

# Building rockets can be fun and safe

**Jimmy Loebel**  
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The rocket I'll tell you how to make is not dangerous. I'll tell you about history, math and physics, and you won't yawn! Russia and the USA raced to dominate outer space. They raced to put a satellite in space, to put a human in space, and to create a successful space walk and to land on the moon. They both tried to be the first one to do it and there is only one that the United States won in: zero Russians have been on the moon. The Russians won the rest. Yuri Gagarin was the first man to go into space in a rocket but they didn't have the technology to walk on the moon yet.

There are many model rockets that are quite easy

to make. Here is one called the soda bottle rocket. You will need: paper, a 2-liter bottle, water, a bicycle pump, and a styrofoam tray. First, you stand up the bottle neck side down. Then you will fold the paper into a cone and tape it on the bottom of the bottle. Cut fins from the styrofoam tray and tape to the sides. Fill to the label with water and use a bicycle pump to fill to pressure above 20. Ask an adult to help build your rocket launcher. You can find a design

at [http://www.nasa.gov/pdf/153405main\\_Rockets\\_Water\\_Rocket\\_Launcher.pdf](http://www.nasa.gov/pdf/153405main_Rockets_Water_Rocket_Launcher.pdf) or you can search "Soda Bottle Rocket Launcher" for more choices. Your rocket should fly more than 20 feet high. You should probably launch this at a park.

You can go to the library or talk to your parents and see if you can take a rocket class. One idea is in Huntsville, Ala. There is a rocket and space shuttle class put on by NASA and it is called Space Camp. Laura Loebel, who went to Space Camp in 2009, said, "I thought I'd get dizzy going upside down in the multi-axis trainer but I didn't because it never turned in a full circle." Ignite Creative Learning Studio has a rocket class taught by Sharon Morgan, who used to be an aeronautical engineer for the Navy. She worked on Tomcats.

Have fun and make sure to step back when you launch your rocket!

The Ojai Valley Kids' Press is a product of the Ignite Creative Learning Studio in Ojai. It can be found at Bliss

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**OVN managing editor Misty Volaski shows a copy of the paper to members of the Ojai Valley Kids' Press.**

