

# ***South Texas Aerospace Club***

## **Model Rocket Competition Contest Etiquette**

The general mood at rocket contests is usually one of mutual enjoyment. Everyone is there to have fun and a good time. Anytime there is a competitive event, there is going to be a competitive spirit. No two people view competition with the same level of seriousness. Some step onto the range in a very serious, highly charged state of mind.

BE POLITE and COURTEOUS. Don't push and shove; don't cut in line; say "please," "thank you," and "excuse me," and etc. Some aspects of behavior are expected or required:

- Always keep an ear out for what the RSO/LCO and SCO/ALCO are saying. They might be calling a heads-up flight or other important matter.
- If you have duty to perform as a range official, be in place and ready to step in when your shift begins. The person you are replacing probably has flights to make, too.
- Fulfill your range duty professionally and fairly.
- Don't touch or use someone else's launch pad equipment without their permission. You may move someone else's launch pad equipment away from your assigned pad if it is in the way. Be careful when moving it.
- When walking to or from your launch pad, walk a path at least fifteen feet to the outside of the other launch pads, and look at the launch pads you are passing. By doing so, you will ensure that the RSO/LCO does not need to halt a countdown because you are too close and not paying attention to what is going on. The range is not the place to be daydreaming or clowning around.
- Be willing to share, lend or trade for needed items if you can spare them. Chances are, you'll need to borrow something during the contest.
- Return any models you find in the field to the Returns Desk or to a Contest Official.
- Face victory and defeat with equal grace.
- Don't take anything personally. In the heat of competition a person may say or do things that they would not normally say or do in less stressful situations. People are also prone to misinterpreting what is said and done by others. Don't let it get under your skin.
- Winners are allowed to rejoice and losers are allowed to grumble. Congratulate the winners. Accept congratulations gracefully. Commiserate with those who did not win.