



Ned Hickson

How to prepare yourself for having a teen (bowler)

After seven weeks of attending our oldest son's high school bowling tournaments, I'm passing along a few tips to parents who may find themselves in a similar situation. And by "situation," I mean contemplating suffocating themselves with an empty bowling bag after listening to 24 lanes of crashing pins for five hours.

First, invest in a tall folding chair. The taller the better. In fact, consider purchasing a portable lifeguard stand if possible. That's because get-

ting a prime seat to watch your child bowl depends on how willing you are to take the life of a complete stranger.

Getting a good location is similar to the Oklahoma Land Rush. Once the doors open, parents stampede (some on actual horseback) to the most valuable territory: the midpoint between 1) the center of the bowling lanes, 2) the snack shack and 3) the rest-rooms.

Parents then frantically stake their claim by jamming giant folding chairs together until the result is something similar to how homes are wedged together in poor sections of Hong Kong. Should something unexpected cause a

panic, such as an earthquake or 300-game, it's doubtful anyone will survive this catastrophic folding-chair collapse.

For this reason, I suggest avoiding the mayhem by investing in that portable lifeguard stand. Sure, it may draw some stares and grumbling. Especially as you arrive moments before the tournament and climb to your seat well above those who clamored for prime territory when the doors opened at 6:30 a.m.

Keep in mind that bowling tournaments are played "baker" style, meaning that your child will only bowl two out of every 10 frames — or

36 times over the course of 160 frames. Or approximately one hour of actually bowling during a five-hour tournament. That leaves four hours to fill, which you can do by:

1) Having food and drinks delivered to your lifeguard stand

2) Calculating equations to determine how much your child actually bowls during tournaments

3) Watching every bowler's special "strike pose."

If you're not familiar with the strike pose, it's the signature move bowlers give after getting a strike. Think of it as a subtle gesture to let other bowlers know you are *on...* your... *GAME!*

For example, pulling an imaginary pistol from your holster and "shooting down" the pins (The Gun Slinger) or dropping to your knees and pretending to tie the legs of a calf before throwing your hands in the air (The Calf Roper). I counted 25 variations, including The Maestro, The Thor's Hammer Slam, The Grenade Toss and The John Cena — when a bowler waves his hand in front of his face while yelling "YOU CAN'T SEE ME!" at the fall-en pins.

The truth is, you can't un-see something like that.

Don't get me wrong. It's not that I don't like bowling.

In an age when kids spend

more time Tweeting and SnapChatting than having actual conversations, anything that encourages them to get out and socialize for several hours without an electronic device is a great thing — and bowling is an activity that is as much about socializing as it is about being competitive.

However, for the uninitiated parents of a teen bowler, it's good to know what you're getting into.

Especially once they begin practicing their strike pose.

Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. His book, "Humor at the Speed of Life," is available online at Port Hole Publications, Amazon Books and Barnes & Noble. Write to him at nedhickson@icloud.com

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Date	Time	Area	Type
2/1/16	0900	Hwy 101	Standby
2/1/16	0903	Hwy 36	Medical
2/1/16	0925	Spruce St.	Medical
2/1/16	1141	Village St.	Medical
2/1/16	1257	Hwy 101	Medical
2/1/16	1621	Rhododendron Drive	Trauma
2/1/16	2049	17th Street	Trauma
2/1/16	2236	Hwy 101	Medical
2/2/16	0217	Hwy 101	Medical
2/2/16	0514	20th St.	Medical
2/2/16	0655	Spruce St.	Trauma
2/2/16	0934	16th St.	Medical
2/2/16	1102	Oak St.	Trauma
2/2/16	1604	Oak St.	Trauma
2/2/16	1823	9th St.	Medical
2/3/16	0908	Mariners Lane	Medical
2/3/16	1023	Hwy 101	Medical
2/3/16	1133	Munsel Lake Road	Medical
2/3/16	1352	Hwy 126	Medical
2/3/16	1400	Glenbrook Circle	Trauma
2/3/16	1617	12th St.	Trauma
2/3/16	1700	Transfer To Eugene	Medical
2/3/16	1838	21st St.	Medical
2/3/16	1925	Transfer To Eugene	Medical
2/4/16	0144	Lake Point Drive	Medical
2/4/16	0305	Rosemary Court	Trauma
2/4/16	0430	Transfer To Eugene	Medical
2/4/16	1841	Rhododendron Drive	Medical
2/4/16	2358	9th St.	Trauma
2/5/16	1159	Nopal Street	Medical
2/5/16	1218	35th St.	Trauma
2/5/16	1525	Hwy 101	Trauma
2/5/16	1540	Hwy 101	Trauma
2/5/16	2119	Wecoma Loop	Trauma
2/5/16	2144	21st St.	Trauma
2/6/16	0403	12th St.	Medical
2/6/16	0842	Rhododendron Drive	Medical
2/6/16	1115	Dahlin Road	Trauma
2/6/16	1320	Spruce St.	Medical
2/6/16	1542	Hwy 126	Medical
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2/7/16	1005	Oak St.	Medical
2/7/16	1025	Oak St.	Medical

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If you would like to meet Marley any of his friends, please visit us at:

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