

Pinewood Derby In-Fun-mation

History of the Pinewood Derby

<http://www.pinewoodpro.com/pinewood-derby-history.htm>

Official Pinewood Derby Website

<http://pinewoodderby.org/>

BSA's official page for Pinewood Derby

How to Conduct a Pinewood Derby

<http://www.scouting.org/Training/Adult/Supplemental/pinewood.aspx>

BSA's official training on Pinewood Derby event management

Derby Talk

<http://www.derbytalk.com/>

National-level message board for Pinewood Derby organizers, builders, parents, and others

US Scout Service Project: Pinewood Derby

<http://usscouts.org/pinewood/cspine.asp>

Useful info on planning & running a Derby

Pinewood Derby Stuff

<http://www.richardcmoeur.com/pwd.html>

Sample rules, plan sheets, results from previous years, car photos

Roy's Pinewood Derby Resources

<http://www.srdscouts.org/PinewoodDerby.html>

Good information on how to plan and run a fun and successful event

Pinewood Derby Planning Checklists

<http://edbdhome.com/powwowhandouts/01F Pinewood Derby Planning.pdf>

Useful information from an earlier version of this class

Elimination-Type Race Bracket Generator

<http://printyourbrackets.com/>

Printable brackets for elimination-type races (good for 2-lane tracks)

Tracks and timers:

1. <http://www.besttrack.com/>
2. <http://www.supertimer.com/>
3. <http://microwizard.com/>

Pinewood Derby "Best Practices"

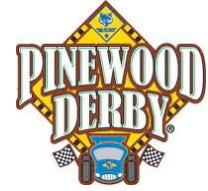
- **Plan For Success**
 - Set Pack schedule at summer planning meeting
 - District race date should be scheduled by late spring of previous year to allow Packs to set their schedules
 - Set dates to avoid scheduling problems (holidays, spring break, other events)
- **Have Clear and Unambiguous Rules**
 - Use rules with clear specifications and expectations
 - Pack rules & specifications should be consistent with District rules/specs
 - Rules should not allow for variations in interpretation
 - Arguments or perceived "unfairness" can ruin an event, even for those not involved
 - Enforce rules completely and objectively - have good scales, rulers, gauges
 - Deal with infractions firmly but politely and fairly
- **It's the Boy's Car**
 - Try not to let a parent(s) take over the activity
 - If parents, siblings, and others want to build a car, great - just not for the boy
 - hold races for siblings & adults too
- **Help the Boys Build Their Best**
 - Allow time for car building along with other family activities
 - Hold workshops & work days (design and construction)
 - If your Pack needs help, partner with other Packs on workshops
- **Organize and Delegate**
 - Get help and volunteers for all those important tasks:
 - Car distribution and workshops
 - Event setup and decoration
 - Event registration and Inspection
 - Starting, timing, scoring
 - Repairs and "Pit Crew"
 - Awards and mementoes
 - Refreshments, entertainment and other activities
- **Keep Things Moving**
 - Set check-in time early enough not to be rushed and to allow for car repairs/fixes
 - Plan out race durations based on number of boys & heats
 - Keep heats moving smoothly - have boys and cars organized
 - Try not to have too few heats per boy (all that work for only three runs?)
 - but not too many heats (when will this ever end...?)
 - Provide activities for boys and families
 - "Brick Derby" / Lego car track is popular (or Hot Wheels, etc.)
 - Games or other Derby-themed activities
 - Music for before or in between racing rounds
- **Is Everybody Happy?**
 - Mementoes / Goodie Bags
 - Refreshments - "Car Making" with Twinkies, vanilla wafers, frosting

Pinewood Derby Car Creation Steps

1. Design the car (use the plan sheet if needed).
2. Transfer the design to the block of wood.
3. Cut the block into the rough shape of the car.
4. Shape the car to the desired design using rasps, coarse sandpaper, and other tools.
5. Check for weight - add weight to get close to 5 ounces.
6. Determine center of gravity for wheel position.
7. Drill wheel holes and inspection holes (if using drilled wheel holes).
8. Apply primer-sealer to the car surfaces (except bottom).
9. Use medium & fine sandpaper to smooth the car surface for painting.
10. Paint the car.
11. File and polish the axles.
12. Polish wheel bores
13. Add accessories (canopy, decals, pinstripes, etc.)
14. Lubricate and install the wheels and axles.
15. Test wheels for smooth rolling & straightness.
16. Check final weight - add / remove weight to exactly 5 oz.
17. Test car (carefully!)
18. Race!!!



Pinewood Derby Coaching Hints for Parents



Remember, the Cub Scout Motto is not "Dad (or Mom), do your best". And is definitely NOT "Win at all cost". Help the Cub Scout to do HIS best, both in Pinewood Derby and in life.



Help your son plan ahead and schedule as he builds his car, so it's not a rushed last-minute activity that doesn't allow him to truly do his best.



Help your son understand the rules and specifications, and why they're important for a fair race.



Help your son use the Pinewood Derby Plan Sheet to design a cool and fun car. Provide friendly guidance & feedback if the design looks like a bit much for him to be able to build himself.



After your son chooses his favorite design, help him transfer it onto the block of wood. Guide him in the use of tools in the shaping of the wood, and encourage him to do his best in cutting, sanding, painting, decoration, and wheel and axle preparation.



Don't forget about the workshops - they're a great way to get things done, share tools, resources, tips, ideas, and techniques, and for both of you to have fun as well.



Help your son understand that this is HIS project, with you assisting him when he needs it. The parent should provide instruction and guidance, not labor. Don't build the car for your son - but conversely, don't be so wrapped up in building your own car that you neglect to coach your son in building his car.



Help your son understand that "doing your best" is much more important than having the fastest car.



Feel a sense of pride and satisfaction when the car and race are finished. Share it with your son. You have both earned it.



When the race is over and the car is on the shelf, you want your son to look at it with pride, thinking "I made that car."



Spending time with your son and helping him "do his best" will be remembered by both of you long after the race is finished.



We sincerely thank you for all the help you give your son on this project and on all other Cub Scout activities. But a successful program relies on parents who have stepped up to help all the Cubs by assisting at an event. If you have the interest and the time, please volunteer to help or judge at the Pack Pinewood Derby, or at the District Pinewood Derby. It'll be a rewarding, fun, and memorable experience, and the help would be greatly appreciated.