handle and limited to a 10 lb. hammer that is flat on both sides (no spiked, wedged, or bladed sledgehammers allowed).
- Fire extinguisher
- Tarp
- Cones, rope, barricades, tape
- First aid kit

## SET UP

- A table for participants to sign the waiver/pay, and for hosting organization to go over safety procedures
- A minimum of a 20 ft. perimeter must be set up around the vehicle. This can be achieved by with cones, rope, barricades, tape, etc. with one entrance/exit
- The vehicle should be secured in a manner that it does not move with force
- The fuel tank and all associated fuel supply systems for the vehicle should be removed
- The battery & all fluid materials in the vehicle should be removed, including but not limited to lubricants, cooling materials, brake fluids, windshield washer solution & fluids used for shock absorption
- The vehicle should be free of devices having mechanically stored energy, including but not limited to airbags, shock absorbing bumpers and air shock absorbers
- Mercury switches should be removed from trunks, hoods & other areas of the vehicle
- All glass should be removed from the vehicle including mirrors, headlights, taillights & side marking lights
- Air should be removed from tires to help stabilize the vehicle & to prevent sledgehammer/bat from flying back at contestants



## PARTICIPANTS

- All participants should be at least 18 years of age and be a current student, staff, or faculty member
- A liability waiver should be signed by each contestant Download [Participant Release Form](#))
- Intoxicated people will not be allowed to participate
- Participants should wear full-length pants, a shirt that covers the upper torso and close toed shoes
- Participants should wear a hard hat, gloves and either safety glasses or a full-face shield provided by sponsoring organization

## EVENT RULES

- Participants must stand with feet on the ground while participating
- Participants must wear all protective equipment at all times while inside the exclusion zone
- Participants may only strike the exterior of the car
- Participants cannot climb or stand on the vehicle
- Participants cannot hit area by gas tank (marked with red X)
- Participants may not open doors, hood, or trunk
- Participants must obey all verbal commands and signals of the event operators
- Failure to abide by these rules is grounds for removal from the event

## DURING THE EVENT

- Organization will provide spotters to prevent unauthorized access before, during, and after the event
- Organization will provide operators to manage waivers, agreements, tool issuance, tool return, and tool inspection.
- Organization will monitor apparent intoxication level of participants, removing those who seem to be intoxicated.
- Only one contestant at a time; safety zone should be completely clear
- Sledgehammer should be in sound condition & checked frequently during the event
- Immediately following each hit, hosting organization should visually sweep safety zone and remove debris, hitting instrument should be checked for fatigue and replaced if needed before another hit may take place.

## POST EVENT

- Vehicle must be towed from campus
- After the vehicle has been removed from the site, the area must be completely swept so no debris remains.

