

# PINEWOOD DERBY PACK 228

The Pinewood Derby gives scouts the chance to design, build, and decorate their own racecar, then to race against their friends' cars on a lightning-fast track. Our pack's event format allows plenty of opportunities for every scout's car to race several times, while winners of heats are eventually pitted against each other on the way to the finals. Prizes are awarded to overall winners and den winners. Scouts are also recognized for creative models, since we all enjoy seeing unique and funny designs.

This year's weigh-in event will include a "tune-up clinic." This will allow for last-minute building advice and tweaking, so that we can help each scout's car to be as fast and solid as possible. However, please note that the clinic is intended to help with final touches only. Cars should be brought to the clinic in finished condition, except for minor issues needing help (addition or subtraction of weight; improved balancing and alignment; etc.).

Scouts will need help from an adult to design and build their cars, although we encourage you to allow your child to take the lead on this project, so that he can enjoy the sense of accomplishment and mastery of building his own car.

## Here are the basic car-building specifications:

- The car weight shall not exceed 5.0 ounces.
- The overall length of the car shall not exceed 7 inches.
- The overall width of the car shall not exceed 2 ¾ inches.
- The car must have 1 ¼" clearance between the wheels.
- The car must have 3/8" clearance underneath the body.
- The wood block provided with the kit may be shaped any way that is desired.
- Pre cut wood blocks can be used as long as the weight/size specs are met
- The wheels and axles supplied with the kit must be used, or else substituted with other official Pinewood Derby wheels only (same design but different colors are available); **no** custom wheels are allowed.
- The wheels may **not** be cut, drilled, beveled or rounded.
- You may remove the seam from the wheels.
- Axles may be polished or lubricated.
- Wheel bearings, washers or bushings are prohibited.
- The car must not ride on any type of springs.
- The car must be freewheeling, with no starting devices.
- No loose material of any kind, such as lead shot, may be used.
- All four of the cars wheels must be on the ground at all time - no floating wheels
- Cars may be inspected between races
- Cars used in previous years' races cannot be raced again
- Only dry lubricants such as graphite or powdered teflon "white lube" will be allowed for lubricating the wheels. Lubricants may not foul the track.
- Only one lubrication is allowed before the beginning of the first race and then once again before the beginning of the first race of the semi-finals and finals.
- Details such as the steering wheel, driver, decals, painting, and interior detail are permissible as long as these details do not exceed the maximum length, width, and weight specifications.

Each car must pass inspection by the official inspection committee before it will be allowed to compete. The Inspection Committee has the responsibility to disqualify those cars that do not meet these specifications. Paint, decals, and lots of other supplies are available at any of the local Scout Shops. Similar supplies are usually sold at Michael's Crafts (not available until the Pinewood Derby time of year), but if you buy supplies from Michael's or any other unofficial supplier, be sure that your car design stays within the rules outlined above.

## Official BSA Pinewood Derby site:

- <http://www.pinewoodderby.org/>

## 100 amazing Pinewood Derby car photos, 2011:

- <http://boyslife.org/hobbies-projects/funstuff/26127/100-amazing-pinewood-derby-car-photos-of-2011/>

## Other sites for photos, design ideas, and tips:

- <http://www.pinewoodpro.com/>
- <http://www.dremelderby.com/>
- <http://www.abc-pinewood-derby.com/pinewood-car-designs.php>