



# **SHAC JAM**

## **World Record Rocket Launch**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **General**

- **What is the purpose of the model rocket launch?**
  - The goal of this project is to introduce several thousand Scouts to the hobby of model rocketry and to give them the chance to be a part of a Guinness World Record.
- **What is the official name of the record we are trying to break?**
  - The official record is “Most Simultaneous Model Rockets Launched”
- **How can I participate?**
  - Rather than processing individual requests for participation, we are asking each unit (pack, troop, team, and crew, ship) to register as a group. Have your unit leadership e-mail [rocketry@shac.org](mailto:rocketry@shac.org) or call 281-804-3190 to ask questions or pre-register.
- **What if my unit doesn't want to participate in the rocket launch, but I want to participate as an individual Scout?**
  - Simply e-mail [rocketry@shac.org](mailto:rocketry@shac.org) or call 281-804-3190 to register. We want all Scouts to have an opportunity to be included.
- **What happens after I pre-register?**
  - A package of additional information will be emailed to you within 2 days.
- **Who can participate in the rocket launch?**
  - Any registered Scout, sibling, parent, or friend who is interested in Scouting can build a world-record model rocket.
  - Each youth member who builds a rocket will have his or her name entered into a drawing to determine which lucky Scout will get to press the LAUNCH BUTTON.
- **I thought that model rockets were recommended for those at least 10 years old.**
  - Manufacturer guidelines state that model rocketry is recommended for ages 10 and up, with adult supervision for those under 12. However, because Scouts will not be handling engine parts for this event, all ages may participate.
- **What about Scouts who won't be able to attend SHAC Jam. Can they still participate?**
  - Absolutely! Simply order rocket kits as if they were going to attend. Participation does not require you to be at SHAC Jam during the launch.

## The Kits

- **How do we order world-record rocket kits?**
  - Each unit (or individual Scout, if unit is not participating) should identify the number of rockets kits they wish to purchase. The leader then emails the information to [rocketry@shac.org](mailto:rocketry@shac.org) with the unit number and district. Unit leaders will then be instructed how to submit the payment.
  
- **How much does a world record rocket kit cost?**
  - The cost of the Scout Rocket will be \$10 per kit. This price includes the motor and igniter, which will be installed by safety-trained adult staff prior to the day of the launch. Scouts will also receive a patch following the launch.
  - A SPECIAL Sponsors rocket kit is also available for \$25. The kit will be built for you by SHAC Jam staff and you will receive a commemorative rockets stand, patch and certificate with a photo of the launch.
  
- **Are there quantity discounts available?**
  - The quantity discounts have already been applied. No additional discounts are available.
  
- **Can Scouts use their own rocket?**
  - Only official world-record rocket kits will be used for this mass launch. This is a requirement to ensure a safe and successful launch for everyone.
  
- **In addition to the kit, what do Scouts need in order to build a world-record rocket?**
  - Once a Scout has received his world-record rocket kit, he will need white (school) glue, sandpaper, ruler, and a small hobby knife to build the rocket kit. No launching equipment or motors are needed.
  
- **Can the rocket be built on-site (at SHAC Jam)? Will there be time?**
  - The rockets need to be finished and turned in to SHAC Jam staff in September, so you will not be able to build a rocket on-site at SHAC Jam. It may be possible to purchase a model rocket kit from the SHAC Jam trading post, but that rocket will not launch as part of the World Record attempt.
  
- **Can Scouts add things to their rocket that aren't part of the kit?**
  - Scouts may decorate their rocket kits with paint, stickers, etc., but please do not add (or replace) anything to the outside or inside of the rocket. The kits should be built according to the manufacturer's instructions and using the parts supplied. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in having your rocket returned to you prior to the launch.
  
- **Are motors supplied in the kits?**
  - Special rocket motors will be installed by safety-trained rocket launch team members just prior to the launch. No rocket motors will be included in the kit when you receive it.
  
- **My rocket kit came damaged (or is missing parts). What should I do?**

- Contact your unit leader as soon as possible. If you are the unit leader, please send an email to [rocketry@shac.org](mailto:rocketry@shac.org) so we can get you a replacement kit/part.
- **I broke a part in my kit. What do I do?**
  - Contact your unit leader as soon as possible. If you are the unit leader, please send an email to [rocketry@shac.org](mailto:rocketry@shac.org) so we can get you a replacement kit/part.
- **I put the kit together wrong. What do I do?**
  - Contact your unit leader as soon as possible. If you are the unit leader, please send an email to [rocketry@shac.org](mailto:rocketry@shac.org) so we can get you a replacement kit/part.
- **Can a participant buy and build more than one rocket?**
  - Absolutely! In addition, if you are a youth member, your name will be entered into the “launch button” drawing for each rocket kit you build.

## The Launch

- **When will the SHAC Jam launch take place?**
  - The launch will take place on Saturday, October 9, between 1 PM and 3 PM.
- **Are individual safety permits required?**
  - No safety permits or waivers are required. Each rocket will be inspected and loaded by trained rocket safety staff members following manufacturer and NAR safety guidelines.
- **What is the plan if it rains/winds are too high/there is a burn ban?**
  - If our primary launch window is cancelled due to inclement weather, we will attempt the launch again the following day (Sunday morning).
- **Will there be safety inspections of individual rockets?**
  - Yes, each completed rocket will be inspected for safety before it is loaded. If corrections are needed, rocket experts will make the adjustments.
- **Should Scouts test-launch their rocket before SHAC Jam?**
  - To avoid damaging or losing your rocket before SHAC Jam, we recommend that you **do not test fly your rocket** prior to SHAC Jam. After SHAC Jam, you may launch it as often as you like, following manufacturers’ safety instructions and age guideline recommendations.
- **What is the deadline to register my unit for the rocket launch?**
  - Units should begin submitting their rocket kit orders by early June. The last rocket kit order will be taken on August 13 or when we hit the 3,200 rocket count.
- **Will Scouts get their rocket back after the launch?**
  - Every effort will be made to return every recovered rocket to its builder. The completed rocket kits should have the Scout’s name, unit number, and district name written on the fins so that the rocket can be returned to its owner. Due to the volume of rockets involved in the launch, Scouts should not expect to take their

rockets home on Saturday. It will likely take several weeks to have all rockets returned to the respective units.

- **I'm an adult, and I'd like to volunteer to help. What can I do?**
  - Simply send an email to [rocketry@shac.org](mailto:rocketry@shac.org). Here's a run-down of staffing opportunities:
    - **Before SHAC Jam** – Volunteers are needed to assist in coordinating the rocket kit orders (publicizing, taking orders, distributing, etc.).
    - **During SHAC Jam** –Volunteers are needed to “Adopt a Launch Pad.” There will be 32 launch pads with 100 rockets each. Volunteers will show up “bright and early” on launch day to load the pads.
    - **After the Launch** – Two separate teams of volunteers are needed after the launch. The first team will focus on recovering and returning rockets. The second team will begin disassembling the launch pads and controller.

## The Results

- **If the launch is successful, will Scouts get their names listed in the Guinness Book of World Records?**
  - Unfortunately, publishing several thousand names for this record would not be feasible. We are hopeful that Guinness Book will provide a detailed description of SHAC Jam and this awesome launch. You can also look back at your rocket for proof to your friends and family that you are a world record holder!
- **Where can Scouts see the official results after SHAC Jam?**
  - Watch [www.samhoustonbsa.org/shacjam](http://www.samhoustonbsa.org/shacjam) for updated information. Videos of the event will also be uploaded on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).
- **If the launch is not successful (partial launch), will we try again?**
  - Your rocket launch staff is working to ensure this launch is completely successful on this first attempt. Unfortunately, if a partial launch takes place, we will likely have to reschedule a second attempt at a later date.
- **What was the previous record?**
  - In May 2007, Austin-area Cub Scout Pack 990 and Boy Scout Troop 990 successfully launched 965 model rockets. This record still stands. Several months later at the World Jamboree in London, Scouts launched 1,032 rockets simultaneously, but this effort was not officially submitted. You can watch videos of both mass rocket launches by searching for them on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).
- **Can I get a belt loop/activity badge/merit badge/patch for participating in the launch?**
  - While there is no special patch, you could complete some advancement requirements:
    - **Tiger Cubs** – Elective 17: Make a model.
    - **Wolf Cub Scouts** – Achievement 5e: “Build something useful.” Check with Akela to see if building a model rocket qualifies.
    - **Bear Cub Scouts** – Achievement 21a: “Build a model from a kit.”

- **Webelos Scouts** – Scientist activity badge, requirement 8, “Build and launch a model rocket.”
- **Space Exploration Merit Badge** – Requirement #3: “Build, launch, and recover a model rocket. Make a second launch to accomplish a specific objective.”

### **After the Launch: Rocketry at Home**

- **How do I launch my rocket at home after SHAC Jam?**
  - If you wish to launch your rocket after you return home from SHAC Jam, we recommend you follow the manufacturer’s guidelines. Go to your local hobby shop to purchase a launch controller, launch pad, and motors/igniters. Adult supervision while building and launching a model rocket is always required.
  - **Note from Estes Rockets:** “Estes model rocketry is recommended for ages 10 and up, with adult supervision for those under 12.”
  
- **How are rocket motors properly handled?**
  - You should always follow manufacturer’s guidelines when working with model rockets. Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts should not handle or attempt to load rocket motors or igniters. While the motors are very safe when handled properly, adult supervision is always required. Adults should always follow the manufacturer’s instructions on safe handling, installation, and disposal.
  
- **Is the rocket motor dangerous?**
  - When handled by adults and following the manufacturers’ instructions, the model rocketry hobby is very safe and loads of fun.
  
- **Where can I learn more about model rocketry?**
  - The internet is full of information on model rocketry. One of the best sources of model rocketry information is The National Association of Rocketry (NAR). Visit their website at [www.nar.org](http://www.nar.org).