



It's Pinewood Derby Time! — Vrrroooooom!

Start your engines and mark your calendars now for this year's exciting Pinewood Derby!

- The Pinewood Derby is one of the most popular and memorable programs in Cub Scouts
- The Scout and a parent/other adult build a gravity-powered race car out of wood
- The pack gathers together and the Scouts race their cars down a large race track

When and Where!

- **Date:** _____
- **Check-in time:** _____
- **Location:** _____
- **Please also bring:** _____ [food]

District Derby

- Each pack in our district can send up to four cars to the district Pinewood Derby, which will be held in April
- *The cars that our pack sends will be held by the race committee until the district derby as they cannot be altered in any way prior to that time.*

Making the Car

- If your Scout has not started already, *now* is the time to begin making the car
- If you have your own equipment, feel free to let your Scout make his /her car at home
- However if your Scout would like assistance, we have scheduled optional workshops. Bring your car kit and your ideas and we will be glad to work with you.

Inspection and Check-In

- At the check-in, each car must pass an inspection before it may compete
- If a car does not pass inspection, the Scout will be informed of the reason
- He /she will be given time within the official check-in period to make adjustments

Things to Know

Rules

- The Pinewood Derby is about fun, fellowship, and sportsmanship
- The rules are designed to provide an equal playing field
- The official rules can be found _____
- If you are unsure about a rule, please ask us to avoid any unpleasant race day surprises.

The Most Common Car Problems

- Unofficial car kits
- Excessive weight
- Sanded wheels (changing contour)
- Car/track clearance
- Loose items not securely attached
- Covered axles
- Machined axles
- Machined wheel hubs

Tips

- Make sure your car weighs the right amount and is not overweight
- You can always add more weight, but it can be difficult to remove excess weight
- The judge's scale is extremely accurate and its reading will be final
- If you are attempting to get as close to the weight limit as possible, make sure that you have a plan to adjust the weight on race day (e.g., shaving or removing weight).
- Make sure you do not get paint in the axle slots
- In general, cars that are flatter and/or more streamlined go faster
- In addition to categories for speed, there is also a category for best design
- The wheels can break off easily; you may not want to put them on right away so that the car is not played with prior to the race

The purpose of the Pinewood Derby

To help the Scout build a team relationship with their parent or helper, experience the sense of accomplishment and the excitement of competition, learn win/lose good sportsmanship, and to *have fun!*

Keep in Mind...

Building a Pinewood Derby car is a bonding experience for the Scout and adult helper
The Scout is not – and should not be – expected to do it all himself / herself
We urge all parents to work with their Scout and enjoy this family project