



Pinewood Derby News

Gentlemen, Start Your Engines!

As your Pinewood Derby chair this year, I'd like to welcome all young racers to the kickoff of the Pinewood Derby season, otherwise known as the greatest race on earth!

We have a lot of potential racers this year, all vying for that elusive spot in the winner's circle! Or maybe you just want to make a cool car and see it go. Either way, with a record number of boys it will make for a very exciting evening!



In December many of the boys and families will get to watch the movie Down n Derby about four boys whose Dads take over their derby car projects. Hilarity ensues. For anyone who can't make it, the Pack owns a copy of the movie if you would like to watch it. It's also available on Netflix.

Once your car is built you turn it in the Sunday prior to the actual race to have it inspected and weighed. This year's weigh-in will take place at Seaman's Lodge on Sunday, January 21, from 12:00-4:00PM You can drop in anytime during that window. The track will be

set up so that the boys can test their cars. We will also have an assortment of tools and materials for cars that need a last-minute adjustment. Then on Wednesday, January 24, from 6-8pm at Forest Charter School we race!

The race date can really sneak up on you! Christmas Break is an excellent time to build the car. Please help your boys stay on track with design, cutting, sanding, etc. Remember to allow plenty of time for painting and drying!

Food 4 Sale

Since the Derby starts a little earlier than normal Pack meetings (6pm instead of 6:30pm), we will once again have food available for sale to minimize the rush of getting dinner prior to the event. We will have pizza and salads at a nominal price to cover costs; the Pack will provide lemonade and water to drink.

Important Dates

Sunday January 21 - Weigh-in at Seaman's Lodge 12:00-4:00pm. All cars **MUST** be turned in on or before this date. The cars will be stored and transported together in a purpose-built case between weigh-in day and race day. Please **DO NOT** put your name on the car; the Lions Club will judge the cars anonymously for the Design awards promptly at 4pm (the winners are announced on Race Day).

Wednesday January 24 - RACE DAY 6pm at Forest Charter

Those Darn RULES...

Here is a partial list of rules. **Please refer to the [Pack 23 website](#) for the complete set of rules or the flyer that was handed out.**

- *only official Pinewood Derby wheels, axles and block of pine wood may be used - if you lose a piece talk to one of the co-chairs ASAP to see what can be done
- *car length may not exceed 7 inches
- *car overall width may not exceed 2 3/4 inches
- *min. 1 3/4" clearance between the wheels
- *min. 3/8" clearance underneath the body
- *car may not have loose objects of any kind
- *car weight must not exceed 5 ounces
- *the official race scale that is used at check-in shall be considered final
- *wheels may not be cut, drilled, beveled, or rounded
- *wheel bearings, washers, and bushings are prohibited
- *no starting devices, the car must be freewheeling, not powered
- *once a car passes inspection, only race committee members can touch it
- *if a car loses a wheel or is damaged during the race, the racer shall have 5 minutes to repair it
- *the race committee may disqualify a car if it does not meet these specifications.

Building a car is a great opportunity to bond with your scout! **Have fun and happy racing!**

KNOTS



HELP YOUR CUB SCOUT DO HIS BEST

Tech Tips

Did someone say "graphite"? Actually, if your boy is going for the speed award, lubrication is only one component. Also, the most aerodynamic car may not be the fastest, and some cars may not make it to the finish line. Fortunately, we have lots of fun...and awards to go around. As for tips: it depends on your boy's goal. Is he going for style or speed? If it is speed, you will find tips all over the internet. Graphite powder on the axles will work wonders. Most importantly, create a car that tracks straight down the track. Heavier cars tend to be faster. Get your car as close to the 5 oz. weight limit as possible. The post office will usually weigh cars, just remember to say "please" and "thank you"!

Weigh-in and Judging

The most important date is weigh-in on Sunday January 21 12-4pm. It is **mandatory** that all cars are brought to Seaman's Lodge for weigh-in and judging (Design Awards). Cars are kept together in a purpose-built container until the race. Cars may not be allowed to race if they are not turned in on weigh-in day. The Lions Club will be on hand to judge the Design categories.

A limited assortment of tools, weights, and a test track will be set up for the boys to fine-tune their finished Pinewood Derby cars.

Questions? Want to Help?

Questions or want to volunteer to help at the event? Call Dan Thiem 530-559-1605