

How to Stage a Fire Truck Pull

Event

One-day event with teams competing to pull a fully loaded fire truck 12 feet in the fastest time. This event also can feature a full line of family targeted attractions.

Teams

Each team consists of 12 people. Decide in advance the rules for team composition, i.e., how many men, women, Special Olympics athletes, etc., must be included on each team. Each team pays a fee (e.g., US\$500) to compete. All fees are donated to Special Olympics.



Public parks, fire stations, police headquarters, and more can all serve as a location for your fire truck pull — the best location will be determined by how much space is needed for auxiliary events, city permits required and obtained, and permission of the fire department loaning the equipment. [Image courtesy [shutterstock](#), all rights reserved]

Rules

1. Teams may be divisioned by weight or may all compete on the same level.
2. Pull is 12 feet. Paint start and finish lines on the ground.
3. Secure heavy rope to fully loaded fire truck.
4. Two officials judge event. One controls stopwatch and watches finish line. One watches start line.
5. Winner is based strictly on time. If you choose to division by weight (total combined weight of team members), you may award prizes for top three places for each division.

Goal of Event

Decide the goal/theme of the event. For example, do you want an adult event? Do you want a family-oriented event? Do you want to maximize street traffic exposure? This will help you determine where to hold the event, what types of teams to recruit, timing of event, and what other activities to include.

Special Olympics Athlete Involvement

A Special Olympics fundraiser should always introduce participants to the movement and our athletes.

Invite an athlete to co-host the event and emcee with a law enforcement officer.

Ask an athlete to award the prizes and make presentation to sponsors.

Create an all-athlete team, make a rule that there must be an athlete on

each team, or create a Unified Team division for the competition.

Have athlete skills demonstrations be part of the events for the day.



"Pull!" A 2005 winner in the [International Association of Chiefs of Police \(IACP\)-sponsored annual Law Enforcement Torch Run photography contest](#). IACP is the founding law enforcement organization of the Torch Run.

Where to Hold the Event

You may choose a public area, park, fire station, police headquarters, street, etc. The location will be determined by how much space is needed for auxiliary events, city permits required and obtained, and permission of the fire department loaning the equipment.

When to Hold the Event

A weekend festival draws families for a full-day, activity-heavy event. A midday event held during the week may limit the number of teams and family involvement, but if it is staged downtown in a heavy-traffic area, could draw more awareness.

Adult Activities

Fire Truck Pull

K-9 unit demonstration or other law enforcement equipment or safety demonstrations

Static fire truck displays

Fire fighter demonstrations

Barbeque: food and beverage sold, or vendor booths

Raffle ticket sales (Harley, donated trips, gifts, etc.)

Torch Run T-shirt and merchandise sales

Musical entertainment (work with local radio sponsor to get DJ for event, live remote and/or live band for entertainment)

Children's Activities

Bouncy rides and games may include the following; contact your local games/carnival/ride company and rent for the day based on your budget:

- Star-Walk Bounce
- Dunk Tank
- Basketball Shoot-out
- Football Throw
- Dime/Quarter Toss
- Hoop the Prize
- Tip-Em Over

Craft stations:

- Beads or macaroni necklaces
- Spin art (may also be rented from games company)
- Colored sand in a bottle
- Other creative activities

Other Activities

If your budget allows you may want to have other activities, such as caricature artists, balloon sculpture clowns, etc.

Other demonstrations such as a local dance studio or karate class will also create traffic, with the performers required to be there and their parents in tow to watch their children. This may also allow the parents to create a team of their own.

Volunteers Needed

The number of volunteers you will need for the event will depend upon the number of activities involved. The Fire Truck Pull itself is fairly easy. You will need someone to register teams, two officials and a driver. Additional events will require people to run each station, cook, etc. On-site EMT should be designated and visible with T-shirt or jacket.

Recruiting Teams

Start with your basics — police departments, fire departments, sponsors and media/radio partners.

If your goal is to get more community involvement, go to local businesses, churches or schools.

Go wherever there is already a natural team of people who might bond together to participate, e.g., soccer moms and dads, high school coaches and teachers versus elementary teachers.

Also target groups who would already be involved with Special Olympics athletes, e.g., family doctors, community living counselors, etc.

Recruit an honorary (free) high-profile team of chief of police, chief of fire department, mayor, Special Olympics Executive Director, local celebrity, Special Olympics athlete, etc.

Sponsors

Get as much donated as possible: fire truck, food and drink, prizes, media partner.

Supplies Checklist

Fire Truck	Stage and risers
Rope 2" x 50'-100"	Sound system
Measuring stick – 12'	Power
Stopwatches (2)	Tent
Officials (2)	Garbage Cans/Bags
Referee Shirts (2)	Special Olympics donation cans
Paint for Start and Finish Line	Signage for vendors, registration, etc.
Starter pistol or blow horn or loud volunteer	Special Olympics/Torch Run banners
Registration table, chairs (waivers should be signed for all pull participants)	Directional signs to event
Scale	ID chains and lanyards
Prizes/plaques	Staff and volunteer ID cards or shirts
Hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, etc.	Dry erase board
Grill	First aid
Soft drinks	VIP area for sponsors
Bottled water	Emcee/media talent
Additional food vendors	Team T-shirts
Gloves (15 pairs)	Event promotion
	Static display/event layout
	Site security/parking
	Photographer/videographer

Traffic cones

Communications – two-way radios

Porta Potties

Additional vendor displays

Sponsor thank you gifts